

ILAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 20th January 2026 – 7pm National Trust Mess Room

Present: C. Andrews (Clerk, Vice Chair), C. Wilderspin (Cllr,), K. Warrington (Cllr, Sec), I. Frith (Chairman), H. Allen (Cllr), V. Nottage (Cllr), A. Chillingworth (NT), J. Moffatt (Staffs Police), A. Andrews, A. Linnet (NT)

Apologies R Wain (Parish Councilor)

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting held on the 11th November 2025 were agreed as accurate and signed by I. Frith. (Chairman)

Updates from the National Trust

Based on an idea that was floated at a previous meeting, we would be delighted to host a coffee morning for local residents in the Manifold tearoom at Ilam, with free refreshments provided by the National Trust. Date and time to be agreed with the parish council. If it is well attended then we would look to offer something more regular, if there was an interest from local residents in this. After much discussion, we have decided that we won't be using Wheel Orchard for parking going forward. There are several reasons for this including:

- Designations on the land (SSSI)
- Staff numbers required to park cars safely
- Challenges around being able to take payment for parking (both cash and card)

We feel that there needs to be a longer term, joined up solution to managing increasingly high numbers of visitors to the area and will be working with local communities, police, highways etc to identify the ways in which we can all play our part in this. Surfacing in the overflow car park at Dovedale will enable year-round use of that space. We will also make use of the area in front of the hall on bank holidays as an overflow parking area, which we think will create another 30ish spaces. We would also be supportive of anyone locally that had a field they would be prepared to open on busy days but appreciate that may not be possible or feasible.

We have reported to Highways that the double yellow lines need repainting after the recent resurfacing work. It has been logged as a non-urgent job by Staffs Moorlands.

Planning applications have been submitted for:

- Level access path into the Italianate Gardens (awaiting decision early Feb)
- Change of Use and Listed Building Consent for Hall Cottage – to bring this building back in hand and convert into an accessible hub to welcome visitors to Ilam (estimated decision date - Monday 2nd March 2026).

In collaboration with Derbyshire Scouts, we have been investigating the area south of the Church, looking for Nether Hall (a hall predating the Tudor Hall lived in by the port family). We have conducted scans of the ground which have shown the possibility of foundations. Excitingly this means we will be going ahead with 3 small test pits to continue investigating. These will take place from 13th - 19th July, with support from Ilam School on 2 days, 2 days of bookable activity for the public and then the weekend for the Derbyshire scouts.

We will be welcoming back Muslim Hikers to Ilam for their annual Ramadan Retreat – this year taking place on the weekend of 7th March. Alongside their fasted group walk to Dovedale on the Saturday, a small number of the group will take part in a conservation activity on the Sunday – last year they helped plant trees in Hinkley Wood.

PDNPA are in the process of renovating the toilet block at Dovedale, with work anticipated to take around 8 weeks. During that period there will be no toilet facilities down at Dovedale.

Community litter picks at Dovedale have been scheduled in for the year. The first one was rescheduled due to snow and ice – now taking place on 22nd January – and then we have roughly one a month through the year. We have tried to time them, so they are taking place during or after busy periods, e.g. after bank holiday weekends. We may look to increase the regularity of them over the summer months and hope to get some more regular litter pick volunteers as a result. Upcoming dates are 18th February, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June.

Clerk's Report

- Concerns raised about speeding vehicles by contractors to and from Castern Hall. A formal letter to be sent to both their head office and site manager.
- Concerns about an area of farmland at Castern Hall that has been excavated and backfilled with rubble and possible waste without planning consent. A letter to be sent to the Peak District National Park.

Improving the Village Environment

- Corner of Lodge Lane and Moor Lane: Verge to have perimeter posts added in the spring.
- Visitor Parking at Easter 2026: Police bollards and tape have been donated to minimize parking on Moor Lane and Lodge Lane. Keith Warrington to source “No Parking” signs; Clerk to send format.
- Ilam Residents Coffee Morning: Scheduled for Tuesday 3rd March at Ilam Tearoom, 11am (courtesy of the National Trust). Ilam residents to be notified.

Highways

- Stone pillars and HGV sign have been repaired and reinstated at Blore Junction.
- Discussion held regarding speed limit signs through the village, particularly near the school and walking areas.

Planning Matters

- Ilam Hall Cottage: Proposal for change of use from residential (Use Class C3) to a visitor reception hub. Unanimous decision to fully object to the change of use.

Finance

- Balance in account: £1,964.82
- Bank account signatories and banking update: Still waiting for NatWest signature authorisations.
- Precept: Signed and sent with acknowledgment.

Any Other Business (AOB)

- Jim Moffatt offered details regarding community speed watch volunteers.

11. Date & Time of Next Meeting

- Tuesday 17th March 2026 @ Ilam School 7 pm