

BOURTON ON THE WATER PARISH COUNCIL

WINTER WEATHER MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council has a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice on property which it owns. Although the Council does not have the resources to provide a full snow clearing service throughout the village, nor is it required to do so, it will endeavour to assist wherever practicable and affordable. This policy has been established to clarify what can be expected from the Council in terms of winter weather management on its own land and elsewhere in Bourton on the Water.

2. THE LAW

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 place responsibility on an employer/land-owner to maintain access to its premises in a safe condition. Although an employer can be held liable for 'failing to act reasonably' to prevent accidents, pedestrians also have a responsibility to take care.

There is no law which prevents Parish Councils from clearing snow or ice on public places, provided the area has been cleared carefully, and negligence cannot be proven. The Council maintains adequate levels of Public Liability insurance and, in the event the Council has taken due care when clearing snow or ice but is deemed legally liable for an injury, its Public Liability insurance will provide cover. In order to ensure due care is taken this policy sets out the measures the Council will take. The extent of its responsibility is to do what is reasonable in the circumstances and which is appropriate to the resources at its disposal.

3.0 GLOS. COUNTY COUNCIL

3.1 During adverse weather events Glos. County Council's highway resources are deployed on a 24/7 basis to keep the county moving, and to deal with other emergencies such as removing fallen trees and assisting the general emergency services. The strategic road network (which covers approximately 29% of Gloucestershire's total road network and which includes Class A and B roads, roads leading to main hospitals, ambulance stations, police stations and fire stations, roads serving main shopping centres secondary schools etc) will be gritted and cleared of snow as and when appropriate. GCC Highways does not clear secondary roads or public footpaths.

3.2 The following roads in Bourton will be cleared by GCC Highways as and when necessary:

- Meadow Way from entrance to Industrial Estate to junction with Station Rd
- Station Rd, from traffic lights at A429 to junction with High St
- Moore Rd
- Lansdowne
- High St
- Rissington Rd

4.0 PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Property or land which **WILL** be gritted by the Council:

- a) The George Moore Community Centre, Moore Rd.
During periods of persistent and severe ice or snow the Council will arrange to grit and clear snow, to the best of its ability and when safe to do so, from the Community Centre car park within the extent of the area for which it has responsibility.

Ground staff will spread grit when there is an advance forecast of prolonged bad weather, or as soon as it is safe to do so. Gritting will be carried out on a priority basis, and will be re-applied at regular intervals if the bad weather persists. Grit will not be applied when there is a forecast of isolated short-term bad weather. Snow will be cleared when it is safe to do so. The policy and any subsequent revisions will be circulated to tenants and displayed for visitors to the Centre as and when appropriate so they are aware of arrangements. Tenants and visitors will be required to take adequate precautions during short spells of icy weather, as would be reasonable to expect of any individual.

- b) The pedestrian bridges across the River Windrush. Subject to availability of grit and manpower resources, the Council will arrange for the village centre bridges to be gritted during winter months when there is an advance forecast of snow/ice. Grit will **NOT** be applied when there is a forecast of isolated short-term bad weather (ie a one-day frost).

4.2 Property or land which will **NOT** be gritted by the Council:

- a) Council Allotment sites, playing fields, Cemetery and other open spaces. It is reasonable to expect it unlikely that the playing fields and play areas will be much in use during bad weather conditions and it's also reasonable for the Council to allocate its limited resources to other areas of greater public use. The Allotment sites and Cemetery do not benefit from man made paths and gritting is therefore not practical or achievable.
- b) Public footpaths or highways. The Council does not have the resources in terms of manpower or grit stocks to grit the public footpath network, nor is it required to do so. No public footpaths will be cleared.

5.0 GRIT AND EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 The Council will **NOT** make available grit or equipment for use on private land – this is the responsibility of each property/land-owner.
- 5.2 In order to facilitate the clearance of snow and ice in public areas, and to assist residents in moving around the village centre to access amenities, the Council will retain a stock of equipment that can be loaned out to local residents, businesses and other authorities, and will provide limited stocks of grit free of cost for use on public footpaths only, when practical to do so.
- 5.3 Any residents or businesses borrowing Council equipment will be given a copy of the Council's Risk Assessment, which is subject to periodic review, and will be required to sign to confirm they have read and agree to abide by this advice. The Council will notify local residents and traders of the availability of grit and equipment stocks via the parish magazine in autumn each year.
- 5.4 The Council will locate a number of grit bins at strategic areas around the village and GCC will fill all bins with grit prior to winter commencing. The Council will re-stock all bins, subject to availability of grit and resources, as and when the Council or residents note they are empty. Residents and traders are **NOT** permitted to take grit from grit bins for use on private land or property.
- 5.5 Council's staff who clear snow or spread grit will be provided with appropriate clothing, footwear and equipment and will receive advice and training regarding the correct procedure for all works.
- 5.6 All Parish Council equipment will be checked annually to ensure it is in good working condition and fit for purpose. Records of annual equipment checks will be retained in the Council office.

6.0 GENERAL SNOW/ICE CLEARANCE ADVICE

The government advise that members of the public can clear snow and ice from pavements themselves. It's unlikely they will be held responsible if someone is injured on a path or pavement if it has been cleared in a responsible manner. Further guidance is available from the government on www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway.