COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY MARCH 9TH 2021

ITEM 9. To receive and approve a report on Parish Online (mapping software)

BACKGROUND

At the December 8th 2020 Council meeting Cllr. John Goodwin presented a report (item 12) on the benefit of the Council taking out a subscription to "Parish Online".

Following the delivery of his report, Council approved the following recommendations:-

1) To consider a trial period of Parish Online by nominated councillors who wish to participate.
2) To request the Clerk to formalise the subscription details that would apply to the Council and the cost of possibly ending the service agreement with NFDC on 30th September 2021, and
3) To reconsider this matter at a later Council meeting.

PRESENT POSITION (based on agreed recommendations above)

1) A trial period was arranged and ran from January 13th 2021 to February 13th 2021. Cllrs. Goodwin, Chillcott and Herra and myself (the existing registered users of GIS/Parish Map) were set up as users, although due to a misunderstanding on access rights on my part the ability for Cllrs. Goodwin, Chillcott and Herra to fully utilise the software was limited. Cllr. Goodwin though has already said that he feels that Parish Online is "excellent".

2) With regards to the Parish Online the annual subscription cost this would be (after a 20% HALC discount) £163.20 ex VAT.
The subscription paid to NFDC for GIS/Parish Map is £104.17 ex VAT. Our current subscription runs to September 30th 2021 and could be cancelled before that date, no refund would be received.

3) This report invites the reconsideration of this matter.

SUMMARY
In many ways Parish Online and GIS/Parish Map are similar but they also have differences.

For example some layers of mapping information provided by GIS/Parish Map are not made available to the providers of Parish Online by HCC/NFDC.

Parish Online does allow for the creation of "personal" map layers which would allow the Parish Council to create specific maps for projects including the Parish Design Statement, drainage issues, etc.

Parish Online has "built in" map layers that would allow for the recording of Parish Assets, including details such as type, condition, cost, etc. Effectively an Asset Register.

It is important to note that any "personal" map layers or details input into "built in" map layers would no longer be accessible should we decide to cancel our subscription at a point in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council takes out an annual subscription (£163.20 ex VAT) to commence before March 31st 2021 to take advantage of the HALC discount.

2. This subscription would run in parallel with our existing GIS/Parish Map subscription which runs to September 30 2021.

3. Council then makes a final decision at our July 2021 meeting about using one; or other; or both systems going forward.

David Rigby
Clerk/RFO, Copythorne Parish Council
February 19th 2021