

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

1. Policy

Ashover Parish Council (the Council) does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice (except on its own property) and will provide a snow clearing service on:-

- The Milken Lane Car Park, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BA

1. The Council will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that parking facilities remain open as normal, but will not do so at the expense of the welfare of contractors, staff and the safety of users.

2. Where it is beneficial to do so, the entrance to the Milken Lane Car Park will be gritted in advance of snowfall, and regularly gritted and cleared when the snow lies.

3. Time and resources are limited and only key areas will be managed in periods of exceptional snowfall. Therefore it is essential that all remember that they also have a responsibility to take due care in adverse weather conditions.

2. Introduction

Although the Council has no statutory obligation to clear snow from public highways, it does have a duty of care to car park users that requires some basic precautions when there is snow or ice underfoot. So it is important to recognise that the Council is responsible for ensuring that the means of access is safe for users and that adequate arrangement is made to ensure that the risks from snow and ice are minimised. It is recognised that it is not possible to remove every piece of snow or ice. It does, however, require those responsible for premises leading from the car park, to exercise careful judgement and prioritise de-icing and salting of key access routes for its users.

At no stage will the Council guarantee to keep its property free from snow, but this document outlines the actions that may be taken to balance the costs, risks and benefits of clearance.

3. Planning and Authority

Salt gritting works by reducing the freezing point of water. Traffic is essential to move the salt and grit granules around and eventually melt the ice. On more lightly trafficked roads the surface will remain icy for some time after salting. The spreading of salt does not mean the surface will be ice free. Bearing this in mind, a higher concentration of salt will be required to prevent ice forming on pathways and to be fully effective it must be applied in advance of the expected snowfall. It may not be possible to consult widely among Councillors when snow is imminent, so the Clerk is delegated the power to support the contractor in making a decision to grit.

3.1 Priority of Clearance

The first priority is to maintain the normal functions of the car park, so the areas to be gritted are the main entrance to the car park and access to the Ashover Community Medical Centre and Ashover Parish Hall.

3.2 Maintenance of salt stock

Procurement of sufficient grit for Council use, before the start of winter, is delegated to the Clerk. Storage of grit will be the responsibility of the contractor.

4. Gritting

4.1 The decision to grit

The Met Office issues severe weather alerts in advance of expected adverse weather. When the Met Office has issued an amber or red alert for the region that states there is a greater chance of snow or ice in the next working day, the Clerk and contractor will agree if it will be necessary to grit the car park. In making the decision the things to bear in mind are:-

- i) Expected severity of the weather
- ii) Predicted length of the freeze
- iii) Usage of the adjacent facilities
- iv) Availability of grit
- v) Availability of contractor

After considering these factors, the gritting and clearance programme will be agreed between the Clerk and contractor.

4.2 Method of gritting

The grit will be applied at 250g/m² (about a quarter shovelful).

Note – the inaccuracy of spreading by hand will require a greater quantity of salt to compensate for poor coverage obtained by this method.

5. Take Due Care

The presence of snow and ice presents health and safety risks, as the potential for slips, trips and falls increases significantly. It is important all for persons on Council property to adhere to common sense protocols such as:

- Walk, don't run
- Wear footwear with a non-slip sole
- Try where possible to leave hands free to aid balance and/or in the event of a fall you will be better able to minimise the effects of a slip, trip or fall
- Allow more time for your journey
- Be mindful of slipping while walking, using ramps and steps

Remember, gritting may help, but it is no substitute for care and preparedness on the part of the individual.

6. Grit Bins

There are many grit bins sited around the parish supplying grit for use on the adjacent highway. Any resident wishing to apply for a grit bin, should submit a completed application to the Parish Clerk.

7. Status of Policy

This Policy replaces the previous Ashover Parish Council 'Snow & Ice Policy' adopted 2010.

Revised Policy Adopted: May 2024

Next Review: May 2027