

# Website Provider Options Report

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## Introduction

Under the new Assertion 10 requirements within the AGAR governance framework, councils must operate using their own domain and provide councillors with official email addresses linked to that domain.

The Parish Council already owns its own domain name and operates a general council email account. Councillor email addresses are currently created using the councillor's name and are linked to the council's domain. When a councillor leaves office, their email account is deleted.

Best practice guidance also recommends that parish and town councils use a .gov.uk domain and corresponding official council email addresses for all council communications.

Currently, Stoke St Michael Parish Council's website is hosted by Ionos and costs £166 a year, the website does not comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 which is also part of the new assertion 10.

The new website will be designed so that its theme and structure comply with WCAG 2.2 accessibility requirements. However, it should be noted that some documents which must legally be published online—such as AGAR documents—are not themselves fully WCAG-compliant. Despite this, they are still required to be made available on the website.

For the AGAR Governance and Accountability Return for 2025–2026, the Parish Council will therefore need to tick “No” under Assertion 10, as the current website does not meet the required accessibility standards.

Once commissioned, the new website is expected to take approximately 4–6 weeks to build and launch.

The proposed domain name options are:

- [stokestmichaelparishcouncil.gov.uk](https://stokestmichaelparishcouncil.gov.uk) – recommended
- [stokestmichaelparish.gov.uk](https://stokestmichaelparish.gov.uk)
- [stokestmichaelparishcouncil-pc.gov.uk](https://stokestmichaelparishcouncil-pc.gov.uk)

HugoFox offers website hosting and management specifically aimed at parish and community organisations.

**Bronze Package – £9.99 + VAT per month (£119.88 annually)**

Recommended base package including:

- Unlimited pages
- Unlimited email support
- .gov.uk domain included
- Hosting and SSL certificate
- WCAG 2.2 AA accessibility compliance

**Silver Package – £19.99 + VAT per month**

Includes Bronze features plus:

- Unlimited phone support
- Advanced website statistics
- Planning tracker
- Encrypted members area

**Gold Package – £29.99 + VAT per month**

Includes Silver features plus:

- Unlimited full support
- SEO support package
- One-to-one training
- Full HugoFox suite

**Email Costs**

Email addresses can be added once the .gov.uk domain is established:

- 1 email: £2.49 + VAT per month
- 5 emails: £9.99 + VAT per month
- 10 emails: £17.49 + VAT per month (£209.88 annually – enough for the Parish Council)
- 15 emails: £24.99 + VAT per month

Each inbox includes 10GB storage.

**Additional Costs**

- Website build service: £199 + VAT

**Estimated Annual Cost (Example)**

Bronze package plus 10 emails:

- Website: £119.88
- Email: £209.88

**Total: £329.76 per year + VAT**

**One-off website build: £199 + VAT**

Example Parish Council Websites

- <https://www.goodworthclatford-pc.gov.uk>
- <https://www.colwickparishcouncil.gov.uk>
- <https://www.netherwallopparishcouncil.gov.uk>

## Parish Online - [www.parish-online.co.uk/services/websites](http://www.parish-online.co.uk/services/websites)

Parish Online provides a full parish council digital package including website, email, hosting, and maintenance.

### **Cost**

- Annual subscription: £350 + VAT
- Switching fund discount: £100 + VAT (first year only)

First year cost: £250 + VAT

### **Included Services**

The subscription includes:

- Website – modern responsive site following Government design guidelines
- Email – up to 20 mailboxes with 5GB storage each
- .gov.uk domain registration and management
- Hosting
- SSL security certificate
- Content migration from an existing website
- Accessibility compliance (WCAG 2.2 AA)
- Ongoing maintenance and upgrades
- Knowledge base and support resources

### **Example Parish Council Websites**

- <https://sthelenwithout-pc.gov.uk/>
- <https://ilmington-pc.gov.uk/>
- <https://helmdonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

## Eyelid Productions –

<https://eyelidproductions.co.uk/wordpress-websites-for-parish-councils/>

Eyelid Productions offers WordPress websites tailored for parish councils.

### Costs

#### Year 1

- Website build, design and migration: £650 + VAT
- Annual support: £100 + VAT
- Hosting: £99.99 + VAT
- .gov.uk domain: £50 + VAT

Total Year 1: £899.99 + VAT

#### Year 2 onwards

- Support: £100
- Domain: £50
- Hosting: £99.99 + VAT
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Total Year 2: £249.99 + VAT

### Example Websites

- <https://longstoweparishcouncil.co.uk/>
- <https://oldwestonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
- <https://stowlonga-pc.gov.uk/>

## Parish Council Websites - [www.parishcouncilwebsites.co.uk/](http://www.parishcouncilwebsites.co.uk/)

Parish Council Websites provides a predefined design website for parish councils.

### Costs

- Basic package: £569

Includes:

- Website build
- Predefined design

Training is not included in this package.

## Aubergine - [www.aubergine262.com/parish-town-council-websites](http://www.aubergine262.com/parish-town-council-websites)

Aubergine provides parish council website design packages.

### Costs

#### Year 1

- Website build, domain, training, hosting and support: £499 + VAT
- Email package (up to 20 emails): £60 + VAT

#### Year 2 onwards

- Hosting, support, training, domain and email package: £359 + VAT

#### Example Parish Council Websites

- <https://www.wraysburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.mentmoreparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

## Comparison Summary

Provider	First Year Cost	Ongoing Annual Cost	Key Features
HugoFox	£329.76 + VAT (+ £199 setup)	£329.76 + VAT	Flexible packages, email add-ons
Parish Online	£250 + VAT (switching discount)	£350 + VAT	Website, email, domain, hosting, and maintenance included
Eyelid Productions	£899.99 + VAT	£249.99 + VAT	Custom WordPress build
Parish Council Websites	£569	Not specified	Basic predefined design
Aubergine	£559 + VAT	£359 + VAT	Website with training and email