

ILKETSHALL ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025

Nomination of Directors Ilketshall St. Andrew and Ilketshall St. John Land Management Company, for 2025-2026

Under the terms of the Constitution of the Land Management Company responsible for managing the Commons in Ilketshall St. Andrew & St. John, the Directors of the company retire by rotation, with one of the Directors appointed by the Parish Councils, and one appointed by the Commoners' Association, retiring each year. Those Directors are eligible to stand for re-election. The Directors appointed take up their roles immediately after the Annual General Meeting of the Land Management Company, which this year is scheduled for 17th February 2025.

The Land Management Company (LMC) is responsible for the management of the Commons in Ilketshall St. Andrew and Ilketshall St. John, and there are 8 Directors. Four of the Directors are nominated by the Commoners' Association, and four by the Parish Councils of Ilketshall St. Andrew and Ilketshall St. John. The Company is a not-for-profit company, and the directorships are unpaid. The Board of Directors meet on a regular basis every 3 months to decide on policies, and there are occasional additional meetings to deal with particular issues.

Applications are invited for the Director to be appointed by the Parish Councils, and are therefore open to anyone in Ilketshall St. Andrew or Ilketshall St. John who is not a Commoner. The main requirement is that you should have a strong interest in the Commons. Applications are particularly welcome from younger residents of the Parishes. It is recognised that many people do not have much time to give over to activities such as the Land Management Company, and therefore it is worth noting that the commitment is to attend an evening meeting once every three months. In between times, if people are able to commit additional time to various activities associated with the Commons, then so much the better.

The Constitution of the Land Management Company is accessible on the Commons website [<https://www.ilketshallcommons.co.uk>]. On the website, you will also find a quantity of other information relating to the Commons and to the work of the Land Management Company – including Minutes of the quarterly Board meetings, which provide an indication of the work that the Company undertakes.

If you would like further information about the role, then please contact one of the current Directors of the LMC (Tim Basey-Fisher, Chris Roberts, John Bedwell, Roo Lee, Jack Poulden or Rod Apps), or a member of the Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council (Gerald Godfrey, Jacqui Harrison, Colin Ward, Penny Ward, Ian Braid or Rod Apps).

If you are interested in joining the LMC, then please write a brief outline of why you would like to do so, and send it to the Parish Council e-mail address (isaparishcouncil@gmail.com). Please do this by 31st January 2025.

Annual General Meeting of the Land Management Company

As noted above, the AGM for the Land Management Company will be held on Monday 17th February 2025, 7.30pm, at the Village Hall. Further information about the AGM will be provided in due course, but an important function of the AGM is to receive feedback on the draft Management Plan for March 2025 – February 2026. The draft Management Plan will be available on the Commons website shortly, and feedback on that Management Plan, either before the AGM or at the AGM itself, would be greatly appreciated.



Parish Clerk

Tina Newby – the Clerk to the Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council from April 2023 – resigned from the role in November 2024. Rod Apps (who was Parish Clerk from May 2019 until April 2023) has taken back on the role of Parish Clerk for the foreseeable future. The Parish Council email address (isaparishcouncil@gmail.com) will remain unchanged.

Rod Apps will continue to be a Parish Councillor, and under the legislation this means that he cannot be paid for undertaking the role. At its meeting in January 2025, the Parish Council had to set the 'precept' (the addition to the Council Tax that is levied to pay for the Parish Council), and this was set at £3,000 for 2025-2026 (instead of £7,909 that applied for 2024-2025), reflecting the fact that the costs of employing a Parish Clerk will not apply. The Council Tax precept for an 'average' Band D property for 2025-2026 works out at £24.95 p.a., and therefore almost £40 less than the £65.79 that applied in 2024-2025. Rod Apps may well not be a competent Parish Clerk, but at least he is cheap inexpensive!

Vacancy for a Councillor on the Parish Council

There are 7 places for Councillors for the Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council, but at present there are only 6 Councillors – so there is a vacancy. In summary terms, anyone can fill the vacancy by simply saying that they wish to become a Councillor – there is no need for any election. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, then please get in touch with the Parish Clerk or any other Councillor.

Community Speedwatch and new Speed Indicator Device for Top Road

Ilketshall Saint Andrew Community Speedwatch was formed in Sept 2024 as a result of residents in all parts of the village becoming concerned about the amount and type of vehicles using the village as a "rat run", but also the speed at which they were travelling, particularly on Top Road. As a result, a total of nine residents agreed to form a Speedwatch Group and were trained by the police to carry out speed checks using a hand-held radar. Anyone found to be speeding will receive a warning letter from Suffolk Constabulary and persistent speeders will be visited by a police officer. The aim of Speedwatch is not to "catch anybody out" but to provide a highly visible presence to make people think about their speed. So far, the number of speeders recorded by the group is lower than when we first started and data from the SID in Top Road indicates that our presence has reduced the amount of speeding.

We are always happy to welcome new members into the group; you need only commit to an hour or two a month and full training/taster session will be provided. We are particularly keen to recruit younger people to the group especially (but not exclusively) those interested in pursuing a public service career. If interested either speak to a member of the group when we are out and about or email the coordinator cswisa@yahoo.com

With financial assistance from funds managed by the County Councillor and the District Councillors, the Parish Council has purchased a new Speed Indicator Device (SID). Apart from incorporating updated technology, this device will not be shared with Ringsfield and Weston Parish Council (as the existing one is) and can therefore be located continuously on Top Road. The evidence is that many speeding vehicles do slow down when they are alerted by a speed indicator device, although of course there are individuals who are determined to break the speed limit.

Fit Villages

This is a scheme run by Suffolk County Council and its aim is to promote both physical and mental health as well as combatting loneliness in rural villages by using local facilities. In order to gauge interest in ISA a flyer will soon be delivered to you outlining the scheme and suggesting various activities. Please note that the scheme is intended to help people keep fit and active and to cater for a range of ages and abilities from chair exercises to pilates to basic circuit training. If there is sufficient interest then we will set up a scheme to meet people's needs as far as possible. The County Council will subsidise the first eight sessions and the taster session is free so please, return your questionnaires asap if you are interested.

Rod Apps, on behalf of Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council.

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