Great Gransden Parish Council

Accessibility Policy

Great Gransden Parish Council's Accessibility Policy is based on the model policy dated 12 July 2019 that was published at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sample-accessibility-statement/sample-accessibility-statement-for-a-fictional-public-sector-website

This model statement was cut and pasted into this page, and adapted to our needs. It was formally adopted at a meeting of the Parish Council in September 2020.

Contents

Accessibility statement for www.greatgransdenpc.org.uk

This website is run by Great Gransden Parish Council. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- change colours, contrast levels and fonts
- zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen
- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver)

We've also made the website text as simple as possible to understand.

AbilityNet has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

How accessible this website is

We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible:

- some older PDF documents are not fully accessible to screen reader software.
- you cannot skip to the main content when using a screen reader.
- Some graphic icons do not have alternate text.
- Some textual content has too low a contrast.

What to do if you cannot access parts of this website

If you need information on this website in a different format like accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille:

- email gransdenpc@hotmail.co.uk
- call the Parish Clerk on 01767 677846
- Attend any of our Parish Council meetings, and talk to the Parish Clerk and/or a Councillor before or after the meeting.
  (Note: currently parish Council meeting are currently held online using video-conferencing software; members of the public are welcome to attend, and joining instructions are on our home page.)

We'll consider your request and get back to you in 10 working days.

If you cannot view the map on our 'contact us' page, call or email us using the above address for directions.

Reporting accessibility problems with this website

We're always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact us as described above.

Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS).

Contacting us by phone or visiting us in person

Sorry, we do not provide a text relay service for people who are deaf, hearing impaired or have a speech impediment.

We do not have an office.The room in which we hold our meetings does not have audio induction loops.

Click on the following link to contact us.

Technical information about this website's accessibility

Great Gransden Parish Council is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

This website is partially compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard, due to the non-compliances listed below.

- some older PDF documents are not fully accessible to screen reader software
- you cannot skip to the main content when using a screen reader.
- Some graphic icons do not have alternate text.
- Some textual content has too low a contrast.

Non accessible content

The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons.

Non compliance with the accessibility regulations

No accessibity issues are known other than problems where we're claiming disproportionate burden, or where the problem is outside the scope of the accessibility regulations, as described below.

Disproportionate burden

Images with no alternate text

Some images on do not have a text alternative, so people using a screen reader cannot access the information. This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 1.1.1 (non-text content).

Most of the non-compliant images on the website are icons placed by the underlying web server platform (Google Classic Sites) and outside our control. We believe we have text alternatives for all

images for which the web server platform enables us to add such text. It is our intention that when we publish new content, our use of images meets accessibility standards. We are investigating alternative web server platforms to which we could migrate, with comparable ease of use for the web site maintainers and with low running costs.

Navigation and accessing information

There's no way to skip the repeated content in the page header (for example, a 'skip to main content' option). This fails WCAG 2.1 success criterion 2.4.1 (bypass blocks). See above about moving to an alternative web server platform that could enable us to address this issue.

We've assessed the cost of fixing the issues with navigation and accessing information, and with images with no alternative text. We believe that doing so now would be a disproportionate burden within the meaning of the accessibility regulations. We will make another assessment when we have discovered an affordable alternative web server platform that meets our needs.

Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

PDFs and other documents

Many of our older PDFs and Word documents do not meet accessibility standards - for example, they may not be structured so they're accessible to a screen reader. This does not meet WCAG 2.1 success criterion 4.1.2 (name, role value).

Some of our PDFs are essential to providing our services. For example, we publish meeting agendas and minutes as PDFs. By September 2020, we plan to either fix these or replace them with accessible HTML pages.

The accessibility regulations do not require us to fix PDFs or other documents published before 23 September 2018 if they're not essential to providing our services. For example, we do not plan to inspect or fix minutes or agendas originally published before the September 2018 deadline.

It is our intention that any new PDFs or Word documents we publish will meet accessibility standards.

How we tested this website

This website was last tested on 28 January 2020. The test was carried out by Great Gransden Parish Council.

Our approach to deciding on a sample of pages to test is documented in the accessibility test report.

We tested:

- our main website platform, available at http://www.greatgransdenpc.org.uk/

(The site is also available via the alias ggpc.gransdens.org, with the same layout, information and accessibility limitations.) You can read the full accessibility test report.

What we're doing to improve accessibility

With the exception of old pages that have been moved to the archive area, we shall be working through pages that have not been tested to inspect them for visibility. We shall also be looking at information such as our policies that are currently only available as PDF files, and looking to provide them as web pages as well.

The current web site hosting solution is Google Classic Sites, which was selected in 2011 with the main criteria being affordability, ease of use rather than accessibility. Unfortunately, this means there are various accessibility issues that are beyond our control, so we are carrying out research to see if we find an alternative web site hosting solution which could better meet our needs.

Change notice

This statement was first drafted on 31 December 2019. It was last updated on 4 September 2020