**BACKING PAPER**

Leisure & Cultural Committee Meeting, Tuesday 08 June 2021

**Parish Online**

Parish Online is a digital mapping system for local councils, their website claims it is ‘an essential tool for simply viewing and printing maps, all the way to storing asset registers, producing neighbourhood plans and engaging with the public.’

Subscription to the software would give the parish council access to digital maps, including Ordnance Survey, onto which layers can be built to create bespoke maps to suit our requirements. Maps can be shared, printed, posted to the website or projected onto a screen at a meeting. Further details can be found here: <https://www.parish-online.co.uk/features>.

**Features:**

* Layers: **Over 100 map layers are pre-loaded and kept up-to-date, including parish boundaries,** addresses, listed buildings and flood zones.
* Measurements: **A measuring tool gives accurate lengths, distances & areas – this would be particularly useful, for instance, when mapping walking and cycling routes.**
* **Info Click: Features shown on maps can be ‘clicked’ to access further information – this would be useful for (a) wildlife areas – a picture of a plant or animal could, when clicked, show where this plant/animal can be found; (b) distance – clicking on a point on a map could show coordinates and distance from another point; (c) asset management – we are required to maintain an up-to-date asset register - a map could be created showing pictures of assets, eg a bench or piece of play equipment which, when clicked, would show when it was installed, who it was supplied by and the maintenance programme.**
* **Bespoke maps: Create different map layers for different purposes, each storing information required for different purposes from maintenance requirements (grass cutting, equipment inspection) to public interest (wildlife features, accessible facilities, etc). Maps created are permanent and there are no storage limits.**
* **Annotation: A map can be annotated to highlight a particular issue and sent as a pdf, to be used for communication and decision making.**
* **Information Extraction: Information such as listed buildings or addresses can be extracted from maps, for instance to create mailshots.**
* **User access: The subscription can be set up to give different access to various users, so authorised users may create and amend maps while others may have access to view only.**
* **Publication:** Embeddable, interactive, maps can be created for the website which can be viewed and searched by the public. These can be used for showing walking routes, playgrounds or upcoming events, for example.

In summary, this software would enable the production of bespoke and professional maps to suit our own requirements. The parish clerk has attended a seminar to see how the software works and would strongly encourage the Leisure & Cultural committee to agree to subscribe.

**Proposal**

To subscribe to Parish Online at a cost to the parish council of £405 per year.