

THE BASIL IONIDES MEMORIAL CENTRE Framfield Road, Buxted (Charity No 305192)

AGM Minutes Tuesday 9th June 2026 – starting at 7.45p.m. Five Ash Down Village Hall

Present: Peter Smith (Chairman), Vivienne Blandford, Annette Duck, David Mallett and Adrian Marshall.

One member of the public present.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Furber, Humphrey and Muddle and clerk Claudine Feltham
- 2. Annual Chairmans Report – circulated prior to the meeting:**

Since I became involved with the Ionides Trust in 2009 I have seen many changes in the landscape of the Ionides Trust. It has been transformed from an overgrown field, inaccessible in places to a well-used piece of open land in the heart of the village. The old Boys Club was demolished, and the Surgery built, complete with bat tower. The regular income from the rented land provided the Ionides Trust the means to carry out the improvements and maintenance much needed. Some changes were forced upon us like the bunds formed from the excess material from the surgery build but a deal was struck with the developers and so some of the land between the Ionides land and the parish council recreation ground was flattened and an overgrown hedgerow removed, thus opening out the land to flow seamlessly as a more open and accessible space. The biggest cost comes from regular mowing, litter and dog waste bin emptying. We also have the luxury of our very own park keeper who carries out regular checks and odd jobs. We carry out a tree survey regularly and then undertake, with experts, any necessary remedial work.

In 2016 we began the process of changing the status of the Ionides Trust to giving the responsibility of running the Ionides Trust to the Parish Council as Managing Trustees. With the increased responsibilities and subsequent liabilities of opening the land, having a regular income and more play equipment, responsibility for a car park, not enough Trustees from the village were willing to take on the work. This has been very successful with the clerks efficiently carrying out the work necessary. The Ionides Trust meetings are carried out completely separately, and after the parish council meeting. Anyone can attend but we rarely have anyone attending, unless they have a specific request to be heard.

In 2017 the adult exercise equipment, table tennis table and zip wires were installed after public consultation. We continue renew or repair aspects of the enclosed, smaller children's playground which is very popular and well used.

The Buxted Hall Trust was wound up in 2019, and they did not see that we finally managed to get the Scouts to sign a lease giving everyone the right to build on their leased land. Sadly, we did not see the building of a new village hall, although the foundations were laid in 2018, thus keeping the hard-won planning application alive. Part of the community hall car park was built, laying down a better, long-lasting surface whilst providing better drainage to the car park and children's playground. This was finally completed in October 2020.

The new Scout Hut has been finished for over a year but the grass and finishing touches to the Ionides Trust still need finishing. It is a shame that such a dominant building can only be used for one group.

It has been a quiet year, and the long overdue cut of the hedges was able to take place. We had missed the previous year because of the Scout hut construction making it unsafe to cut hedges, but the contractors did a good job. We unfortunately had another incident of illegal camping and when the tent was obviously abandoned, and unsure of contents and we asked Wealden District Council waste to remove it.

The cherry trees, both those planted by the surgery contractor and the parish council within the COVID memorial blossomed beautifully this year, although one had died and was replaced. Basil Ionides left the land to residents of Buxted for their spiritual and mental welfare, and we hope that the residents of Buxted appreciate how the land is how looked after.

Vivienne Blandford May 2026

3. 2025-2026 Financial Report for AGM 9th June 2026 – circulated prior to the meeting by clerk Claudine Feltham

Resolved: Cllr Blandford proposed that the financial report was accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Marshall and reached unanimous approval.

2025-2026

Background/general information:

For the Ionides Trust we bank with CAF bank and there are two accounts: the cash account and the gold account.

All statements for both accounts are available via email and have also been printed to bring to the next parish council meeting, along with a spreadsheet showing transactions for both accounts. Payments are made via Direct Debit or BACS.

The RFO sets up the payments to be made via BACS and then they are released via Cllr Blandford. The CAF online system has two step authentications in place.

Summary for Ionides Trust members

Financial Period: 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

During the financial year (2025-2026), the Ionides Trust remained in a strong financial position and recorded an overall increase in funds.

At the start of the year, the Ionides Trust held total funds of £139,629.10. Over the course of the year, total income amounted to £26,726.84, while total expenditure was £10,756.99. This resulted in a net increase in funds of £15,969.85, giving a closing balance on 31st March 2026 of £155,598.95.

Income

The Ionides Trust's principal source of income during the year was rental income from the doctors' surgery, including the backdated rent review funds. This amounted to £24,538.80 and remained by far the largest contributor to the Ionides Trust's receipts.

Additional income was received from:

- Gold Account interest: £1,912.34
- Cash Account interest and refunds: £274.70
- Rifle Club annual rent: £1.00

Total income for the year was therefore £26,726.84.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £10,756.99. Spending included a mixture of routine maintenance costs, community support, and one-off purchases.

The main items of expenditure were:

- Community grants: £2,500.00
- Bench purchase: £2,377.84
- Grounds maintenance: £2,461.20
- Litter and safety checks: £1,015.00
- Insurance: £827.15
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Other expenditure included dog bin emptying and collections, bank and cheque charges, tree surveys, signs and printing, and agricultural works.

Accounts

The Cash Account continued to be used for the Trust's day-to-day transactions. It opened the year at £33,405.65, received income of £24,814.50, and incurred expenditure of £10,756.99, resulting in a closing balance of £47,463.16.

The Gold Account remained as a reserve/savings account. It opened the year at £106,223.45 and, with no expenditure during the year, increased through interest received by £1,912.34 to a closing balance of £108,135.79.

Overall position

The Trust ended the year with higher total funds than at the beginning of the period. Income comfortably exceeded expenditure, largely due to rental income and interest earned on reserves. The year's expenditure reflects both normal ongoing maintenance and community support, together with several one-off items.

Overall, the financial position on 31st March 2026 remains sound, with total closing funds of £155,598.95.

Claudine Feltham

Clerk/Finance Officer for Buxted Parish Council – Trustees of The Ionides Trust
22nd May 2026

4. Discussion of future work – See Ionides update following PC minutes 9th June 2026