

# PARISH COUNCIL WINTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Slinfold Parish Council  
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December 2018

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## BACKGROUND

The heavy winters of 2009 and 2010 highlighted the importance of working with Horsham District and West Sussex County Council to ensure that our roads and pavements were kept clear of ice and snow.

Whilst the Parish Council does not have a statutory duty to deal with ice and snow, it is encouraged to inform the principal authorities about local needs.

The Emergency Planning Committee put together a Winter Management Plan which sets out what the Parish Council want to do to help its community and what role the principal authorities have.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Co-ordinator of the Billingshurst Winter Management plan is the Clerk, Mary Burroughs, who can be reached on 01403 785864, mobile 07733-359479 or email [clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk)

## LEGAL ADVICE

Residents who are able are asked to play their part by clearing snow from paths and even roads outside their homes and businesses. The Government has made it clear that those who do clear snow need have no fear of legal action if they clear and someone falls and is injured, so long as the clearance does not make the condition of the pathway more dangerous. Guidance on clearing snow can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>

## **ROLE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**West Sussex County Council** assumes overall responsibility for snow and ice clearance on the public highway. They prioritise keeping the main roads and routes to essential services clear and their service includes:

- ❖ Bulk purchase and storage of salt/grit;
- ❖ Filling salt bins and delivering bulk bags when resources permit;
- ❖ Issuing farmers with snow ploughs;
- ❖ Pre treatment of selected roads;
- ❖ Reactive treatment of roads when resources permit;
- ❖ Monitoring local weather forecasts;
- ❖ Issuing daily decisions regarding action to be taken;
- ❖ Provide advice and training.

**Horsham District Council** will supply the Parish Council with:

- ❖ Maps of the Parish printed up with the locations of the salt bags, helicopter landing pads, emergency accommodation
- ❖ During bad weather if the Parish needs essential footpaths cleared, and, if the District Council has enough staff, they will send them to help.

## **SALT/GRIT BINS**

These are situated by the bus shelter in The Street, at Lowfield/Streetfield Road and at the entrance to Six Acres, there is also a bin opposite The Chequers Pub, Rowhook. These will be filled by WSCC in October and topped up as required. This salt is for the use of the residents in the Parish as self help on public footpaths and roads, it is not intended for use on private land, e.g. driveways or paths.

## **VOLUNTEER HELPERS**

Please think of your elderly or disabled neighbours who may not be able to get out should weather conditions make it dangerous. **If you are unable to help personally, please let the Parish or Horsham District Council know (01403-215100)** and help if possible will be arranged.

**The Parish Council would also like to hear from anybody who is willing to help** with snow clearance, shopping, transportation to more remote areas (4 x 4 vehicles) or helping at a temporary emergency centre. Please consider joining our register of volunteer helpers by contacting the Clerk

## **FARMERS**

We are particularly keen to recruit farmers and tractor drivers/owners who would be willing to clear snow from our roads. West Sussex County Council has a remuneration scheme for this help. Please contact the Parish Office for further details or to sign up.

## **DO YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE?**

Please consider joining our register of those who may require help in the event of severe weather conditions. Your details are confidential and will not be used for any other purpose. Contact the Clerk for details (01403-785864)

## **THE SNOW CODE**

- ❖ Clear the snow or ice early in the day – it is easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it.
- ❖ Move the snow onto a porous surface such as grass verge or garden or along the kerb away from the drains.

- ❖ Do not move snow to a location where it will create another risk such as another part of the pavement, road or where people are likely to walk.
- ❖ Cover the cleared path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.
- ❖ Use salt or sand – not water - you can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work.
- ❖ Offer to clear your neighbours' paths and check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are safe and secure in the cold weather.

#### **EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR SNOW CLEARANCE**

- ❖ A snow shovel or snow pusher (or a hard edged shovel for compacted ice).
- ❖ Salt, sand or grit (to stop the surfaces from refreezing).
- ❖ A bucket to collect, store and move grit.

#### **THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY SELF HELP**

It is impossible for all roads and pavements to be cleared and treated by WSCC & HDC during adverse weather. The best way to ensure that as many pavements as possible are treated quickly is through self-help and community spirit. HDC fully support the task of self-help and snow clearance and would ask individuals to clear their driveways, access roads and pavements **outside** their homes and businesses.

This shared response will free up Council resources and allow Council workers to concentrate on the remaining priority pavement network and deal with the more vulnerable members of our community who may need help.