

**Winter Plan 2021/22 (Adopted by Council on 25.11.21)**

**Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council (in conjunction with West Sussex County Council and Mid Sussex District Council)**

**Coordinating person:** Sarah Groom, Clerk, Office: 01273 833264.

Tel: 07497 271481 (Emergency Mobile)

Contact email (office): [office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk)

**Other Parish Council staff involved:**

Stephen Witchell, Estates & Facilities Manager

Hamish Raby, Maintenance Officer

Richard Lechmere, Cemetery Officer

**Supply and delivery of bags.** Storage of one-tonne salt/grit hippo bags (as detailed in WSCC Local Winter Management Plan) has been arranged at Little Park Farm – Contact: John Houlton, tel. 07813 747361 or email: [johnhoulton@yahoo.com](mailto:johnhoulton@yahoo.com)

John Houlton currently has 10 hippo bags stored on their premises, containing salt/grit. The bags were replaced in 2019 along with new coverings in 2020 and are in a satisfactory condition.

Replacement bags: WSCC has informed the Parish Council that no replacement bags will be available during the winter season, free of charge, when salt/grit bags are used up.

**Delivery of bags to drop points.** John Houlton will deliver 8 of the hippo bags to the designated drop points, listed below. Parish Council staff will accompany John Houlton to the drop points to ensure that the bags are sited safely.

The locations of the hippo bags are as follows:

- a. Western Road, in front of Allotments gate
- b. Blackthorns, corner of Willow Way
- c. Iden Hurst, corner of Cuckfield Road
- d. Marchants Road, corner of Cuckfield Road
- e. Charity Shop/Chantry Stables noticeboard
- f. Health Centre, Trinity Road, next to the footpath/bench
- g. Cherington Close, corner of Highfield Drive
- h. Village Hall, Sayers Common.

**Trigger Mechanism activating farmers/contractors:** The decision of when to have the bags delivered to the drop points will be made by WSCC, via a 'Local Farmers and Contractors Agreement', intended for response to significant weather events only. Should an event occur, the trigger mechanism to activate the agreement will be via an advisory email to the key contacts identified in this plan; for moving the bags, the key contacts are John Houlton and the Parish Council office. During the first snow event, 8 hippo bags will be put out, which will leave 2 bags at Little Park Farm for future snows

**Public Use:** After the bags have been delivered to the designated drop points, the distribution of salt/grit from the hippo bags will be available to members of the public at their own risk. Empty hippo bags do not need to be returned to WSCC and can be used for other purposes.

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**Use of Local Farmer/Business to clear secondary roads.** John Houlton has agreed to clear secondary roads in Hurstpierpoint that are considered vital to be cleared. The minimum payment John Houlton would need to cover his time and use of machinery is £50 per hour. To cover this amount, John Houlton will be paid by WSCC £35/hour and the Parish Council £15/hour, for a maximum of 4 hours/snow event.

**Trigger Mechanism activating farmers/contractors:** The decision of when to have the designated secondary roads cleared will be made by WSCC, via a 'Local Farmers and Contractors Agreement', intended for response to significant weather events only. Should an event occur, the email from WSCC Highways will approve the use of farmers/contractors for snow clearance - 2 inches of accumulated snow (or 50 mm). The key contacts identified in this plan, for clearing the secondary roads are John Houlton and the Parish Council office.

Roads in Hurstpierpoint to be cleared of snow, identified in order of priority:

- a. Trinity Road - leads past St Lawrence Primary School, Mid Sussex Health Centre, Ribbetts House (supported housing for older people, Affinity Sutton) and The Glebe (supported housing for older people, Anchor);
- b. Western Road – main access between Cuckfield Road and Albourne Road;
- c. Marchants Road – secondary road that gives additional access to Mid Sussex Health Centre, Ribbetts House and the Glebe;
- d. College Lane, from Wickham Hill as far as is possible (possibly Hurst Wickham Close) – access to Wickham Hill from eastern roads such as Highfield Drive and nearby roads.

**Residents are encouraged to check on and help neighbours and vulnerable people during severe weather events. Helping to get supplies, providing company and clearing snow and ice where safe to do so.**

**Follow-up.** After the winter ends, the Parish Council will contact John Houlton and seek residents views to find out how they felt it went and if any improvements are needed.

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