

ILKETSHALL ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026

Nomination of Directors Ilketshall St. Andrew and Ilketshall St. John Land Management Company, for 2026-2027

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 16th February 2026.

The Land Management Company (LMC) is responsible for the management of the Commons in Ilketshall St. Andrew and Ilketshall St. John, and there are up to 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, June Hall or Rod Apps), or a member of the Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council (Gerald Godfrey, Andrew Ward, Colin Ward, Penny Ward, Ian Braid, Richard Hall 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 2026.

Annual General Meeting of the Land Management Company

As noted above, the AGM for the Land Management Company will be held on Monday 16th February 2026, 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 2026 – February 2027. 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 Councillors

The full complement of Parish Councillors is 7, and there have been vacancies for two Councillors for some time. The Parish Council is pleased to announce that these have now been filled, with the new Parish Councillors being Richard Hall and Andrew Ward.

Parish Precept

The Parish Precept is the addition to the Council Tax that is levied to pay for the Parish Council. For 2025-2026 this was set at £3,000 in order to fund the activities of the Parish Council, which translated to £24.95 per year for the average “Band D” property. Rod Apps intends to leave the Parish Clerk role (which he has undertaken on an unpaid basis as a Parish Councillor), and the Parish Council has decided to try to recruit a paid, professional, Parish Clerk. In order to provide the funds to pay for a professional Parish Clerk, the Parish Council is having to increase the Parish Precept, and for 2026-2027 this will be £9,000, which translates to £73.41 per year for the average “Band D” property.

Play Area

The Play Area next to the Village Hall has benefited from the installation of two new gates (and associated posts and fencing), given the deterioration of the previous gates. The Parish Council gratefully acknowledges that the cost of the gates and related work were entirely covered by East Suffolk District Council via a grant from Section 106 funds – and therefore there was no cost to the Parish Council.

The Play Area has also benefited from the installation of a “basket-type” swing, to replace some play equipment that had also deteriorated and had to be removed. The Parish Council had sought advice about what type of equipment would be particularly appropriate for the Play Area, and a “basket-type” swing was repeatedly recommended. A new “basket-type” swing has now been installed. The Parish Council also gratefully acknowledges the contribution of nearly £400 by East Suffolk District Council to the cost of the swing, via a further grant from Section 106 funds. The remaining cost of the swing was largely covered by Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) funds that the Parish Council had received that are required to be spent on “infrastructure”.

Community Speedwatch and new Speed Indicator Device for Top Road

Ilketshall Saint Andrew Community Speedwatch continues to operate on Top Road, and appears to be resulting in a lessening of speeding, with a decline in the number of vehicles being reported for excess speed. The group would welcome new members to help ‘spread the load’ a bit, and therefore if you are interested in joining, please either speak to a member of the group when they are out and about or email the coordinator cswisa@yahoo.com

The new Speed Indicator Device has been up and running for a little while, and will be positioned continuously on Top Road, alternating between the two sides. The evidence so far suggests that this is also contributing to a lessening of the speeding problem on Top Road.

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