

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Mr N K Tigwell,

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Mr I Morgan
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Princetown Community Centre
5 Woodville Avenue
Princetown
Yelverton
PL20 6RL

12 February 2015

Dear Ian

MAINTENANCE OF ACCESS TO PRINCETOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE IN SNOW AND ICE

The Parish Council has received complaints that the access road and pavement to the Community Centre was not salted/gritted during the recent spell of wintry weather. On at least one occasion doctors refused to attend the surgery due to the risk of accidents in the poor conditions, resulting in significant detriment to many parishioners.

Although parishioners have approached the Parish Council, it is the Princetown Community Centre Board of Trustees who is responsible for maintaining reasonable access to the Community Centre along this private road and indeed the Trustees maintain a locked private grit bin by the centre for this purpose.

The Parish Council is concerned the Trustees may be under the misconception that if they take steps to clear or grit a pathway they are automatically accepting responsibility for any accidents that may occur afterwards and that if they do not clear the ice or snow they cannot be held liable. In fact, the opposite is true. As the legal occupier of the premises, the Trustees have a duty to take reasonable measures to provide safe access for visitors, recreational users and trespassers¹. Based on reports from parishioners, it is the Parish Council's contention this duty was not fulfilled during the recent cold weather.

It is requested that in future periods of snow or ice the Board of Trustees take reasonable measures to adequately salt/grit the road and pavement to Princetown Community Centre to ensure the surgery and other services may open as planned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Tigwell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Tigwell
Parish Clerk

¹ Occupiers Liability Act 1996 and the Department of Transport Snow Code.