



## WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Address: The Clock Tower, High Street, Wendover,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 6DU

Telephone: 01296 623056::Email: [clerk@wendover-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wendover-pc.gov.uk)

---

## Winter Policy

### Introduction

The Parish Council does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with fallen leaves, ice and snow (except around their own property) and we do not have the resources to make a comprehensive commitment to provide a leaf fall, ice and snow clearing service. Further, it is noted that in temperatures below 5 deg C any salting will be largely ineffective because salt does not work below that and we don't have the equipment or facilities for those extremes.

### Policy Statement

The Parish Council recognises that winter conditions are hard to navigate by many in the Parish and have an impact on local businesses. Therefore, we will endeavour to assist where practicable.

In order to support the Parish, we will endeavour to arrange the following:

- Providing advice and guidance via the website and social media (shown in appendix A)
- During periods of severe/persistent frost treating the Manor Waste so there are at least clear walkways.
- Working with the business group so local businesses can combine efforts to keep access clear of ice.
- Providing salt on request to local businesses who wish to help by keeping the main pavements clear.
- Liaising with Buckinghamshire Council to keep grit bins supplied and help ensure they are used correctly.

### Buckinghamshire Council Responsibilities

These can be found on their website

Details about gritting roads and pavements: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/check-to-see-which-roads-are-gritted/>

Preparing for cold weather: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/planning-for-emergencies/prepare-for-adverse-weather-and-utility-problems/>

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/are-you-winter-ready/>



## WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Address: The Clock Tower, High Street, Wendover,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 6DU

Telephone: 01296 623056::Email: [clerk@wendover-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wendover-pc.gov.uk)

---

## Appendix A – Guidance for winter weather and leaf fall

### Introduction

We know that the fall of leaves and the cold weather is a serious concern to many in and around Wendover as they pose serious slip hazards.

Despite all best-efforts Wendover Parish Council (and Buckinghamshire Council) do not have limitless resources to deal with snow and ice. Put simply we are not able to do this for everyone therefore we have to work together as a community to be able to enjoy the winter scenes whilst mitigating any risks they pose.

### Guidance

#### Clear the Snow and 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.

#### Clear and Prevent Slips

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

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 melt snow or 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 damage them.

If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt but will provide good grip underfoot.

#### 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 Path

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



## WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Address: The Clock Tower, High Street, Wendover,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 6DU

Telephone: 01296 623056::Email: [clerk@wendover-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wendover-pc.gov.uk)

---

about them, try contacting their relatives or friends. Many older people feel trapped in cold weather and so offering to pop to the shops for essentials could provide a lifeline.

### Leaf Fall

Leaf fall at this time of year can be as hazardous as snow and ice if not cleared from pathways. Clear the leaves early before they freeze and cause a slip hazard.

### Legal Advice

People have been hesitant to clear snow because of fears of litigation if someone should slip on the area. The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 place responsibility on the employer to maintain access to premises in a safe condition. Although an employer can be held liable for 'failing to act reasonably' to prevent accidents pedestrians also have a responsibility to take care.

An extract from the Governments web site states: 'Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully'.

### Document History

Approved and Adopted by Full Council	4/12/2018	(Version 1)
Reviewed by Full Council	07/12/2021	(Version 1)
Reviewed by Full Council	05/12/2023	(Version 2)