

## **OUTSEATS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **SNOW & ICE CLEARANCE POLICY**

#### **1. Statement of Council's Intentions**

Outseats Parish Council assists all snow and ice clearance activities on a best efforts basis. As a small parish council with only one part-time member of staff (employed for 4 hours a week) and with no staff formally employed for activities such as snow and ice clearance, the Council is entirely dependent on Derbyshire County Council (DCC), the Highways Authority for Outseats Parish, and on the independent contributions of members of the public, to clear snow and ice in the Parish. Furthermore, since it is subject to deliveries of grit salt from outside bodies (principally DCC), the Council cannot guarantee that grit salt will be always be available for independent members of the public to use. Hence the Parish Council cannot guarantee that snow and ice can be effectively or consistently cleared from the roads and pavements of the Parish. Nevertheless, the Council will do its best to assist DCC and independent members of the public in their endeavours to clear snow and ice in the Parish.

#### **2. Snow and Ice Clearance by Outseats Parish Council**

Given its very limited resources, Outseats Parish Council is unable to clear snow and ice from the Parish itself. Such clearance activities are made by Derbyshire County Council (the Highways Authority for Outseats Parish) and by independent members of the public. All the Parish Council is able to do is help to ensure that grit bins remain filled with grit salt whenever possible (see Section 6 below). DCC undertake the clearance of highways as explained in their Winter Service Plan.

#### **3. Risk Assessment**

The Council have completed a Risk Assessment for snow and ice clearance activities in the Parish. This will be made available to all members of the public via the Village Website. It will be reviewed annually.

#### **4. Communication with Derbyshire County Council**

As the Highways Authority for the Parish and as the major source of grit salt in the Parish, Derbyshire County Council (DCC) are the key point of contact for snow and ice clearance in the Parish. The Parish Council will ensure that it maintains regular and effective lines of communication with DCC. This will include nominating the Parish Clerk as the designated DCC Snow Warden for the Parish.

#### **5. Advice on Snow and Ice Clearance**

The Council will endeavour to advise all members of the public in the Parish regarding the best way to clear snow and ice in a safe and effective way. This will be done via the regular Parish Newsletter that is delivered to all households in the Parish and also via the Village Website. The advice provided will be based on advice received from Derbyshire County Council, the Council's insurance brokers and other agencies as appropriate.

#### **6. Supplies of Grit Salt in Grit Bins**

Within the Parish, there are some grit bins provided by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and some provided by the Parish Council. These will be marked to indicate which is which.

DCC are responsible for ensuring that their grit bins remain filled. As part of this process, the Parish Clerk, as DCC Snow Warden for the Parish, will advise DCC whenever he becomes aware that a bin is nearly empty. Members of the public may also advise DCC when they notice that a bin is empty.

The Parish Council will endeavour to ensure that its grit bins remain filled with grit salt. However, the Parish Council are dependent on DCC to supply this grit salt and have no

control on when this is supplied; furthermore, previous experience is that DCC's ability to replenish the grit salt is most restricted at exactly the times when new grit salt is most wanted. To try to reduce this issue, Outseats Parish Council will independently source a small additional amount of grit salt for use in emergencies. By its very nature, this can only be a very limited additional supply that will only tide the Parish over for a few days in extreme circumstances.

#### 7. Limitations in Extreme Bad Weather

In extreme weather conditions where transport is difficult or dangerous, it may not be possible to supply new grit salt in the Parish, even if such grit salt is in the central stores of DCC or the Parish Council. Furthermore, in very low temperatures the effectiveness of grit salt is significantly reduced.

#### 8. Regular Review and Publication of this Policy

This Policy will be reviewed annually. It will be posted on the Village Website and be available for inspection by members of the public upon application to the Parish Clerk.

This Policy was adopted by Outseats Parish Council at its meeting on 26 September 2011 (Minute No. 106/11).