

Widmerpool Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Widmerpool Parish Council held on Monday 20th May 2024, 7pm, Keyworth Rugby club.

Councillors present: Cllr Christopher Daynes (Chairman), Cllr Jenny Daynes, Cllr Geoff Brooks (A), Cllr R Belton, Cllr S Belton

Officers: Emma Goodman Clerk to the Council

Also present: Cllr Inglis and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies** – received from Cllr Wells and Cllr Cottee.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 15th May 2023. APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Chairmans report on Parish events** – See Appendix 1
5. **County and Borough Councillor Updates** –
Given in Annual Parish Council Meeting
6. **Open session for members of the public to raise matters of council business** (limited 15 min) – none

The next Annual Parish meeting TBC May 2025

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

App 1

Chairmans Report 2024

My report outlines the work undertaken by Widmerpool Parish Council in the financial Year 2023 -24 and to outline existing plans for the next financial year. In November Councillor Geoff Brooks decided to resign from the Parish Council after many years' service. Geoff has been active member of the council for the last 6 years and his considerable contribution to all the meetings will be missed. He continues to be involved in promoting rural affairs and is a brilliant source of local knowledge, information about farming and the history of Widmerpool and our local area. I am confident Geoff will readily support the Parish Council in the future as and when the need arises. Counsellor Kevin Price has also resigned from the council. Kevin has selflessly given his time despite not living in the village and despite his considerable workload running the Keyworth Rugby Club. Kevins attention to detail and pragmatic contribution will also be missed. I would like to highlight to this meeting that there are now three available councillor places available end of the financial year 2023 to 2024.

Speed restriction on the A46 to permit resurfacing work started in September 2023 and this impacted Widmerpool traffic flows. The village has experienced noticeable increases in traffic volume and traffic speed since September. The congestion on the roads was exacerbated in the Autumn when intense rainfall forced the closure of the A46 and extremely high traffic flows including HGVs were routed through Widmerpool and along Main Street. Clearly the village roads were not designed for such heavy traffic which combined with surface water from an overflowing Fairham Brook and resulted in the flooding of Main Street residents' houses. Understandably this caused much distress. It is anticipated traffic flows will normalise once resurfacing work on the A46 is completed and speed restriction are removed.

Enquires were made by the Parish Council about installing electronic speed restriction signs at the entrances to the village. Guideline quotes have been received by our Clerk however these initial quotes are prohibitively expensive given funds available to the council in this financial year. It is the intention of the Council to continue to explore partner funding which would be necessary for this work can be scheduled.

The Council has progressed a project to install village Gateway Sign Carriers at the village boundaries. Quotes have been accepted and it is anticipated work will commence later in the year. It is understood that these signs will enhance the visual appearance of the village for all and it is hoped they will also act as traffic calming measure for vehicles passing through.

Concern was raised in the Autumn about the recent approval of a roadside service station at Widmerpool junction on the A46. The concern is that any addition surface water runoff will exacerbate flooding in the village particularly during periods of high rainfall. There was disappointment that despite widespread local opposition, the scheme was granted at the public hearing. Widmerpool Parish Council continues to petition the relevant authorities including Highways and Rushcliffe Borough Council in attempts to mitigate flooding and reduce the risks of future occurrences. Further the upgrading of the surface water drains at the junction of station road and Main Street should be focus for the council in the next financial year.

A communal litter pick was successfully arranged and supported in April before the grass verges became too long. It was great to be joined by some new faces and the work was completed in 3 hours. A big thank you to everyone who came out and got involved. It's not the best job on a sunny Saturday in April but it makes a difference to our shared local environment and helps to keep on top of a litter problem that could easily get out of hand. The Parish council will continue to maintain and upgrade its village assets when necessary.

Maintenance of land the Parish council has responsibility for will continue to be carried out by local contractors when necessary.

In November last year it was decided to install a lit Christmas tree on the green near the flagpole. This proved to be a popular addition. The council in consultation with parishioners will have to decide if this should be a regular feature.

A replacement sign has been installed marking Sargent Rimmers Wood near the entrance to the Church yard and the Council agreed to proposals to acquire a commemorative Tommy silhouette. It was decided the silhouette will also be installed in the next financial year on the green adjacent to the flagpole.

The Parish Council don't arrange many event in Widmerpool but after the successful summer barbeque last year we are hopefully that a similar event can be organised in the coming year and it has been suggested this could take place in August.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our brilliant clerk Emma for everything she does for the Council and to our remaining Parish Councillors who give their time freely in order for our small village to retain its Parish Council.

Thankyou