

Ilam Parish Council

Serving the Parish of Ilam, Staffordshire

Clerk: Clive Andrews. Park Cottage, Ilam, Ashbourne DE6 2AZ Tel: 01335 350707

Parish Council AGM Meeting Agenda – 12th May 2026 at 7.00pm Ilam School

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on 12th May 2026 at 7.00pm, Ilam School

Present

C. Andrews (Clerk, Vice Chair), C. Wilderspin (Cllr), I. Frith (Chairman), H. Allen (Cllr), Charlotte Kelly (Cllr), Karen Tipper (Cllr), Adam Linnett (National Trust), Karl Mortimier, A. Andrews, R. Flynn, Kelly Whelan.

1. Apologies for Absence

V. Nottage (Cllr), R. Wain (Cllr), A. Chillingworth (National Trust), J. Moffatt (Staffs Police), E. Wain (Cllr), K. Warrington (Cllr, Secretary).

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2026 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman, I. Frith.

3. Public Participation / Open Forum

No additional comments were raised by members of the public.

4. Updates from the National Trust

Adam Linnett provided the following updates on behalf of the National Trust:

Ilam Hall 200th Anniversary Commission

With support from Outside Arts, three Staffordshire Moorlands artists have been commissioned to create artwork celebrating the 200th anniversary of Ilam Hall. The work will be displayed at Ilam Park from the start of the school summer holidays and aims to connect visitors with the history of Ilam.

Students from Ilam School will be invited to participate in workshops with the artists, and members of the wider community will also be invited to take part. Further details will follow.

Stepping Stone Repairs

Following winter storm damage, an out-of-line stepping stone was moved back into place by a member of the public without the required permissions. It was noted that the work caused further damage to the stone and had been carried out without the appropriate legal consents.

The National Trust is now working with Derbyshire County Council on a repair plan, and the matter has been reported to the Police.

Village Meadow and Italian Garden Funding

The National Trust has secured funding of just over £4,000 to plant additional wildflowers around Ilam Hall, including low-growing species within the Italian Lawn area.

The success of the Village Meadow project through seeding and plug planting was noted, with species such as adder's-tongue fern, yellow rattle, and cowslips now thriving.

Funding will also support restoration work to a dipping pond in the parkland, with further funding being sought to repair the pond-dipping platform.

Highways and Traffic Management

The National Trust has contacted Staffordshire County Council requesting earlier engagement regarding major roadworks in the area.

Concerns were raised regarding road markings around the Memorial following resurfacing works, due to several reported near misses. Requests have been made for line repainting to be prioritised.

The National Trust is also seeking a site visit with Highways representatives to discuss roadside signage to Dovedale, including improved signage when the car park is full, in order to improve traffic flow through the village.

Community Tree and Flower Growing Project

An early update was provided regarding a proposed community tree and flower growing project. Further details are expected to be discussed at the next meeting.

Additional Matters

A tree in the river was reported to the National Trust.

5. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

- **Pothole on Lodge Lane:** Highways have responded and repair works are scheduled.
- **Village Drains:** Drains are only partially functioning due to blockages. The Clerk has requested a road sweep and full drain clearance from Staffordshire County Council. A road sweep was completed during resurfacing works; however, drain clearance is not scheduled until 2027. Charlotte Kelly requested details of drains requiring urgent attention so these can be progressed.
- **Yellow Lines:** Existing yellow lines have been reinstated in their current locations, though no additional lines have been added. Charlotte Kelly is investigating the matter further.

- **Castern Hall:** Staffordshire Police have been contacted regarding ongoing issues. Richard Wain will provide contact details so the owners can be formally notified.
- **Public Footpaths:** Concerns were raised regarding the relocation of two public footpath gateways along the River Manifold on Footpath Blore with Swinscoe 6. No response has yet been received. Charlotte Kelly requested further details to investigate.
- **Streetlights:** No action has yet been taken. Charlotte Kelly is looking into the matter.
- **Cattle Grid Signs:** Costs for replacement or additional signage will be investigated and councillors updated.
- The Parish Council expressed thanks to Staffordshire Police for their support regarding ongoing matters at Castern Hall, and thanked James Moffatt for his assistance with the bollards and advisory parking tickets.

6. Improving the Village Environment

- Temporary “No Parking” signs used over the bank holiday period are to be removed and stored for use during future bank holidays.
- Vera contacted the Clerk regarding plants and planting within the village.
- A tree in the river was again reported to the National Trust.

7. Highways

The following highways matters were discussed:

- **Pothole on Lodge Lane:** Repair works are scheduled.
- **Blocked Drain on Lodge Lane:** The drain halfway down Lodge Lane towards River Lodge has been reported as blocked. R. Wain agreed to clear the blockage.
- **Yellow Lines:** Charlotte Kelly will continue to investigate potential improvements.
- **Drain Clearance Programme:** Charlotte Kelly requested information regarding drains requiring urgent clearance ahead of the 2027 programme.
- **Speed Limits:** Charlotte Kelly will investigate speed limits within the village.

8. Planning Matters

Application NP/SM/0426/0434

Location: Pond located in field 257m northwest of Hall Cottage, Ilam.

The Parish Council raised no objections to the application but commented that the National Trust and YHA should ensure there is no disturbance of the area during the nesting season and clarified with the National Trust and YHA that children would be always supervised.

9. Finance

- **Account Balance:** £2,016.18
- **Insurance:** Insurance quotations were discussed and it was agreed to proceed with Zurich Insurance.

10. Any Other Business

- A social engagement grant application is to be submitted.
- A social evening at the YHA, including a pizza evening, was discussed. Kelly is investigating availability and possible dates.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next Parish Council meeting was agreed to be held on 7th July 2026 at Ilam School 7.00pm