

Corfe Mullen Parish Council Adverse Weather Plan

Corfe Mullen Parish Council does not have the resources or equipment to clear large areas of snow and ice.

The Parish Clerk will liaise with the Head Groundsman and the Chairman regarding staff attendance or the need to send staff home and close operations. Parish Council sites may be closed for safety reasons.

The Parish Council strive to keep the cemetery drives and pathways clear of snow and ice to allow booked burials to proceed. It will not be possible to clear snow off the grassed areas.

Burials may have to be cancelled if the site is assessed as unsafe or staff cannot get into work.

The Parish Council sites are:

- Old and New Cemetery, Newtown Lane
- The whole of the Corfe Mullen Recreation Ground, Badbury View Road
- Springdale Road Public Open Space (car park and path up to Corfe Lodge Road)
- Corfe Mullen Village Hall, off Towers Way
- Corfe Mullen Parish Council office, off Towers Way
- Corfe Mullen Allotments, Wimborne Road
- Henbury Play Area, adjacent to Henbury View First School, Hillside Road
- Towers Way Play Area, off Towers Way
- Towers Way Multi-Sports goal facility, off Towers Way

It may be necessary to cancel any village hall bookings, sports other events at the recreation ground and guides/scouts meetings.

Please note that in some instances it may not be possible to close sites. This could be because staff cannot get into work or the sites are unsafe to access. The public are asked to please be vigilant, take care and use common sense in snowy or icy weather. Please heed Met Office weather warnings and stay at home if the warnings are Amber or Red and only go out if necessary if the warning is Yellow.

Roads and Footpaths

The Parish Council is not responsible for cleaning roads and footpaths. This is the responsibility of Dorset County Council in most instances. For details of which roads are gritted see <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/406309>

Grit Bins

Dorset County Council does not provide grit bins in Corfe Mullen and the Parish Council is unable to meet the high number of requests for these. Instead, the Parish Council promotes community self help by asking people in each street to get together to clear their own footpaths or roads.

Clearing snow and ice from pavements yourself

There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the snow code (see overleaf) when clearing snow and ice safely.

The Snow Code

Tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces

Prevent slips

Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.

If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured.

Remember, people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

Clear the snow or ice early in the day

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

Use salt or sand - not water

If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery. You can prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Don't use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear.

Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may cause them damage. If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.

Take care where you move the snow

When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

Offer to clear your neighbours' paths

If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, contact your local council.

Corfe Mullen Parish Council
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