

CHURCH CROOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Init:_____

Minutes of the Meeting of the Church Crookham Parish Council

Date and Time: Monday 24th January 2022 from 8.15pm

Place: Oak Hall, Church Crookham Community Centre

Present:

Councillors: Richard Martin (RM) Chair; Gareth Saunders (GSa); Alan Jones (AJ); Helen Butler (HB), Bruce Bulgin (BB), John Ford (JF); Debbie Moss (DM); Cristina Harris (CH).

Also: Claire Inglis (Clerk)

HDC Cllr Chris Axaam, Simon Ambler

HCC Cllr Stephen Parker

There were no members of the public present

Meeting commenced at 8.15pm

22/001	Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Thorne & Burford
22/002	To approve minutes of previous meetings To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd November 2021 It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting Proposed RM; seconded GSa; all in favour. To receive the minutes and accept recommendations of the following committee meetings and to return to committees any issues for reconsideration: Planning Committee Meetings - 22nd November 2021 & 10th January 2022 Finance & Policy Meeting - 10th January 2022 It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting Proposed GSa; seconded JF; all in favour.
22/003	Dispensations To receive any written requests for disclosable pecuniary interest dispensations from members None received
22/004	Declaration of interest relating to any item on the agenda. None received

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22/005	Chairman’s Announcements With an all-out election due for Church Crookham parish this coming year, please let the Clerk know your intentions regarding standing for the position of councillor. Please also indicate your availability for meetings between 9th and 23rd May.																																				
22/006	Public session This is an opportunity for members of the public to bring matters relating to items on the agenda to the attention of the committee. In addition to County Councillor Parker's report (See Addendum 1 below) he also reported that from 7th Feb Naishes Lane closures will be implemented towards Ewshot with the diversion routed via Church Lane. Hart DC Councillor Simon Ambler reported that green waste collections will recommence from 31st January. Subscriptions are likely to be extended for this service as appropriate for the period of lost service.																																				
22/007	Actual vs Budget Qtr. 3 2021/2022 To review the updated actual vs. budget figures for April to December 2021 Currently forecasting a surplus of income over expenditure of c£23k Revenue income: budgets had been set low due to potential impact of Covid pandemic, however all hireable facilities are now being fully utilised and income from these has risen accordingly. A business support grant of £9500 was received from Hart DC – CCPC approved this to be re-distributed to the wider community via the community grants budget. Revenue expenditure: employment costs forecast to be slightly under budget, admin costs forecast to be slightly over budget due to increase in audit fees, overspend on computer maintenance due to proposed purchase of two new laptops for clerk & community centre officer, community support budget forecast is an overspend of £9500 offset by Hart DC grant as above, grounds maintenance overspend of £12k due to necessary tree works following tree survey, Projects not yet completed – resurfacing Lynwood footpath (may be postponed to 22/23 via EMR) and planting in the parish. Remainder of variance is offset by movements from EMRs. <table><tr><th>REVENUE - Summary Totals 2021-2022</th><th>Annual Budget</th><th>Actual year to date 9 months</th><th>Forecast 3 months</th><th>Likely out-turn</th><th>Variance</th></tr><tr><td>Total income</td><td>£ 313,476</td><td>£ 330,338</td><td>£ 35,076</td><td>£ 365,414</td><td>£ 51,938</td></tr><tr><td>Expenditure</td><td>(£ 283,476)</td><td>(£ 203,370)</td><td>(£ 103,584)</td><td>(£ 306,954)</td><td>(£ 23,478)</td></tr><tr><td>Projects</td><td>(£ 11,000)</td><td>(£ 188,563)</td><td>(£ 6,000)</td><td>(£ 194,563)</td><td>(£ 183,563)</td></tr><tr><td>EMR movements</td><td>(£ 19,000)</td><td>£ 161,057</td><td>(£ 2,000)</td><td>£ 159,057</td><td>£ 178,057</td></tr><tr><td>Income/ Exp</td><td>0</td><td>£ 99,462</td><td>(£ 76,508)</td><td>£ 22,954</td><td>£ 22,954</td></tr></table>	REVENUE - Summary Totals 2021-2022	Annual Budget	Actual year to date 9 months	Forecast 3 months	Likely out-turn	Variance	Total income	£ 313,476	£ 330,338	£ 35,076	£ 365,414	£ 51,938	Expenditure	(£ 283,476)	(£ 203,370)	(£ 103,584)	(£ 306,954)	(£ 23,478)	Projects	(£ 11,000)	(£ 188,563)	(£ 6,000)	(£ 194,563)	(£ 183,563)	EMR movements	(£ 19,000)	£ 161,057	(£ 2,000)	£ 159,057	£ 178,057	Income/ Exp	0	£ 99,462	(£ 76,508)	£ 22,954	£ 22,954
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S106 income: budget income is interest on S106 funds, interest rates currently low, forecast includes outstanding developer funds for LEAP yet to be installed.

S106 expenditure: open space maintenance overspend due to play equipment installations in 5 LAPS and tree works following tree survey, plus new hygiene contract for washroom at allotments.
Projects – planting not yet started.

EMRS – movement to EMR bank interest received forecast to be under budget as per income, £1,752 moved from EMR tennis court drainage to cover expenditure on installation of a French drain. Remainder of this EMR should be moved back to EMR Open Space as it was originally created from an unspent budget in 19/20 (Tweseldown School pathway resurfacing – not required so renamed tennis court draining at F&P Oct 20).

S106 -Summary Totals 2021-2022	Annual Budget	Actual year to date 9 months	Forecast 3 months	Likely out-turn	Variance
Total income	£ 5,000	£ 2,261	£ 30,074	£32, 335	£27,335
Expenditure	(£ 77,950)	(£ 46,663)	(£ 38,909)	(£ 85,572)	(£ 7,622)
Projects	(£ 8,000)	0	(£ 8,000)	(£ 8,000)	0
EMR movements	(£ 5,000)	(£ 509)	(£ 600)	(£ 1,109)	£ 3,891
Income/ Exp	(£85,950)	(£ 44,911)	(£ 17,435)	(£ 62,346)	£ 23,604

22/008

Ear Marked Reserve Movements at Year-End

To approve recommendations of the Finance & Policy Committee following its meeting of 10th January for any reserves movements, re-allocations and/or new ear marked reserves to be created at year end.

Recommendations of the Finance & Policy Committee following review of Actual vs Budget YTD is as follows:

General reserve to be maintained at 50% of precept, likely to be £115,170 subject to 22/010 i.e., an increase of £5,553. Any surplus in excess of this to be added to:

- £15000 to Azalea Park CCTV project to cover installation, connection, and ducting
- Move £2500 to new EMR for environmental impact assessment of CCPC, (£2500 budgeted in 22/23)
- New EMR Peter Driver information board £5K to be installed 23/24 following pavilion refurbishment
- Any further surplus to be added to EMR tree works.
- The EMR S106 Tennis court Drainage should be transferred to EMR S106 Open Spaces

It was resolved to approve the recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee as set out above. Proposed GSa, Seconded RM, all in favour.

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22/009	3 Year Forecast 2022 - 2025 To review the 3-year budget forecast spreadsheet The 3-year forecast was reviewed with additional comment that the proposed precept increase is required in the coming financial year with no plans to increase in subsequent years at this time. The numbers depicted in the budget shows the precept adjusted to absorb the deficit that was showing prior to this adjustment.																																				
22/010	Budget 2022/2023 & Precept Request To approve recommendations of the Finance & Policy Committee following its meeting of 10th January to agree the budget for 2022/23 and approve the precept request. The Draft Budget was provided with notes to explain changes in budget in comparison to current year. The budget currently depicts an £8.5k deficit and the impact on the increase in precept to negate this. Comments included that all households will be facing a cost-of-living increase. The precept increase is considered a modest one in the context of a 10 year look back where CCPC have not increased the precept over the past decade. This increase is needed to balance the books. Recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee having reviewed the budget costs for next year is as follows: that the precept request should be increased to £230,339, this would raise the Band D equivalent to £55.88, an increase of £2.08 per household (3.86% increase). It was resolved to approve the recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee as set out above: Proposed GSa, Seconded RM, all in favour.																																				
22/011	S106 Statement To approve recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee at its meeting held 10th January to formalise the 20-year period of the S106 funds paid in mitigation of Crookham Park The S106 agreement between Taylor Wimpey and CCPC states: - that the commuted sums for formal and informal open space maintenance and management are for a period of twenty years from the date of their completion. - that unspent commuted sums are NOT required to be returned to the developer at the end of the twenty-year period. <table><tr><th></th><th>Sums due £</th><th colspan="6">Year paid:</th><th>Total:</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th>2015</th><th>2016</th><th>2017</th><th>2018</th><th>2019</th><th>2020</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>Informal open space</td><td>379,040</td><td>84,345</td><td></td><td>22,539</td><td>33,139</td><td>237,596</td><td>1,424</td><td>379,043</td></tr><tr><td>Formal open space</td><td>989,940</td><td></td><td>150,000</td><td></td><td>433,867</td><td></td><td>406,073</td><td>989,940</td></tr></table> Sums due had been received by 2020/2021 and all land transfers (only excluding outstanding LEAP)		Sums due £	Year paid:						Total:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		Informal open space	379,040	84,345		22,539	33,139	237,596	1,424	379,043	Formal open space	989,940		150,000		433,867		406,073	989,940
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	completed in 2021, therefore the 20-year period will end 2040/41. This provides certainty to those that follow the current members of CCPC of the required future precept levels to maintain all facilities which will not distinguish between S106 and revenue. Recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee is that CCPC formally recognises that the 20-year period relating to the use of funds as stated in the S106 agreement between CCPC, Hart DC and Taylor Wimpey (November 2011) will end 2040/41 and from that point there be no distinction between CCPC's S106 and revenue funds. It was resolved to approve the recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee as above: Proposed GSa, Seconded DM, all in favour.
22/012	Investment Quarterly Review To review the performance of the council's investments Based on net asset valuation, which has improved since March 2021 from 293.64p to 329.95p, the current mid-market valuation of the CCLA investment has increased by £ 100,357 to £ 911,698. Original investment was £900,000. Dividend for October to December tbc.
22/013	Direct debits and standing orders To approve recommendations of the Finance & Policy Committee following its meeting of 10th January for direct debit and standing order mandates There are currently No standing Orders Direct Debits as below: Total Gas - Gas usage at Peter Driver Monthly - variable Total Gas - Gas usage at community centre Monthly – variable Castle Water - Payment on account for water usage at community centre £ 16.13 per month Grundon - Waste collection from community centre and removal of waste collected from all open space sites Monthly – variable approx. £350 Ridgewall Communications t/as Nomis Connections- Telephone & broadband provision at community centre Monthly - variable Plusnet Broadband for CCTV at Crookham Park £40 per month Lloyds Credit card Balance of credit card + £3 fee Monthly variable Unity Trust Bank - Bank charges Quarterly variable HSBC Bank - Bank charges Monthly variable Lloyds Bank - Bank charges Monthly variable It was resolved to approve the above listed direct debits as recommended by the Finance & Policy Committee Proposed RM, Seconded JF, all in favour.

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22/014	Food Outlet Trading Policy update To receive a recommendation from Finance & Policy Committee to amend Trading policy Recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee is to accept the following amendments to the Food Outlet Trading Policy Proposed changes: From – Traders will be charged at £2.50 per hour to Traders will be charged as per the Schedule of Charges. Remove - No more than one trader will be permitted on site at any time, including during setting up and closing down. Add – Trading may take place during the hours of 8am to 8:30pm Mondays to Saturdays and 8am to 4pm Sundays. It was resolved to approve the recommendations of the Finance & Policy Committee to amend the Food Outlet Policy as above: Proposed RM, Seconded GSa, all in favour.																									
22/015	Cleaning Contract To agree the % uplift in the cleaning contract with KMC Ltd Changes to the cleaning contract pricing have been submitted by the contractor to take effect from 1/2/22. Since the last increase at the beginning of 2020 there have been two enforced "living wage increases" and in addition suppliers have just announced increases in stock pricing. The litter collection side has increased dramatically since COVID requiring more attendance/collections during the week. <table><tr><th>Task</th><th>Currently £</th><th>After uplift £</th><th>Diff £</th><th>% Increase</th></tr><tr><td>Centre Cleaning</td><td>730.80</td><td>793.34</td><td>62.54</td><td>8.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Litter collections</td><td>712.00</td><td>762.00</td><td>50.00</td><td>7%</td></tr><tr><td>Pavilion Summer Clean</td><td>121.80</td><td>127.89</td><td>6.09</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>Pavilion Winter Clean</td><td>306.60</td><td>321.93</td><td>15.33</td><td>5%</td></tr></table> It was resolved to approve the uplift to the cleaning contract Proposed RM, Seconded HB, all in favour.	Task	Currently £	After uplift £	Diff £	% Increase	Centre Cleaning	730.80	793.34	62.54	8.5%	Litter collections	712.00	762.00	50.00	7%	Pavilion Summer Clean	121.80	127.89	6.09	5%	Pavilion Winter Clean	306.60	321.93	15.33	5%
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22/016	Crookham Park update To receive an update relating to Taylor Wimpey issues and agree any actions S278 work adoptions: Taylor Wimpey have confirmed that Hampshire CC have now adopted packages 7, 9 and 8b. The packages that remain unadopted relate to packages 2A, 2B and 6. 2A and 2B have been assessed by HCC who have provided Taylor Wimpey with a list of remedials to complete before adoption is completed. Package 6 is awaiting results of an inspection to confirm any remedials needing to be conducted by the developer. Other packages have been adopted but, in some cases, whilst HCC have issued a certificate to Taylor Wimpey to confirm adoption the records at HCC have not been updated and therefore when lights are reported as not working HCC officers do not accept responsibility. Jo Murphy of TW has raised this issue with HCC who are aware of the situation and this needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency to																									

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	enable repairs to be made to streetlights etc to ensure safety. LEAP: Prior to and after Christmas Clerk has chased Taylor Wimpey for progress on them submitting the information to planning as discussed and agreed at the meeting held in November. The latest update is that external contractors are reluctant to provide the data on levels. Jo Murphy is escalating this with her manager at TW to progress so that the calculations can be submitted to the planning dept. for a final determination to be made by Hart DC. Clerk to check in with JM on Wednesday 26th to receive update on this issue. Thames Water are not providing the resource to follow up on surveys conducted by TW to enable remedial works (if any) to be carried out to enable adoption of the drainage system and then the road adoption process to ensue. This is involving burning surveys to disk date stamped to ensure that expensive surveys do not have to be conducted again due to time lapse between them being carried out and Thames Water dealing with them.
22/017	Peter Driver pavilion refurbishment project & VAT advice report To receive a report following first meeting of the working party Cllrs Harris, Saunders, and Ford attended a working party meeting facilitated by Facilities Officer with Clerk and Deputy Clerk also in attendance on Wednesday 12th January. A presentation was discussed which outlined the possibilities for the site and the limitations of the site e.g., parking capacity. The working party agreed the concept and agreed to recommend proceeding as per the steps set out to consult widely, explore potential planning hurdles before employing an architect to assist in submitting for planning permission. VAT Advice: VAT Advice was sought to understand the options in relation to reclaim of VAT from refurbishment project. The report provides a number of scenarios which will need to be reviewed to determine whether an Option to Tax decision is appropriate. This will form the agenda for the next working party meeting. The office team will look at the possible income structure scenarios for the site to aim to assist in the decision-making process.
22/018	Quarterly bank reconciliation To receive confirmation of review of the quarterly bank reconciliations To confirm that Cllr Burford completed the quarterly bank reconciliation on January 18th 2022
22/019	Quotes To receive and approve quotes for works required Purchase of new laptops for Events Officer and Clerk (postponed from last year) £1800. It was resolved to accept the quote for purchase of new laptops Proposed RM, Seconded GSA, all in favour.
22/020	To approve payment of accounts for December 2021 & January 2022 It was resolved to approve the payments for December 2021 & January 2022 Proposed BB, seconded CH; all in favour.

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22/021	Clerks Report To receive Clerks report and approve any actions arising <u>Covid Protocol Policy</u> – An updated version of the policy was presented and amended to remove recording of ad hoc visitors to centre as not required in law. Due to the Omicron variant the staff have continued to maintain the procedures as updated throughout January due to the high number of cases in the Hart area. Staff continue to monitor the numbers in the area and respond to customer behaviour. Aim is to continue to relax the procedures in line with case numbers, legislation and responding to staff and customer needs. Next review agreed for March meeting <u>First Aid Training</u> This expires in mid-February for some staff and Councillors who attended a group training session in 2018. Due to an all-out election staff will attend courses locally on an individual basis. Training as a group will be considered following the election process and new councillors inducted. <u>TPO at Lynwood</u> Clerk finally received a comprehensive response from Hart in relation to placing a blanket TPO on the trees within Lynwood and Azalea play park adjacent to the plot at 144 Aldershot Road which has seen a number of planning applications. They have determined it not necessary and given reassurance that any planning consents will account for tree root zones. <u>Pipeline Option Notice served</u> CCPC acknowledged that the Option held over Area H has been served by the Pipeline team for completion on March 8th. This is the small parcel of land that the pipeline will traverse through at the top of Naishes Lanes at the junction with Jubilee Drive. The balance payment of £2,511 is being transmitted on from our solicitors to CCPC. <u>Car Park Lease</u> The Sandy Lane car park lease has now been completed by all parties and is now in place for the next 9+ years. CCPC acknowledged that the fees exceeded the £2,000 approval by £200. <u>Christmas event</u> Thank you to Councillors and staff that were able to support the event held on November 27th on a bitterly cold day. Especially Santa (aka Cllr Ford) who braved the cold weather for 3 hours speaking to children from the community and giving them a gift. Our Events Office Becca did an excellent job in making this event a success. The number of attendees was significant even though the weather was not brilliant. The queue for Santa was relentless for 3 hours with just enough gifts purchased. Suggest more than one Santa in future if a similar event to be provided. Stallholders were very pleased and some commented they would have been happy to pay for the space. We have had only 1 negative issue arise relating to the hire of the real reindeer and received an email after the event from Freedom for Animals.
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F6 Media and Mapping Projects

Both projects are making good progress with regular update meetings held either in person or via zoom. Examples of work from the students and Make it your design have been provided and feedback given to progress next phases. F6 media students are going to attend site during half term to carry out filming of live classes with permission of hirers and the halls and space available for hire at the centre with less footfall during the holiday period.

Athletics Club Drop in event

This has been confirmed for Saturday 26th February from 9.30am until 1pm.

Cllrs Harris, Saunders, and Moss are able to attend part of the morning with the aim to engage with visitors to understand their feedback and manage expectations as this is early stages of discussions to understand how the facility will be utilised.

Fleet Link

Further to the resolution at the November meeting Fleet TC have confirmed that they will continue to support the service during 2022/23 minus the amount for replacement bus fund.

On this basis Clerk will confirm CCPC's commitment on a similar basis with the level of support totalling £3,891.08.

Request from Fleet & Church Crookham Society

The Fleet & Church Crookham Society would like to mark the Queen's Diamond jubilee with a lasting commemoration to her reign. The Society therefore requests Church Crookham Parish and Fleet Town councils consider providing permission for the Society to supply & fit a bench within a public space within the Parish.

It was agreed to support the request trying to find a location preferably outside of Crookham Park.

Pre-school safeguarding

The fence line to the pre-school has been covered to improve safeguarding at the setting. The product used is now degrading and a longer-term solution is required. Options have been explored but there is a desire to retain a good aesthetic appearance with an eye on price too, ensuring that any solution this time is long lasting. Approx. 167ft. of fence.

Councillors agreed to focus on a solution that is aesthetically sympathetic to the neighbourhood.

Trees & Lions initiative

Clerk has met with tree surgeon and called off hedge and tree planting at various sites e.g., Azalea and within Crookham Park due to budget allowing for planting.

Quote requested for hedge to preschool fence line.

Dragons Park tree work completed in line with TPO submitted and granted.

Lions have secured 900 + trees (whips) for their initiative and looking to share these between Fleet TC, CCPC and Hart DC. Clerk looking to participate in surveying of locations to log them and allocate several trees to these locations with the help of consultant and a carbon neutrality "expert."

The planting event is due to take place on weekend of March 26th and March 27th.

Rushmoor Healthy Living

A small, registered charity working across the local area including Rushmoor, Hart and West Berkshire. Delivering a wide range of health improvement projects with a particular focus on the elderly and those with long term health conditions.

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	The Clerk has used delegated power to waive hall hire fees £75 for Jan/ February from the Discretionary fund available £500 budget. They are initially running a seated Pilates class but with limited numbers at the moment they cannot cover costs. Council supportive of Clerk using delegated power for March fees also. <u>Platinum event</u> Initial ideas have been considered for a platinum event within Crookham Park to coincide with a Lions event also running that day from the community centre. There now seems to be a big clash with Fleet Town Council as they are hosting a parade with scouts, cubs, etc involved on the Saturday. We have asked the residents association if they have considered a picnic in the park that the council could support in some way. Ewshot PC are considering support of other organisations within the village as they also think that there will be a big draw to Fleet. Council to continue to monitor local festivities and plan an appropriate event to complement.
22/022	To receive monthly safety reports Reports were received
22/023	External Bodies Committee reports To report on external bodies committee meetings attended and recommend any action required by the Parish Council Cllr Martin reported on the HDAPTC meeting attended in January
22/024	Next meeting To agree next meeting dates and venue In light of smaller tables enabling social distancing meetings will move back to Acorn Hall from February Monday 14th February Planning Committee 7.30pm Monday 28th February Planning 7.30pm followed by Full Council 8pm

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Date:

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Update from Hampshire County Councillor Stephen Parker

January 2022

1. Roads update

Highway operations are continuing as normal during the Plan B restrictions.

Statistics have been published by Hampshire Highways for last November. In that month countywide 406 emergencies were attended, 21,173 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced, 18,436 gullies and other drainage were cleared, and 7,295 potholes were fixed. Figures for Hart are 34 emergencies were attended, 500 square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt, 2788 gullies and other drainage were cleared, and 661 potholes were fixed. In addition, they also coped with Storms Arwen and Barra, keeping the roads clear of fallen trees and other vegetation, debris and excess water.

General road problems including potholes and gullies should be reported online at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>. Emergency issues on the highway can be reported outside of office hours by calling 101. In any emergency where there is a danger to life, call 999.

Going forward, Hampshire County Council has agreed to put extra “recurring” funding into highway maintenance, equating to about £7 million per year, from April this year.

2. Severe weather

At the time of writing, we have had some very cold weather and so road gritting is my mind at the moment. When we do have freezing temperatures forecast, the Hampshire Highways' fleet of salting lorries head, focusing on the main roads first. If you're driving behind a gritter please keep well back and be patient - as they do their job to help keep you on the move. You can see the priority salting routes at <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/highwayssaltroutes/>

Many of our roads and lanes are not on the priority routes but you will be aware of the blue grit bins provided by HCC across the area. These are filled with salt for community use throughout winter. They're particularly useful for smaller roads or on the pavements. A small amount of salt from these can make a big impact on frozen and icy surfaces. One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road or pavement surface.

If you spot grit bins are empty or running low, do contact Hampshire County Council for replenishing. This can be done either online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance> or by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk. Parishes are in any event advised to check these.

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Incidentally, did you know that all Hampshire's gritters are named? As well as Snowbi-wan Kenobi you could look out for:

- Thaw Enforcement
- The Blizzard of Oz
- The Grittindoor
- Grizzly Gritter
- Grittersaurus
- Gritters Got Talent
- Luke Snowwalker,
- Mr Slippy
- Gritty Bang Bang
- Gritter Garbo
- The Grittalo
- Blizzard Wizard
- Spread Sheeran,
- Gritly Come Dancing
- Mad Gritter's Tea Party and
- Grittiest Showman

3. Support for vulnerable households

Hampshire County Council has received £7.124m from the Government's Household Support Fund to support households in need with food, energy and water bills, as well as wider essential costs and housing costs. The county proposes to deploy this funding (which must be spent by 31 March 2022) through its "connect4communities" programme.

The programme includes support for free school meals in holidays and half terms, support with utility bills, community pantries giving access to discounted food and community grants, which could be used for example to assist unpaid carers. This includes the provision of slow cookers for families where they lack cooking facilities.

Details can be found at connect4communities.org where it is possible to apply for community grants, and at HCC's online directory ([connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org) | [Family Information and Services Hub \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk)) which will also be a useful resource for families and individuals in need of food and fuel support.

Residents can also apply for half term support for food and activities at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/holiday-activities-hants>

4. New Year resolutions

A new 12-week weight management programme has been funded by Hampshire County Council for residents who want to achieve a healthier weight. Offering free professional support either in-person, through regular online meetings or via a mobile app, [Shapeup4life Hampshire](https://www.shapeup4life.co.uk) is available to anyone with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above and combines exercise and food choices

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to make positive lifestyle changes rather than a prescriptive diet. To find out more, check your BMI and to self-refer, go to www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk.

