

## Faster Broadband for Great Elm

At the Parish Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Paul Laurence (Voneus Ltd) gave a presentation to 25 villagers on how faster broadband (30 to 50 mbps) could be brought to Great Elm and surrounding district. Paul explained the system currently operating in Buckland Dinham, where an antenna on Buckland Dinham church connects wirelessly to other properties in the village. A similar system could be installed in Great Elm; signals would be beamed from Buckland Dinham church to a property (a landing point) which was in line of sight. From that initial property, connections would be made to other properties. Problems making connections to properties out of line of sight (ie down the hill) would be solved by mounting hop-points on appropriate properties.

Paul showed pictures of the various antennae emphasizing their relative small size and that approval on listed building was a mere formality.

If there was sufficient demand from villagers, a system could be up and running in a few months. Costs £20/month for 20Gb data and £34.99/month for unlimited data.

Installation costs apply although Paul was informed that a further voucher scheme would soon be introduced by Connecting Devon & Somerset (a government led partnership) aimed at reducing such costs.

Paul circulated a form asking for names of those people interested in subscribing to broadband using the wireless system.

Paul went on to talk about the alternative fibre-optic broadband being introduced gradually throughout the area by Gigaclear, but this it is believed would not be available until end of 2019.