

# WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

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[www.winkleighpc.org.uk](http://www.winkleighpc.org.uk) and Find us on Facebook

4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parishioners

## RESUMPTION OF WINKLEIGH PARISH COVID19 SUPPORT SERVICE

In this second period of restrictions, Winkleigh Parish Council will continue to support people **who need to** self-isolate by matching them with volunteers. **However**, unlike the previous 'lock down', the Parish Council have limited funds remaining to pay the expenses of all volunteers.

Therefore, if the assigned volunteer requires reimbursement for mileage, you must come to a private arrangement with the person you are helping or being helped by, at no more than the Local Government rate of £0.45p per mile.

The Parish Council will primarily act as an intermediary for people who have no support locally and where possible will pass on useful information and telephone numbers where help can be accessed. If you are concerned about paying for a volunteer, please contact the Parish Clerk 01837 89095, [winkleighpc1@btconnect.com](mailto:winkleighpc1@btconnect.com) who will discuss all concerns and arrangements with you personally.

Devon County Council have created an 'exceptional hardship fund' which is available to assist taxpayers who could find themselves in exceptional hardship without further assistance.

The principles behind the fund is to help people over a short-term crisis when their income does not meet reasonable expenses. Please see the Exceptional Hardship Policy for more information (on the following link). If you would like to apply for such an award; please phone the council on 01237 428700 and speak to a benefit advisor who will talk this through with you, see also the following link;

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/support-for-people-and-families/#support-for-families>

We are all being asked to limit outside contact as much as possible and only leave the house for essential activities such as work, education, essential shopping, medical appointments, and exercise. Carrying out acts of voluntary assistance comes under this category.

If you are over 60 or clinically vulnerable, you could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. You should be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise your contacts with others. You should continue to wash your hands carefully and more frequently than usual and maintain thorough cleaning of frequently touched areas in your home and/or workspace.

Clinically vulnerable people are those who are: aged 70 or over (regardless of medical conditions) under 70 with an underlying health condition; generally, that means; anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds. Those people will have received a letter in March. If you are subject to a new chronic medical condition since March it might be a good idea to check with your GP or other medical staff treating your condition.

If the Parish Council does pair you up with persons needing assistance, can you please remember, **Hands Space Face**. Keep two metres apart and remember to wear a face covering. Whenever possible keep all transactions outside of properties, such as leaving shopping on doorsteps and stepping back. Cleanse your hands with sanitiser and wash them thoroughly for two minutes once back at home.

If you need help please email [wppccovid19@outlook.com](mailto:wppccovid19@outlook.com) or ring Cllr Angela Findlay 01837 682616 or Mel Bickell, Parish Clerk 01837 89095 between 9am and 5pm. Please note these are not emergency telephone numbers. Please try to give as much notice as possible so an appropriate volunteer can be sourced.

Cllr Alice Turner (Chair), Cllr Angela Findlay (Vice-Chair), Cllr Mercer, Cllr Jacobs, Cllr Bayley, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Radcliffe, Cllr Whitehead, Cllr Brown, Cllr Hodgson

Alternatively, ring Okehampton District Community Transport Group, who provide a community car service at reasonable rates, call 01837 55000 (8.30-4pm), <https://odctg.co.uk/> - they are also seeking volunteer drivers if you are able to offer your vehicle and services.

If you were a previous volunteer and are no longer able to give your time, or wish to be added to our list of volunteers, please email [wpccovid19@outlook.com](mailto:wpccovid19@outlook.com).

The Parish Council will continue to provide support to local businesses who are actively providing tailored service to our residents and Parish during this lockdown period, for as long as possible, and any requests for support should be emailed to the Parish Clerk, [winkleighpc1@btconnect.com](mailto:winkleighpc1@btconnect.com)

The Winkleigh Parish Council support service was highly successful earlier this year for the five months of restrictions, due to the selflessness of our volunteers, the flexibility and support of our local businesses and the dedication of key workers, our local GP service and their staff. I am sure that together we can get through this second lock down.

Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Further information may be found on the parish Council Website  
[http://www.winkleighpc.org.uk/COVID\\_19\\_31575.aspx](http://www.winkleighpc.org.uk/COVID_19_31575.aspx)

or

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxon;>

Angela Findlay  
Vice Chair Winkleigh Parish Council  
Covid Support Co-ordinator.

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