

Widmerpool Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Widmerpool Parish Council held on Monday 19th May 2026, 7pm, Keyworth Rugby club.

Councillors present: Cllr Christopher Daynes (Chairman), Cllr Jenny Daynes, Cllr Van der Merwe, Cllr R Belton, Cllr S Belton and Cllr Newbold

Officers: Emma Goodman Clerk to the Council

Also present: 1 member of the public and Borough Cllr Wells

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Inglis.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 19th May 2025, were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Chairmans report on Parish events** – See Appendix 1
5. **Open session for members of the public to raise matters of council business** (limited 15 min) – none

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

App 1 – Chairmans Report

My report outlines the work undertaken by Widmerpool Parish Council during the 2025–26 financial year and sets out the Council’s plans for the year ahead.

I would like to thank all our councillors and our Clerk, Emma Goodman, for their continued support and contribution throughout the last financial year. Our councillors generously give their time alongside busy personal and professional lives to support our small parish by attending meetings, helping to organise village events, and contributing to the smooth running of the community. Their commitment is greatly appreciated by the whole village.

I would also like to begin by congratulating Keyworth Rugby Football Club on another excellent season. The club continues to support grassroots sport for children from the age of five upwards and this year celebrated its 50th anniversary. Having a facility of this scale, with so many visitors to a small village, has the potential to cause disruption, so I would like to thank the club organisers for their hard work in keeping this to a minimum. The club continues to perform exceptionally well, with highly competitive First and Second XV matches taking place most Saturdays. Colts fixtures will also be played on some Friday evenings during the 2026–27 season. The clubhouse and bar are always open during home games, and village supporters are warmly welcomed. Special thanks go to the club’s Chairman, Kevin Price, for kindly making the clubhouse available for Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

It has been another positive and productive year for the Council, and I am pleased to report that the parish finances remain strong at year-end. This ensures that Widmerpool Parish Council assets can continue to be maintained as required, including public areas, the defibrillator, website, street furniture, and village planters. Thanks go to Peter James for overseeing the grass cutting throughout the summer months.

The village planters have once again looked fantastic, with a wonderful variety of flowers maintained throughout the year. Many thanks to the Beltons and Eileen for their dedication in caring for them in all seasons. A special mention must also go to Eileen for carefully cleaning and repainting the oak village sign on the green, giving it a much-needed new lease of life.

The ivy has now been removed from the trees in Rimmers Wood, which should help prevent the trees from becoming choked and allow them more room to grow. In addition, the village signposts have been repainted in black and white, helping to keep the village looking fresh and well cared for.

Our Tommy silhouette was once again installed on the green for Remembrance Day and VE Day commemorations. Many thanks to Ray Belton for placing the poppies and commemorative soldier silhouettes around the village on lampposts, and for removing them afterwards. The larger decorated

Christmas tree installed on the green in December proved to be another popular addition and added greatly to the festive atmosphere.

A big thank you also goes to Jacques Van der Merwe, who kindly installed a new bench at the church following a generous donation. It is a wonderful addition to the village and is already being appreciated by many residents and visitors alike.

We were also pleased to see the introduction of the new glass recycling bins, which are now collected every six weeks. Thank you to residents for continuing to support Rushcliffe Borough Council's recycling initiatives.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the new village signs have yet to be installed at all roads entering the village, although we have been assured this will happen imminently. We are excited to welcome these four new signs, which will provide an attractive feature at the entrances to the village alongside the planters.

Following flooding issues experienced over recent years, we now have a Flood Warden Scheme in place. This group of volunteers has received training and guidance on how to respond during a flood event along Fairham Brook, particularly in relation to reducing the impact on Main Street, Old Hall Drive, and Station Road. Thank you to everyone who has given their time to make this scheme possible, as well as those who have volunteered to store the necessary equipment.

It has also been a successful year for community events. The Beehive Lawn BBQ returned to Butterfield's Field near the church triangle, and thanks to excellent weather it was wonderful to see so many villagers attending and enjoying the occasion together. The Safari Supper was also very well attended, providing a great opportunity to meet new residents and enjoy a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Due to its popularity, the event has already been scheduled again for June.

Finally, thank you to all councillors, volunteers, and residents who continue to support the parish and contribute their time and effort to keeping Widmerpool such a welcoming, attractive, and vibrant place to live.