Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

MANAGEMENT OF TREES POLICY

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1. Trees on Parish Council land

If necessary, we will arrange for the removal of:

- dead, dying, and dangerous trees
- damaged and dangerous limbs
- limbs which are obscuring highway signs or lamps
- limbs which are interfering with telephone lines, subject to confirmation from service provider.

We do not remove healthy branches or trees:

- that overhang private property.
- that affect views or interfere with TV reception.
- that affect solar collection arrays.
- that are dropping seasonal debris.
- that are nearly touching buildings, walls, and roofs.
- that block light.
- that are high in relation to nearby property.
- next to or that interfere with electricity cables (contact Southern Electric on 0800 688 588 or plantprotection@cadentgas.com).

Residents may be permitted to carry out tree works on trees on council land or engage a contractor to do so at their own expense provided that:

- advance permission is obtained from the Parish Council, and you notify us of the commencement date.
- the tree is not protected by a tree preservation order (TPO).
- the work done is not detrimental to tree health or stability (please obtain advice from a qualified tree surgeon).
- the work is carried out to an acceptable standard (British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work BS 3398:2010).
- vegetation or branches are cut back within your boundary if the tree is less than 25 centimetres (10 inches) in diameter.
- the tree has not been deliberately planted and is not a significant feature of the environment or contribution to the amenity.

Parish Council owned or leased land includes:

- Allotments site at Castle Farm Road
- Foxhills Open Space
- Lytchett Astro site
- Old School Green
- Recreation Ground
- Row Park Cemetery
- Row Park Paddock
- Turbetts Green

Removal of branches larger than 25cm (10 inches) in diameter may not be desirable because:

- the tree will be damaged or unbalanced and made dangerous by the removal of a large branch
- the remainder will be unsightly and lead to a request to later fell the tree
- there is a risk to residents' safety if a major work is attempted

If a tree surgeon is employed to undertake tree surgery, they may need access to council land to climb the tree. In this case proposed works need to be agreed, and the parish council will need to have sight of the tree surgeon's public liability insurance and qualifications to undertake the work.

If you have concerns about a tree on Parish Council land, please contact the Parish Clerk using the contact details given at the end of this document.

2. Tree damage to property
If you believe a tree on Parish Council land is causing damage to your property, please contact the Parish Clerk using the telephone number or email address given at the end of this document. Please provide as much information as possible.

3. Privately owned trees with preservation order
A tree preservation order (TPO) is an order made by Dorset Council to protect trees that are privately owned and make a significant contribution to the amenity of an area. Find out more about TPOs here: https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/countryside-management/tree-management/tree-preservation-orders/tree-preservation-orders.aspx

4. Overhanging vegetation
Dorset Council has a duty to ensure that all users of the highway have safe unobstructed passage. This includes all publicly maintained roads and pavements together with public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways). If there is a conflict between a leafy street and the safety of highway users, safety will prevail.

5. How you can help
- Keep vegetation cut back to the boundary of your property.
- Take green waste to the local household Recycling Centre or register for the Dorset Council (payable) garden waste collection service.
- Inform Dorset Council if you know about vegetation growing from a private property obstructing the highway. Use the form at this website: https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-hedge--tree-or-verge-issue

6. Commemorative & Dedication Trees
Lytchett Matravers Parish Council (LMPC) recognises the wish of residents for Commemorative & Dedication Trees and will consider applications for planting trees on land owned by the Parish Council for this purpose, subject to the terms set out in the "**COMMEMORATIVE & DEDICATION TREES + DONATED TREES"** policy document.

7. Donated Trees
Lytchett Matravers Parish Council (LMPC), in line with our declaration of a climate emergency, recognises that trees can provide an important function in sequestering CO2. Planting trees can help offset atmospheric CO2 levels and should form part of the council's future thinking. Further information can be found in our "**COMMEMORATIVE & DEDICATION TREES + DONATED TREES"** policy document.

Parish Council Contact details:

Mrs Julie Wigg, Parish Clerk,
Parish office,
Vineyard Close,
Lytchett Matravers BH16 6DD
Telephone: 07596 885667
Email: lytchettmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

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