

Proposal to change Web hosting away from Wesh

The current situation

Currently Melbourn Parish Council owns 3 domains:

Domain	Use	Registrar	Cost per annum	Renewal Date
melbournparishcouncil.co.uk	website	123-reg.co.uk	£9.99 + VAT	6 Oct '18
melbournpc.co.uk	email	namesco.co.uk	£6.99 +VAT	5 Sept '19
melbournparishcouncil.org.uk	unused	123-reg.co.uk	£9.99 + VAT	6 Oct '18

The website is hosted by Wesh with a cost of £25 per month for 1.75Gb of space.

The emails are looked after by the Parish Council IT service provider, Lucid, who charge £3.00+VAT per month for each of the Clerk, AssistantClerk and RFO emails.

Lucid support currently costs £52.50 per month for their “covered” service (includes unlimited access to support) plus a further £18 for backups service and anti-virus software.

All prices are ex-VAT

Immediate requirements for MPC

1. Reduce costs of web hosting by moving away from Wesh.
2. Obtain a cost effective method of assigning an official MPC email address to each councillor and officer (and removing/disabling it when a person is no longer a councillor or officer).

Further requirements for MPC

1. Consolidate the domains so that we are using only one domain for email and web pages.
2. Re-vamp the website to tidy it up and make it more user friendly.
3. Investigate a cheaper solution for IT support.
4. Move to a .gov.uk domain.

Recommendations

Based upon the information gathered (see appendix) and searching online reviews of web hosting providers, I recommend that, in the first instance, we retain our current domains, but switch to 1and1.com to host both web pages and emails.

Their “Plus” package gives unlimited webspace (with unlimited traffic) and unlimited email addresses – each with a 2Gb mailbox size. It would also allow us to operate two domains – melbournpc.co.uk and melbournparishcouncil.co.uk - so that the new website could be built up under the melbournpc domain and then switched into use when ready. The melbournparishcouncil domain could then be pointed at the melbournpc one.

The management of email addresses will devolve to the Clerk instead of Lucid, but should be straight forward to manage. **Outstanding action: Is 2Gb sufficient for mail of the officers?**

I would suggest that a small working party is set up to consider the requirements for the design of the web page and our existing service provider is consulted over them prior to the website revamp.

.gov.uk Domain

All local government organisations who wish to have a web presence must set up on the (restricted) .gov.uk domain. The restrictions in place give a measure of reassurance that the public is dealing with an official body when connecting to a .gov.uk domain. There is a significantly higher cost for owning a .gov.uk domain (between £45 and £120 per year based on research shown below).

For the moment, any local government organisation that has an existing web presence based on a .co.uk or similar domain is permitted to keep and maintain it without changing it to a .gov.uk domain. The author suspects that in the future the requirement to be on a .gov.uk domain will become mandatory, but MPC does not have to concern itself with this for the moment.

Data Collected

Note that all domain registration costs below relate to .gov.uk domains. Typical costs for .co.uk or .org.uk etc are circa £10pa as MPC is currently paying.

Companies selected at random from the official government list of domain registrars who handle .gov.uk domains. Many of those on the list are either no longer trading or don't do registrations of any sort any more.

besthost.uk

contact via webform

domain register: £125 (1st 2 years)

Annual cost: £37.50 (£75 per two years)

Can host elsewhere? No

Site hosting:

£5.75 per month for 5Gb data storage (10Gb bandwidth) and 100 email addresses

£8.50 per month for 10Gb data storage (25Gb bandwidth) and 250 email addresses

Fasthosts 0808 1686 777

sales@fasthosts.co.uk

domain register: £109+vat (1st 2 years)

Annual cost: £61+vat

Can host elsewhere? Yes

Site hosting:

£5.00 per month (£2.50 in first year) for 10Gb data storage and 5 email addresses with mailbox of 2Gb per address

£10.00 per month (£7.00 in first year) for 20Gb data storage and 100 email addresses with mailbox of 2Gb per address

uk-plc 0118 963 7014

domain register: £95+vat (1st 2 years)

Annual cost: £45+vat

Can host elsewhere? Yes

Site hosting:

Not available.

hosting uk 01745 586070

sales@hostinguk.net

domain register: £240+vat (1st 2 years) £50 application fee & resubmission fee

Annual cost: £120+vat

Can host elsewhere? Yes

Site hosting:

£49.50 per year / £4.95 month

£4.95 per month (£4.95 in first year) for 20Gb data storage and 50 email addresses with mailbox of 2Gb per address

www.host-it.co.uk 0844 745 1300

domain register: £139.90+vat (1st 2 years)

Annual cost: £69.95+vat

Can host elsewhere? Yes

Site hosting

Variable, but expensive to suit our needs!

1&1:

domain register: Don't do .gov.uk domain registration

Annual cost: N/A

Can host elsewhere? N/A

Site Hosting:

£4.99 per month (99p in first year) for 100Gb data storage and 100 email addresses with mailbox of 2Gb per address

£6.99 per month (£3.99 in first year) for unlimited data storage and unlimited email addresses with mailbox of 2Gb per address. Also unlimited sites.