

ORFORD & GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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GRITTING POLICY

Anyone clearing snow on behalf of the Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council would be covered by the terms of the County Council's insurance for public liabilities providing they have registered as volunteers with the Parish Council; also read and understood the following health and safety points.

Anyone clearing snow from outside their own property or someone else's property would only be liable for an accident if their efforts actually made the pavement less safe than it was with the snow and ice undisturbed and as a result someone is injured.

Volunteers spreading salt/grit for clearing snow from the highway at times of severe weather should:

- Wear a high visibility long sleeved vest or jacket. A vest can be worn over normal clothing. A jacket can be worn in place of a normal coat.
- Wear warm clothing and stout footwear which will provide a good grip. Physical work will warm up the body so be prepared to shed layers, but remember that your body will quickly cool down once you cease working.
- Ensure that someone is aware that you have gone out to carry out this work and how long you intend to be there for. Remember also to advise that person of your return.
- Assess the location before commencing work. Do not attempt to work if you feel conditions would make this unsafe – for example, if visibility is poor, traffic flows are too high or conditions are so severe that you would be placing yourself at risk of falling or extreme cold.
- Always be aware of approaching traffic. Remember the conditions may mean that traffic will have difficulty stopping. Try to work in pairs so that someone can observe the traffic.
- Use the grit sparingly and thinly. Spread a small amount on a shovel and sprinkle gently. The material in the grit bins/heaps is a mixture of 1 part salt to 9 parts grit. The salt is there to inhibit freezing of the grit into lumps. The grit is intended to provide grip on the surface of compacted snow or ice.
- When spreading salt/grit on the pavements it is better to remove most of the snow and then spread the salt/grit mixture.
- Do **NOT** use **HOT WATER!** This will melt the snow, but will replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.
- If shovelling snow, use a shovel with the widest blade available. Make line down the middle of your path first so you have a safe surface to walk on. Then you can simply shovel the snow from the centre to the sides.

- If salt is not available from the grit bins, consider spreading some ordinary table salt on the area you have cleared to prevent any ice forming. Ordinary salt will work and can be purchased from any local shop, but avoid spreading on plants or grass.
- Care should be taken to avoid blocking access points to properties, driveways, paths (especially at drains). The cleared snow should be deposited in the verge or areas that are non-trafficked.
- Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways – you might need to use more salt on these areas.
- Clear the snow or ice early in the day. It is easier to move fresh 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 to melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it freezing overnight.

Please note that the above health and safety also applies to any employee of Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council.

Areas to be gritted or cleared.

1. Doctor's surgery slope/drive.
2. Ferry Road/Rectory Road junction.
3. Ferry Road/Front Street junction.
4. Castle Hill
5. Broad Street/Quay Street/Daphne Road junction.
6. Quay car park entrance and exit.
7. Bakers Lane to public toilets (?)
8. Entrance to Town Farm Estate
9. Entrance to Mill Close
10. Entrance to Potkins Lane
11. Any other areas you feel need to be gritted.

Positions of grit bins in Orford.

- Castle Knoll
- Village green at the end of Ferry Road
- Ferry Road/Rectory Road triangle
- Broad Street/Quay Street junction
- Entrance to Town Farm Estate
- Mill Close
- Castle Knoll

Adopted at the Orford & Gedgrave Parish Council meeting on the 11th February 2026.

To be reviewed February 2027.

Signed_____Date_____