

Waltham Parish Council

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Draft ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

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Introduction to Policy.

In the autumn of 2021 research was conducted to seek parishioners' views on 'the degree to which Waltham Parish Council (WPC) may wish to support the Waltham community during periods of adverse weather'. The majority of responses were in favour of involvement in both preventative gritting during icy conditions and snow clearing even if that meant an increase in the Precept.

Council agreed in principle to include a level of provision in the annual budget setting process. While use of the service has been minimal in the last two winters, further consultation on the Parish Plan in May 2023 revealed that parishioners still regarded the Adverse Weather Policy as a priority.

This policy document sets the parameters for service provision and the management process involved.

Parameters of Service Provision.

The parish of Waltham has 9.3 miles of unclassified roads including parts of Sole Street, Pennypot lane, Waltham Road, Anvil Green Road, Richdore Road, Grand Acre, and Duckpit Road.

In addition Church Lane; Whiteacre Lane; and Gogway are regarded as particularly vulnerable because of the topography and will be regarded as a priority.

Kake Street and Woods Hill are on the bus route from Canterbury to Hastingleigh and thus are managed by Kent County Council (KCC).

Management of Service Provision.

Waltham's service provision will be aligned where practicable to the KCC Winter Services Policy, its objectives, standards of service, use of roadside salt bins, and access to supplies of salt/sand mix for local use.

WPC will consider precautionary salting of Church Lane, Whiteacre Lane and Gogway if ice or snowfall is expected, and to assist with the costs of snow clearing in extreme circumstances. The KCC winter service annual budget for primary routes is based on precautionary salting on 66 occasions, a standard clearly unaffordable for a small parish.

WPC will access KCC's weather information system through liaison with Winter Duty Officers (WDO). This will be used to determine whether or not intervention is required and to monitor spending. The Clerk will liaise with other parish councils in the vicinity to share policy information and ideas on a joint approach.

Financial Implications.

It is recommended that an indicative sum of £2,000 will be set aside for the 2024 – 2025 winter season. This will also be included in future annual budget setting proposals. Local farmers will be invited to quote an hourly rate for the service, and, if accepted, submit invoices for the work. The Parish Clerk will be required to include these arrangements within the Council's Scheme of Delegation and will be responsible for managing, monitoring, and reporting in liaison with the Chairman of the Council