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Council Meeting – 9 July 2015

Agenda Item FA1098/15

Parish Council's Web Site update

Introduction

The Council's website was developed as a bespoke system by Inco Software Solutions in 2008/9 and is therefore now some 7 years old The cost of developing original website was £3,995 - an annual equivalent to £570 per year.

The current website is integrated with a Content Management System (CMS) which is a software system that enables a website to be managed and modified without the necessity of engaging the expertise of a Webmaster. The web site is administered by the Clerk and the Administrative Officer and information can be uploaded to the site in a very prompt and timely manner.

However, over the last 6/7 years technology has moved on and INCO now have a new CMS system. Accordingly, they will not be supporting the existing type of CMS which we have after September 2015.

In addition Google recently changed it's algorithms to favour mobile friendly websites which reformat (responsive) depending on the type of mobile device is being used given that approximately 50% of users browse websites on mobile devices.

Discussion Narrative

During the discussions for the Council's budget for the current year an item was put forward to set up a 'virtual notice board' so that organisers of events and activities and other items of interest to the community can be posted. The budget for this item is £600 2015/16 and £300 2016/17. The Clerk has discussed this matter with INCO who have stated that they would be able to add this facility to our website. The Clerk also discussed with INCO setting up a "Public Consultation" section on the web site whereby the Council can make consultative information available on the website for residents to view and feedback their comments. Both these aspects can be set up but it would not be possible to do so with our existing CMS platform.

Given the above and the fact that INCO will no longer be supporting the old system it is considered timely that the Council should update its CMS platform.

To update to the new CMS platform and any necessary redesign and development costs would be £3,500.00 + VAT.

It is anticipated that in the same way as the original development of the web site the update will provide many years of service and therefore become very cost effective on an annual basis.

Recommendation(s)

- That the Council's web site be updated to the new CMS platform at a cost of £3,500 to include any redesign and to provide a Community Noticeboard and a Public Consultation section;

- That the funds included for the development of a virtual noticeboard in the 2015/16 budget of £600 and in 2016/17 budget provision (£300) be vired to the proposed website update.

David Allison
Clerk to the Council