

## **Information to assist Baschurch Parish residents during the Covid-19 outbreak**

**Post office Help Scheme:** A new initiative introduced by the Post Office is being rolled out to banks. Anyone who cannot leave home may be able to ask a trusted friend or volunteer to withdraw cash at any Post Office using a single-use voucher. The Post Office scheme is being extended and offered to all banks, building societies and credit unions. If the bank allows it, someone can ask for a one-time barcode sent via text, email or post for a stipulated amount. A trusted friend or volunteer can exchange the voucher for the cash requested. Previously, only a named individual, such as a carer, could collect cash in this way on someone's behalf. Now any trusted neighbour or volunteer can do so.

The idea of the Payout Now scheme is to allow people who are shielded or self-isolating, mainly elderly, to maintain access to cash without having to hand over a debit card and Pin to somebody else.

For more details please see BBC News and the Post Office website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52229698>

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/post-office-payout>

## **Important Notice for Informal Carers during Coronavirus – COVID 19 Outbreak**

A Carer pass from Shropshire Council for informal carers to show police if they are stopped while on essential visits is now available

We recognize and appreciate informal carers play a vital role in supporting the people they care for in Shropshire. As part of the support they provide as a carer they may have to make essential visits during this Coronavirus-COVID 19 outbreak.

As informal carers don't have identification like paid care workers the carer pass from Shropshire Council can be issued so that they can show police if they are stopped while out on essential visits.

These passes should only be used while on vital visits, that is, where there is no alternative available and the informal carer must go out on behalf of the person they care for. Informal carers must The carer pass is available for all informal carers and we welcome voluntary and community organisations distributing it to the carers they are working with in their organisations.

## **The Police and Crime Commissioner has introduced a dedicated Coronavirus Relief Fund accessible through Parish Councils:**

The scheme is designed to make funds available to local Parish Council community groups who have enlisted volunteers to provide assistance to vulnerable people in their area, specifically during the current pandemic. Volunteers who are supporting 'at risk' individuals by collecting prescriptions, shopping, making reassurance phone calls and posting mail may need to purchase small items such as appropriate PPE (masks, gloves), ID badges, stationery etc. to assist them with this work. All applications should come via Parish Councils.

More information can be found here <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/pcc-launches-dedicated-fund-for-covid-19-support-groups/>

### **Food Purchase – Shropshire**

Shropshire Council have a system in place to purchase food for those people who are self-isolating and cannot purchase supplies over the phone using a debit or credit card and cannot access cash. They can make orders on behalf of a customer over the phone with a Shropshire Council purchasing card and arrange for this to be delivered. The customer will then be invoiced for payment at a later date.

**NB- this is an emergency measure for those who have no other options. It is only for those who have money in the bank but can't get to it. Anyone who doesn't have money to pay for food should contact the Covid-19 Helpline 0345 6789 028 for access to a free food parcel.**

### **Parish Council Meetings**

Parish Council Meetings will continue to be held remotely by Zoom until further notice. These virtual meetings will be open to all members of the public. Please see Business Page of this website to see the Agenda for the next meeting.