

Report to Stanwick Parish Council meeting 19th September 2019

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Website accessibility – web platform

1. Background

1.1 This report should be read in conjunction with Website Accessibility reports presented to the meeting held 18th July.

1.2 Further to Minute 19.66 (July 2019) I have had a meeting with an IT expert.

2. Issues identified

2.1 The existing websites are hosted by Moonfruit and the platform structure causes accessibility issues as the assistive technologies ‘read’ the code behind the text.

2.2 A number of free accessibility programmes have been run on the Parish Council websites and errors are identified.

2.3 These errors cannot be overcome on the Moonfruit platform.

2.4 Neither of the websites (Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan) are compliant as they do not display correctly on mobile technology, irrespective of accessibility issues.

2.5 A separate issue is that Moonfruit requires the use of ‘Flash’ which will be phased out by December 2020.

3. How to meet statutory requirements

3.1 In order to meet the statutory requirements imposed on the Parish Council sector, the Council should look to move away from Moonfruit as a hosting platform.

3.2 Tapiochre Ltd can provide web hosting on an accessible platform.

4. Financial implications

4.1 There would be a one-off £250.00 cost in the first year to set up the new website that would run in tandem with the existing website until the September 2020 deadline for statutory compliance when it will be handed over to the council.

4.2 In subsequent years there would be an annual charge of £60.00 that is comparable to the annual charge to Moonfruit.

5. Advantages of moving to Tapiochre Ltd for web hosting

5.1 It represents the opportunity to modernise the website and meet accessibility requirements.

5.2 The Neighbourhood Plan website could be incorporated in the website.

5.3 It is a local company and there will be locally available support if required

5.4 Greater website functionality (members only area, newsletter option)