

WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL EXTRA- ORDINARY MEETING

Councillors are Summoned to a Meeting of Winkleigh Parish Council
Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 7.30pm

To be held remotely in accordance with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020

Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting are asked to identify themselves on screen – Any member of the public wishing to remain anonymous will not be permitted to speak during public participation in accordance with our Standing Orders

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 886 2471 6296

Passcode: 360522

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED (VISUAL AND AUDIO) TO FACILITATE MINUTE TAKING AND WILL BE DESTROYED FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES unless the clerk has received notification the is meeting subject to a complaint investigation

Agenda

106.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE to be received and considered for approval (*Chair*)

107.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS to be received (*Chair*)

Cllr Bayley will declare a pecuniary interest in this item, but will remain to answer any questions until such time as moving to a vote, at which time he will leave the meeting

108.20 PUBLIC PERIOD (*Chair*)

Time for this session is limited to 20 minutes (3 minutes per person. Each person may only speak once). In accordance with standing order 2(f) a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given, or the matter placed on the agenda for the next parish council meeting. Only matters raised during public participation that require an answer from the Parish Council will be minuted.

109.20 WINKLEIGH POST OFFICE POSSIBLE CLOSURE

Winkleigh Parish Council has been advised by Tony Bayley, Postmaster, that the Post Office in Winkleigh is likely to close. He has received formal notice from The Post Office that the sorting office service will no longer be required from 27th March 2021 which drastically reduces the income for the Post Office by £1,864 per month, making it no longer financially viable to remain open in its current form because it is not financially viable to operate as a 'stand-alone' Post Office

If the Post Office closes, then Mr Bayley has stated the Post Office Service will look to create an outreach post office service to visit the Village, limited to 3 mornings per week, for a 2½ hour period, which will only be for limited general post office services and **will not include** business banking, cash withdrawals, retail sales and the range of services currently provided.

Mr Bayley has discussed the possibility of embedding the post office in other village businesses, but this is not viable due to lack of space/availability.

Mr Bayley can secure £1000 per month from Post Office Services until December 2022, and therefore, would like to retain a full time Post Office in the same location and double the current retail business in order to significantly boost income, but in order to meet the running costs of a full time Post Office, Winkleigh Post Office needs an additional £800 per month financial support until such time as the increased retail sales boost income.

The Parish Council do not have the General Power of Competence, and therefore, are limited with regards to what financial support can be offered to the Post Office, other than by way of an annual grant of £9,600 under S.137 of Local

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Government Act 1972, which allows the Council to make donations to community organisations that add value or benefits to its inhabitants, provided the expenditure is in proportion to those who would benefit in the community. (Maximum expenditure for WPC under S.137 each year is currently £14,060)

The only way the Parish Council can currently raise this money is via the precept [Council Tax]. If the Parish Council were to raise the precept by £9,600 to support the Post Office in 2021/22, this is an increase of £15.11 per year for a Band D Property, **(£1.26 per month/£0.29p per week)**

Members to discuss WPC response and options for the Parish. Members to consider if they support in principle, the Parish council seeking views and all possible options to provide financial assistance to the Post Office, from parishioners and businesses, including an article in the next edition of Distinctly Winkleigh to ask the tax paying residents and businesses about this situation and what they would like to see happen.

All comments for and against, must be received by 4th December so the Parish Council can consider parishioners and businesses views at an Extra-ordinary meeting 9th December (to be confirmed) prior to setting the precept,. The Parish Council can call an Extra-ordinary meeting early January to set the budget and precept to meet TDC deadline.

110.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25th November 2020, 7.30pm

Alice Turner

Cllr Alice Turner

Chair of Winkleigh Parish Council

5th November 2020