

parish clerk

From: helpdesk@capalc.org.uk
Sent: 19 March 2024 11:00
To: parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Advice on hosting a village magazine
Attachments: website-accessibility-requirements.pdf; the-good-councillors-guide-to-cyber-security.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

Morning Abi

Whilst in essence this may sound like a good idea there are a number of factors the council must consider including the very important matter you have already made. The council do not necessarily agree with the content being published and that potentially is a valid reason not offer the village magazine a webpage or link from the councils website.

Other thoughts.

The council are a local authority in law, first tier.

The village magazine is run by a volunteer group of members of the public and not a magazine issued or financed by the council.

Is the council expected to service this webpage/link or will the village magazine editors be given access? This is a security risk.

The council has a duty to comply with website accessibility, can they be sure everything published on this village newsletter webpage will comply with the councils duty?

Do the editors publish political material? if so or there is a concern they may do, then the council is not permitted to *'publish or assist anyone, financially or otherwise, to publish, by any means, any material which in whole or part appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party'*.

There is more on this in Local Council Administration 13th Edition page 190, para 20.4

Members of the public may wrongly assume the webpage/link is council business and get confused between the village magazine editors and council business/opinion.

I don't know whether the village magazine has advertisements but a .gov.uk domain cannot have business advertising.

I have attached a couple of guidance booklets for you.

Perhaps the council may need to undertake a risk assessment before going any further.

I don't understand why they don't have their own website and promote that themselves.

Kind regards

Penny

Penny Bryant BA(Hons) FSLCC
County Executive Officer

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-----Original Message-----

From: "parish clerk" <parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, 18 March, 2024 09:16
To: helpdesk@capalc.org.uk
Subject: Advice on hosting a village magazine

Good morning

I am hoping you can help me with a query.

We have been approached to host the local village magazine via our website – they do not have a hosting platform available to them at this time and thought it would be a good place to point people.

The magazine is not associated with the Parish Council in any way and will often publish articles of local interest that the Parish Council are not in support of etc etc. Council would like to take advice on if you think it is a good idea to provide the link via our website.

My intention would be to include a disclaimer along the lines of:

Melbourn Parish Council provides the link to the Melbourn Magazine for the convenience of our community members. While we facilitate access to this publication, we want to clarify that the opinions, views, and content expressed within the magazine are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Melbourn Parish Council.

We do not endorse or take responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any information contained in the Melbourn Magazine.

Your thoughts on the matter would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

Abi

Abi Williams & Alex Coxall
Parish Clerk

Melbourn Parish Council

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The Parish Office opening hours are normally 10am – 1pm / 2pm – 3pm Monday to Friday

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