

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Emergency Committee held at 11.45p.m. on Friday
11 November 2016

Present: Councillor Bowrah (Chairman),
Councillors Brown, Govier and James

Greg Dyke (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Councillor Biscoe

2. Severe Weather Plan 2016/17

Consideration was given to any emergency arrangements that this Council could put in place to complement the good work of the Highway Authority. The various grit bins located around the town would be inspected to ensure they were full.

The Council had on record offers of help in clearing snow from a couple of local contractors who had the appropriate equipment to clear roads, pavements and public areas if necessary and they had confirmed that there were available to help if necessary again this year. Members were aware that the permission and approval of the Highway Authority would be needed if it was intended to use these contractors on the highway.

Consideration was given to the areas of town to which priority should be given. Experience had shown that most problems in the past had been caused in areas where there were slopes and small hills. In addition the Committee wanted to continue the support and assistance it had given to local care homes to keep their public access passable.

A sum of £1,000 had been included in the 2016/17 estimates to cover the cost of this type of work. It was acknowledged that any action taken would be needs led and it might be necessary to exceed the budget. The Town Clerk felt that any additional reasonable costs accrued this year could be met from within the Council's contingency sum or could be vired from savings elsewhere. It was apparent that any work carried out by or on behalf of the Town Council would be limited by the amount of finance available. However, it was felt that a significant contribution could be made to the work carried out by others in an effort to keep roads and pavements useable. It would not be possible to satisfy every request for assistance so a considered approach was necessary.

RESOLVED that :-

(a) subject to the approval of the Highway Authority where appropriate, local contractors be employed where possible by the Town Council to help clear roads and pavements in the town that were not covered by Somerset Highways. The employment of any such contractors to be dependent upon them having adequate insurance which would allow them to clear snow in these areas;

(b) any offer from Somerset Highways of additional supplies of salt for use by the Town Council's own contractors be accepted;

(c) the following areas be treated as priority areas by the Town Council's contractors whilst recognising that there would need to be a certain amount of flexibility to deal with any situation at any given time and that the action taken would be limited by the amount of funds available;

- town centre pavements

- Howard Road at the junction with Brendon Road,
- Church Fields at the junction with Longforth Road,
- North Street Car Park access,
- Wellesley Park at the junction with Ashford Road,
- Rockwell Green, Oaken Ground and the approaches from Westford to the railway bridge.
- Lodge Close
- local care homes
- junction of Priory and Buckwell

The Highway Authority to be contacted to ascertain arrangements for clearing Longforth Road/Brendon Road for use by vehicles going to and from Relyon; (d) liaison with TDBC Housing Officers based at 28 Fore Street be maintained during any adverse weather conditions in order that their experience and local knowledge could be used to everyone's best advantage.

3. Flooding

The Committee reminded itself of how to react in any given flooding situation that might arise in the future.

The Committee had previously been told that it had never been anticipated that the Town Council, through its members or officers, would become actively involved in things like filling and distributing sand bags or providing practical help in these situations. This was because of the very real health and safety issues in respect of areas that were under flood. The civil contingencies services were trained in making dynamic risk assessments that not only ensured the safety of operatives but protected much needed vehicles and equipment falling foul of the conditions.

The Town Council could best contribute by directing people asking for help to a dedicated number (01823 356411) where advice would be available.

The meeting ended at 12.25 p.m.

