

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Finance and General Purposes 07/12/2021

Website Development and Accessibility

Agenda item 21/047 5. To receive a report on developing the website and maintaining accessibility and resolve a quarterly development/maintenance budget of up to £250.00 + VAT.

BACKGROUND

The SMPC website was built using design patterns published under the Government Design System (GDS). This enabled SMPC to take advantage of the Government's significant development investment in website accessibility and usability.

The GDS, however, is not a static programme. Those responsible are constantly researching performance, developing new patterns, improving existing ones and adapting to new technologies. Our developers, I-Next Ltd., keep abreast of the developments in the GDS via subscriptions, blogs and social media output on an informal basis and have notified us when they have seen a development that would be applicable to our site.

In addition, as we use our site to create a more comprehensive resource for parishioners, we come across elements that we would like to improve, extend, or develop further. Whilst we can do a great deal ourselves, we are mindful that we should be developing the site in the best way and not just in the way we can achieve. To date I-Next have been supportive of our efforts on an ad hoc basis.

To address both issues, I-Next have proposed a quarterly GDS and functionality review and development programme. Under this they would formally track changes in the GDS and our requirements in an agile project management process and then implement identified and agreed changes on a quarterly basis. Based upon the rate of change so far, they have estimated a £250 per quarter fees for this. It is probable that in some quarters there will be less work required than the fee covers and I-Next would pro-rata the charges in that case.

In the event that there is a significant change, either by GDS or in the requirements of the Council, I-Next would notify us and establish how it might be achieved by staging within the programme or make an entirely separate proposal.