

## **Stoke St Michael Parish Council**

### **Agenda Item – Future of the Former Parish Council Website and Email Accounts**

#### **Purpose**

To consider the future of the former Parish Council website and email accounts associated with the domain [stokestmichaelpc.org](http://stokestmichaelpc.org).

#### **Background**

The Parish Council's new website, [www.stokestmichaelparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stokestmichaelparishcouncil.gov.uk), has now been operating successfully for a couple of months. New.gov.uk email addresses have also been provided for the Clerk and Councillors. Councillors have already been provided with details of how to access their new email accounts

All Parish Council information is now published on the new website and the former website is no longer being updated.

#### **Current Position**

The Parish Council still owns the domain **stokestmichaelpc.org**, which includes:

- The domain name.
- The former Parish Council website.
- Historic email accounts for the Clerk and Councillors.

The current Ionos package costs £13.80 per month (£165.60 per year).

#### **Community Website Suggestion**

There have been enquiries about using the former website as a community website, with local organisations having their own pages.

This could be possible, but it would require a volunteer to manage the website and arrange payment of the hosting costs. The Parish Council could consider a grant towards the costs if a suitable proposal was received.

However, as the domain name contains "pc", it could still be viewed as an official Parish Council website and may cause confusion. If a community website is developed in the future, a new domain name would be recommended.

#### **Email Accounts**

Some Councillors have requested that the old email accounts remain available as they contain historic correspondence and information.

It is recommended that all future Parish Council business is conducted through the new.gov.uk email addresses. The old accounts would only be retained for accessing historic information.

Councillors should also note that if they resign or are not re-elected, their old email accounts would eventually be removed.

## **Options**

Following discussions with Ionos, the following options are available:

<b>Option</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>
Keep existing website, domain and email package	£165.60
Retain existing package with 75% discount	£41.40
Remove website and retain email access only (Mail Basic)	£15.00

## **Recommendation**

The recommended option is to remove the former website and downgrade the account to the Mail Basic package at a cost of £15.00 per year.

This would:

- Prevent confusion between the old and new Parish Council websites.
- Ensure all official communication uses the.gov.uk email addresses.
- Retain access to historic emails if required.

## **Proposed Resolution**

That Stoke St Michael Parish Council removes the former website hosted under stokestmichaelpc.org and downgrades the Ionos account to the Mail Basic package at a cost of £15.00 per year, retaining access to historic email accounts and ownership of the domain name.