

MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report on Annual Parish Meeting 17 May 2021

Various organisations were invited to attend the APM and to give brief reports to members of the community. For a variety of reasons, not least the Coronavirus pandemic, invitees chose to submit written reports and to give their apologies for not attending in person.

Attached are the following reports:

Morley Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021

Report from Alex Wilson, Head at Wymondham College Prep School

Report from Dan Browning, Head at Wymondham College

Report from Laura Green, Executive Head at Morley CE VA Primary School

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Deopham Road
Morley St Botolph
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Tel: 01953 602397
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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Green

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace
1 Peter 4:10*

Work together, learn together, grow together...

Monday 17th May 2021

Craig McLeod
Chair of Morley Parish Council

Dear Craig

RE: Morley Annual Parish Meeting – 17th May 2021

Firstly, I apologise for not attending the meeting this evening.

During this pandemic period, everyone, at Morley Primary School has put their best efforts into maintaining the high quality of provision that we are known for. We were one of the first schools to have online classrooms up and running in March 2020 as we had started our planning for a potential lockdown from January 2020. We went out of our way to ensure that our children had access to technology. However, some families struggled due to poor broadband connectivity and the need to have multiple members of the family working online. In these cases, we delivered hard-copy work packs for the children. We were also visiting and calling our most vulnerable families and delivering lunches to them. During the lockdown periods, we have remained open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children and staff should be commended for their fortitude and commitment to their work despite the risks of working in close contact with others (which is unavoidable in a primary school).

We are really pleased with the outcome of our small building project which completed in January 2021. We now have a far more secure and welcoming entrance to the school with three new offices, a visitor toilet and a nurture room. The nurture room has given us a dedicated and appropriately resourced space to carry out our emotional literacy work, play therapy and various other interventions for children who have sensory, emotional and behavioural needs. Our next project, is to use our government sports grant to purchase new play equipment for our outdoor area and we are looking at designs for this at the current time.

We are facing a difficult period financially due to the opening of Wymondham College Prep School. Our reception class intake decreased from 21 in 2019 to 13 in 2020 due to the offer of 60 reception places at WCPS. Currently, we know of 11 reception class children who will be joining us in September 2021. We are also losing some Y5 pupils to WCPS at the end of this term due to the fact that the Department for Education have allowed WCPS to bring forward their offer of Y5 day places. Local authority schools would be subject to an 18-month notice period to change their intake numbers but Sapienta Trust are not accountable to the local authority and can by-pass the regulations that the rest of the cluster of schools are beholden to.

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We are informed by Norfolk County Council that the new school was built to provide for the additional school places required due to housing development in the A11 corridor. However, the current situation is that WCPS are taking pupils from schools in the local area. All of the Wymondham primary schools have seen falls in numbers of pupils. We are also informed that there has been a decline in birth rate across Norfolk and this decline is not set to rise for the next three to four years.

Therefore, as stated above, we are facing a difficult period of financial adjustment and organisational disruption. In the meantime, we will continue to work in the spirit of our mission and values as a Church of England school. We pride ourselves on giving our children a strong sense of their worth and talents and the values to become compassionate and resourceful young people.

Yours sincerely

Laura Green
Executive Head Teacher

Morley Parish Council – Chairman’s Report May 2021

This has clearly been an unusual year, where Parish Councils have met remotely to ensure that essential items are discussed and implemented.

Thanks to all Parish Councillors for their continued dedication and time this past year. Thanks too to Gareth our clerk for his continued advice and support.

Whilst we have been unable to focus on too many new developments this year, we have all been busy ensuring that our responsibilities are met to ensure that Morley’s landscape and amenities are maintained and improved.

Some examples of this are:

- Maintaining the children’s playground and fields
- Maintenance and improvements at the Village Hall grounds
- Maintenance of hedges and pathways
- Work on installing a new dog waste bin in Morley St Peter
- Working closely with WC on the Primary School development and an associated road to be built South of the college
- Providing some extra financial support to MVH
- Maintaining our financial support to the two churches in the village
- Providing local insight and feedback on numerous planning applications

We will continue to work with local organisations and the higher tiers of local government as ever in 2021/2.

Thanks go to our District Councillor (Richard Elliot) and our County Councillor (Margaret Dewsbury) for their continued support and advice.

Hopefully the year ahead will see us moving back to a more normal meeting and working pattern. We will continue to listen to the needs of residents and make a difference wherever possible.

