

Reports for Brightling Parish Council meeting 10 November 2021

Web site

The site continues to be hosted by Rother District Council. A number of images got lost during the transfer; these have now been restored. Also some minutes and agendas of past parish council meetings, which we are obliged by law to have on the website, are missing. I am to restore these in the next few weeks.

The clerk and I are able to make posts to the website, as is Chris Wing for the Village Hall. Access has also been given to Charles Everett, for the village trust, as is Jane Beard, although neither of those two has yet made any postings.

Domain name

Most villages have a domain ending in .org.uk, eg dallington.org.uk, mountfield.org.uk etc. Brightling used to own brightling.org.uk but due to an oversight, it was not renewed and was taken by someone else, who recently renewed it until April 2026. The identity of the current owner cannot be established and they have not responded to contact attempts by the clerk through the registration company.

There is a process by which we can make a formal offer. If that is rejected or ignored, we could then appeal to Nominet, the authority for .org.uk domain names. However the minimum offer is 199 US dollars, and in addition there is a non-refundable fee of US\$ 19.95. I therefore request the parish council to set a budget of £200 to try and re-purchase the domain name. If we don't succeed in getting it, we will only have spent US\$ 19.95

Full-fibre broadband

This project seems to be stuck somewhere between BT Openreach and DCMS. The latest information from BT (25th October) is

The PRP is still with the DCSM [sic] for approval however our we are driving priority cases with them and your scheme is on that priority list. I understand how frustrating this is but as soon as I have an update or that we are ready to open the pledges I will advise you.

Andrew Hoad of Ashburnham Parish council, who is taking the lead in this project, is now in the process of contacting Huw Merriman MP to try and exert some influence.

Councillors will recall from previous reports that our application was submitted on

26th January.

Some people may consider that this shambles is not unconnected with the fact that since 2017, there have been six (6) different occupants of the role of Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Andrew Wedmore

9 November 2021