

Draft Snow Clearance Policy

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Approved: XXXXXX

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Dorset County Council Highways (DC) is the main statutory provider for snow clearance and gritting for the County – for more information visit <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies-and-severe-weather.aspx>
- 1.2 Ferndown Town Council (Council) acknowledges Dorset Council's responsibility under the Highways Act 1980 in respect of its winter service, specifically a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safe passage along a highway is not endangered by ice or snow, and will prioritise its response to deal with winter weather due to logistics and available resources.
- 1.3 Salt bins are classed as 'community bins' (refilled on request and paid for by parish and town councils) which are the responsibility of Council and 'strategic bins' which are the responsibility of Dorset Council (refilled during the winter free of charge, usually located on highways).

2. Policy

- 2.1 Council will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that council managed facilities remain open as normal during extreme adverse weather conditions, specifically heavy snow fall, but will not do so at the expense of the welfare of staff and the safety of residents.
- 2.2 Where it is beneficial to do so, paths at Council managed venues will be salted in advance of snowfall and regularly salted and swept when the snow lies.
- 2.3 Time and resources are limited, and only key areas will be managed. Therefore, it is essential that all councillors, employees, and residents remember that they also have a responsibility to take due care in adverse weather.
- 2.4 It is Council's policy to supply salt/grit bins at the following locations and keep them replenished as required: Barrington Centre, Ford Lane, Longham allotments and Dugdell Play Area.
- 2.5 The Lengthsman will be responsible for replenishing bins at the above venues.
- 2.6 The Clerk, in conjunction with the Lengthsman, will close the above locations if, in their opinion, the above locations become too dangerous.
- 2.7 Grit/salt bins whose contents are abused or removed for private use may be withdrawn.
- 2.8 Council will not install bins on private roads or highways. Council may, however, do so through discretionary powers where requests to install bins from vulnerable residents and there is no DC bin provided. The siting of any bins requires the agreement of Ferndown Town Council's Facilities and Services Committee before installation, and the provision of grit will be monitored and evaluated each year.

3. Council offices and staff

- 3.1 The Council will endeavour to open for business every normal working day regardless of the weather conditions.
- 3.2 If it is impossible for a member of staff to come in due to inclement weather, they will take the day as an unpaid workday or holiday/TOIL leave.
- 3.3 If Council decides in the interests of health and safety that employees should be permitted to leave early then the employees will be paid their normal salary rate.

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