

Statement from the Parish Council on Website Accessibility 10 March 2021

From September of 2020 new Government rules came into force seeking to ensure that people with disabilities can fully access online public services. All public bodies, regardless of size and services offered, have to comply with the new “Website Accessibility Regulations” unless it can be demonstrated that implementing the new regulations represents a disproportionate burden on the public body in question.

Camerton Parish Council has considered how it should respond to the introduction of the new rules. While the parish council understands and fully supports the intention behind them, we believe that fully complying with these new regulations would be a disproportionate burden on the parish council.

Therefore the parish council with its limited IT budget has done as much as is reasonably possible to comply with the regulations. However the parish council is not planning to achieve 100% compliance for the following reasons:

- The parish council doesn't provide any online services.
- The parish website was developed funded by grants. All run of the mill updates to the site are done in-house. Additional work has to be undertaken by paid external support for which the parish council has a limited budget
- The parish council is happy to provide the information posted on the parish website in an alternative format at a reasonable cost to any parishioner who suffers difficulty accessing it through the website.

In this as in many other matters, the parish council is working with the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) to seek the advice and guidance of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) about how Government regulations are best implemented. This ensures consistency of approach across the region and the country. If that advice when it arrives materially affects the potential burden on the parish council, either for better or worse, we will review and update this statement.

Kathryn Manchee, Clerk to the Council

