

Meeting	Full Council
Date	20 th October 2026
Report Title	Copyright Claim – VE Day 75 Publication
Agenda Reference	17C
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Officer's Recommendations:

VE Day 75 Publication

Background

Haydon Wick Parish Council has received correspondence from Pngtree alleging unauthorised use of a VE Day 75 logo within a Parish Council publication produced in 2019.

The Council responded explaining that:

- the image was used solely to promote local VE Day commemorative activities;
- no commercial benefit was obtained;
- the use was undertaken in good faith;
- the Council believed it was supporting the national VE Day 75 campaign;
- and further information regarding ownership and infringement was requested.

Current Position

Pngtree has responded stating that:

- government and community organisations require an Enterprise licence for use of its images;
- it considers the historic use to be an infringement;
- it is requesting evidence of authorisation or the purchase of an Enterprise licence;
- and it has indicated that legal action could be considered if the issue is not resolved.

Outstanding Issues

Pngtree has not yet provided:

- evidence of copyright ownership;
- evidence of authority to enforce the copyright;
- confirmation of the applicable licence terms;
- a quantified financial claim;
- or a proposed settlement amount.



Financial Implications

At this stage there is:

- no invoice issued;
- no settlement figure specified;
- no damages claim quantified;
- and no payment deadline communicated.

Therefore, the Council's potential financial exposure remains unknown.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Council:

1. Request evidence supporting the claim.
2. Seek clarification of any financial settlement sought.
3. Obtain legal advice if a monetary demand is received or if legal proceedings are threatened more formally.
4. Defer any payment or licence purchase until the claim has been substantiated.

Overall Assessment

At this stage, I would classify this as a **low-level copyright claim rather than a formal legal action**. The immediate priority is obtaining evidence and understanding whether Pngtree has a legitimate, enforceable claim and, if so, what remedy they are actually seeking. There is currently no disclosed financial liability and no known payment deadline.