May 2025: Copy for the Parish Magazine

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Spring is Here

Now the weather is improving and the hour has changed we may feel more inclined to come out of our own hibernation and enjoy what our village has to offer. It was lovely to see the new daffodils beside the footpath on Huntick Road through March, and for the children, we have just replaced the ever-popular "Viking Swinger" at the Rocket Park. We also have the 2 new benches in library green, kindly donated by the Pharmacy.

As Parish Councillors, it is rewarding to see things and think "I had a hand in making that happen" but equally sometimes as we are out and about we things and thing "That could be better" and we bring these ideas forwards for council consideration. But we really welcome ideas from the public, so if you see things, please contact the Parish Clerk, put a post on our Facebook page, or come to a council meeting where you will always be welcome, and let us know what improvements you'd like to see. Sometimes small things like additional Bbins, dropped kerbs, benches, clearing difficult paths, would enhance your enjoyment of the village: Let us know: It's YOUR village.

Rec Play Equipment Refresh

We have received three proposals for replacement of some items of equipment at Rocket Park with some exciting new equipment. We will be reviewing these over the coming months – Look out for designs on the Parish Council Website and tell us what you like and what you don't like. We really welcome your input.

Boules

Last year we created the two Boules courts on the corner of the rec. These are free for anyone to use, so come along, meet a friend, and have a game and a chat!

Antisocial Behaviour

As people are out more in the better weather, sadly we tend to see cases of antisocial behaviour. We have already had reports of this at the Astro and also at Rocket Park. Lytchett Matravers is a village that doesn't tolerate such behaviour, so if you witness antisocial behaviour, please report it to the Police by dialling 101 or reporting online: due to limited resources the Police are limited in where they patrol, but if they receive reports they will include these areas in their rounds and they will then become safer.

Road Safety

Working with Dorset Council Highways, we have just seen the consultation on the proposed Zebra Crossing outside the school. We await the feedback and next steps from that. We are assured that Dorset Council do have the funding available for a Zebra Crossing, and the Parish council have pledged to pay for the Crossing Patrol (Lollipop Lady) (to be reviewed annually). We are also looking to make a more defined crossing point over the High Street by the Library. These should make the centre of the village safer, along with the 20mph speed limit we are working towards.

If parking by the Lytchett Matravers Primary School, please park considerately and do not block junctions or on pavements. Or better still, walk if possible.

Safe routes to Lytchett Minster for pedestrians and cycles have been a goal of ours for many years and many discussions of options have taken place recently with neighbouring councils and the Highways Dept. Cost remains the biggest hurdle but, in conjunction with Lytchett Minster and Upton town Council, we intend to apply for a reduction in speed limit along Huntick Road from 60mph to 40mph as a step in the right direction. On the subject of roads, repairing potholes is not a Parish Council task but if you search the internet for "Dorset Council Potholes" you will find a form where you can report road (or pavement) defects. They are usually repaired within a couple of weeks. Dorset Council doesn't proactively look for potholes to fill, so if you see a pothole, report it.

Busy Parking

On Saturday 17th May the Football club have their presentation event. We can expect there to be more cars than usual in the village centre on that day.

Eldons Drove Pond

The pond has now been excavated and cleared, much improving the appearance of the Pond Walk area. Fencing following and then a lot of planting for which volunteer help and suitable plants will be appreciated please. The pond is going to be a really attractive village feature as well as a valuable wildlife habitat.

VE 80 Day and Midsummer Festival

The 80th Anniversary of VE day is on May 8th. Come along in the evening for the beacon lighting. The Chip van will be there – bring along a drink and celebrate.
The Midsummer Festival will be on June 28th. We always need more people to help with these events on the day – please contact the Parish Clerk if you can spare a few hours and help.

Defibs:

I had the pleasure of being invited to give a short presentation to the WI on Defibrillators. Lytchett Matravers has 4 of these available 24/7 for public use, at Chequers, Tesco, the Phone Box opposite the school, and Abbots Court on the Huntick Estate. I delivered the 3 key messages "Anyone can use a defib" and showed how the units give clear, audible spoken instructions. "Know where your Nearest Defib is" – it could save a life of a loved one. And "You cannot make a situation worse by attempting to use one" because of the built-in intelligence of the units.
Always call 999 in the first instance.

Councillor Vacancy

We still have 2 vacancies for Parish Councillor, so please call the Parish Clerk to find out more. Being a parish councillor is a really rewarding way to make a difference in your community. It does take a few hours per week, but it is very rewarding so give it some thought. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Clerk or any Councillor to have a chat.

Parish Council Meetings:

Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on May 14th at 7 p.m. and the next Full Council meeting, which is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, will be on May 28th at 7 p.m., both in the Village Hall as usual.

Agendas for all meetings are published online and the associated reports can be requested from the Parish Clerk. Meetings always start with a public participation session, so please come along if you have suggestions or questions that you would like to discuss with the Parish Council or stay and listen to our discussions, because it's all about your village.

Andrew Huggins,

Vice Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For further information please visit our website at: https://lytchettmatraverspc.org/ or contact the Parish Clerk via lytchettmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk You can find us and comment on the Lytchett Matravers PC Facebook page. The Parish Clerk can also be contacted directly on 07596-885667.