

# ILAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 7pm Ilam School

**Present:** C. Andrews (Clerk, Vice Chair), C. Wilderspin (Cllr), I. Frith (Chairman), H. Allen (Cllr), V. Nottage (Cllr), R Wain (Cllr), A. Chillingworth (NT), J. Moffatt (Staffs Police), E Wain (Cllr), A. Andrews, R Flynn.

## Apologies

K. Warrington (Cllr, Sec), Charlotte Kelly (Cllr)

## Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2026 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman, I. Frith.

## Updates from the National Trust

### **Ilam Parish Council Meeting Update 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

- **Italianate Garden Accessible Path:** Both the Planning and Listed Building Consent (LBC) applications were approved on 4 February. We are now preparing a Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) funding application to enable delivery of the project. The delivery timescales will depend on securing this funding, but if all goes to plan we hope to install the path this year.
- **Hall Cottage:** The Change of Use and Listed Building Consent applications went to Planning Committee on Friday 13 March. We are currently awaiting the decision and expect to hear by the end of this week.
- **Dipping Platform, Ilam Parkland:** We are currently preparing a planning application for the reinstatement of a dipping platform in the parkland at Ilam, which will enable the YHA to carry out nature-based activities with children attending the site as part of their school residential visits.
- **Dovedale car park:** We were able to source and install matting in the overflow car park at Dovedale. This has brought approx. 100 spaces into use ahead of Easter. We need to order some more and resolve waterlogging in the wettest area to bring another 70 spaces into year-round use as well. Hopefully, this will take the pressure off local roads in early Spring, when the overflow has previously been too wet to open. Thanks go to Stuart Hudson who helped us with the unloading of the matting, which made the task much easier.
- **Meadow planting:** The village meadow has recently been planted with 375 native wildflower plug plants. This will help bring the species-rich grassland from the dale sides into the village for locals and visitors to enjoy.
- **Mowing:** We have agreed the mowing contract for this year and included the mowing in the village as per last year.
- **Fly-tipping:** Has been reported on Ilam-Moor Lane towards Calton Moor crossroads.
- **Community litter picks:** These have continued in February and March, focusing predominantly on the roads into the valley (Blore and Thorpe). The next one is scheduled for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April (after the Easter weekend).
- **Stepping Stones:** Awaiting an update from Derbyshire County Council about their plan to realign the stepping stones and repair the Derbyshire side footpath.
- **Dovedale Toilet Block:** Work on the PDNPA owned toilet block is due to be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> April, ahead of the Easter weekend.
- **Easter:** This Easter Ilam Park's trail will be inspired by the history of Ilam Park. Highlights include Ilam & Dovedale themed mini golf (inspired by William Backhouse's golf course in

the early 1900s), Viking and Saxon i-spy walk (inspired by the Battle Stone), and Pebble poetry walk (inspired by the many writers who have been inspired by Ilam).

- **Relaxed Rambles:** We've recently launched a new free monthly walk on the first Wednesday of every month. Starting at 10am from the Stable Yard, each walk will take you at a gentle pace, for up to 2 hours, through the beautiful, surrounding countryside of the White Peak, finishing in the stable yard with free refreshments. Everyone welcome.

### **Public Participation / Open Forum**

Concerns were raised regarding the relocation of two public footpath gateways along the River Manifold on Footpath Blore with Swinscoe 6.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk will write to the relevant authority to:

- Clarify why the gateways have been moved
- Confirm whether this is a temporary measure
- Raise concerns regarding flooding around the gateways.

### **Clerk's Report**

- Ongoing issue regarding Caston Hall; planning matters remain under investigation.
- Bank charges and the possibility of internet banking were discussed. As charges may apply, it was agreed to continue using cheque payments as the primary method.

### **Improving the Village Environment**

- Lodge Lane / Moor Lane Corner: Verge to have perimeter posts installed in the spring.

Easter parking problems in Ilam and Moor Lane.

- Clerk to order 50 signs to help prevent congestion during Easter and other peak periods.
- No parking bollards to be placed along Moor Lane.

Bulbs and Planting:

- Vera Nottage advised that geraniums are suitable for planting.

Street Lighting:

- Clerk to contact Highways regarding street lighting, noting concerns that modern installations may not be in keeping with the village character.

### **Highways**

- Pothole on Lodge Lane: Clerk to report to Highways.
- Drain halfway down Lodge Lane towards River Lodge: Reported as blocked – R. Wain to clear.
- Village drains: Partially draining due to blockages – Clerk to request a road sweep and full drain clearance from the County Council.
- Yellow lines: Clerk to write to Highways regarding the proposed yellow lines on roads leading out of Ilam village and the existing lines to be repainted.

### **Planning Matters**

- No items recorded.

### **Finance**

- Account balance: £1,957.62

### **Any Other Business (AOB)**

Continued concerns regarding reckless driving from Caston Hall:

- E. Wain suggested contacting the owner (R. Wain) to provide Clerk contact details.
- J. Moffatt to raise the matter with the Police Sergeant.
- Clerk to issue a further letter of complaint.
  
- J. Moffitt advised of recent oil thefts, Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to be offered to residents of Ilam.
  
- Vera Nottage asked whether thanks had been sent to the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair, it was confirmed that thanks were recorded in previous minutes.
  
- E. Wain advised that Staffordshire Moorlands may be merging with Stoke; consultation ongoing until 26th March 2026.

### **Date & Time of Next Ilam Parish Meeting**

- Tuesday 12th May 2026, 7:00pm at Ilam School