

# **CASTLETON PARISH**

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2024 AT 7.00PM, Village Hall, School Room, Castleton**

*These Minutes are hereby approved as a true and accurate record of the above meeting following Resolution of the Council at its next Annual Parish meeting to be held in May 2025.*

Signed ..... Chair of meeting

Present: Cllr. A. Darlington (Chair), Cllr. J. Simm (Vice Chair), Cllr. J. Judge, Cllr. M. Eyre, 13 Resident.

Minutes taken by: Cllr. A. Darlington and Cllr. J. Simm

APM 01/05/24 A: The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm, gave a brief introduction and welcome, explaining that this was not a council meeting, but a community meeting at which electors can contribute, for example to report activities or to discuss current issues. Tonight was the biggest turnout the Parish Council had seen at any Annual Parish meeting; the Parish Council thanked the residents for their attendance and interest in the local community.

B: Apologies were received from the Clerk Mrs. T Dale, Cllr. S Adshead, Cllr. N. Spooner, Cllr. J. Stannard, and from three residents.

APM 02/05/24 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto:

A: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting upon agreement of all those present (**Proposed AD, Seconded JS, unan**).

B: There were no matters arising.

APM 03/05/24 Reports and Presentations:

A: The Chair gave an overview of the status of the various Parish Council jobs and projects and was followed by Cllr. Judge, Cllr. Simm and Cllr. Eyre summarising progress on their responsibilities. The Parish Council has a few ongoing responsibilities. These include:

- Caring for certain assets, ensuring they are safe, e.g. a number of wooden seats around the village. One has just been reported and we welcome reports of others. Others include pieces of land, the defibrillator on Castle Street, grit bins, the War memorial and the mower used and maintained by the Playing Fields Committee.
- Looking after the burial ground and other green areas of the village under the care of the council. We are happy with the work being carried out by our contractors Griffiths Gardening on the burial ground, Marketplace, Goosehill Green and the small area near Three Roofs Café. A quote is being sought for repair work to Goosehill Green steps and wall.
- Responding to planning and license applications, although the planning authorities don't have to take our views into account.
- Communications with the community, that we take very seriously. This means providing the village with Castleton Parish Council information and advice on e.g. reporting and listening to the community. Communications include Peveril Post which CPC supports financially, the CPC part of the Village website, the CPC notice board, and a CPC Facebook page. We also regularly use the Castleton village email to get news out to the community. We are always looking to improve.
- Maintaining the Finances of the Parish Council responsibly (see next agenda item).
- We also deal with matters concerning local services, litter, rights of way, for example.

Last autumn, we launched a Village Survey to gather feedback from every house and business in the village on a number of matters raised at Parish Council meetings. There was a very good response of nearly 40% return of surveys, and good attendance at the follow-up meetings. We are beginning to address the top priorities in particular, e.g. speeding, littering, campervan and illegal parking, better public transport links, increasing numbers of holiday lets/homes, as far as our powers allow. The 18 topics of the survey have been “owned” by the seven councillors, three of whom joined last May. The survey results have been used as an illustration of Castleton concerns to local authorities, MPs, and local councillors.

Castleton has been a tourist destination for centuries and the village welcomes visitors, but recently we have seen enormous pressures on the infrastructure and residents. At least with respect to parking chaos, the police, DCC, HPBC, and NT now seem to be listening to our concerns and constructive conversations are being held. Highways have produced proposals for parking restrictions and requested PC feedback before a TRO is launched, an agenda item at the next PC meeting. Visitor management is linked to better public transport, and responsible messaging by tourism marketing sites. In the latter context we have been talking to Visit Peak District and Derbyshire and will attend a Destination Management Plan Workshop.

HGVs on Winnats Pass are still a concern. So far, our suggestions regarding much better signage at the Travellers Rest have fallen on deaf ears but we are not giving up and we have just written to Highways with concerns that the proposed roadworks at Brought to Bradwell could increase this problem.

Other notable events over the past year include efforts to counter the Peak District National Park’s attempts to close four visitor centres including Castleton’s. Thanks to a generous donation this decision has been delayed so that the potential financial viability of the centres can be evaluated, but the threat of closure, or at least the loss of face-to-face visitor engagement, remains.

Storm Babet damaged more than 30 properties in the village, some never affected by flooding before. We are grateful for the support of HPBC and DCC, in various ways, during a very difficult time for some residents. CPC has been working to support the flood wardens with a number of flood resilience measures, some of which are longer term, but which could be very important given the alarming changes in our climate.

Thanks to the other Castleton Parish Councillors and to the following groups who work so hard for the community (with apologies for anyone omitted accidentally).

Village Hall, Playing Fields, WI, Bellringers, the Silver Band, the four editors of the Peveril Post, Care for Castleton, the Village email group, the relatively new First Aid Group, Better Buses for Castleton Action Group, the Flood Wardens, the Garland Committee, and also to Val Burgess for managing the invaluable Village website.

Thanks also to proprietors of Peveril Stores who have recently left for a new chapter. Along with the Post Office, they and their great team of staff were a huge support to Castleton people during Covid and we wish them the best.

Last but not least, huge thanks to Trish Dale our clerk, for the excellent work that she puts in for the Parish Council.

Cllr Julie Judge then summarised her roles. She has been the council for three years during which time there have been a lot of changes on the council. Most recently she has helped with burial ground including acquiring and planting the jubilee roses, investigated the sluice gates for the mill stream, surveyed white line conditions around the village and overgrown footpaths and developed a CPC Facebook page. She requested residents to interact with it and help it to grow. She believes it is very important that the village remains a community, is on the Garland Committee and now represents CPC on the Village Hall Committee. She wants to set up a Repair Cafe.

Cllr Jane Simm (Vice Chair) stressed that the Village Survey has been invaluable, providing data that can underpin approaches to MPs and County Councillors for example. Her focus has been on Climate Action, and she is involved with Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA). More recently she has become very involved in public transport improvements and is, along with Cllr Neil Spooner representing the Parish Council on Better Buses for Castleton Action Group and on the Hope Valley Rail Users group and is also keen to improve traffic issues in the village.

Cllr Matt Eyre put his name forward for council last year because of visitor management and parking issues on the roads. Together with representatives from NT, HPBC, DCC he attended a recent meeting organised by police that addressed parking mainly around Mam Tor. He requested that everyone reports traffic and parking problems. CPC has received proposals from DCC Highways for parking restrictions around the village (see Agenda Item on Ordinary meeting, 30 May). He is researching SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices).

B: In the absence of the Clerk who is also our RFO, the Chair summarised the 2023/24 Accounts which had been presented and discussed at the April meeting and advised that the Accounts had now been successfully audited.

Balances in the accounts on 31/03/24 are as follows:

**Current Account**   £13,472.08  
**NS&I**               £18,671.94

APM  
04/05/23

C: No Presentations, Updates and Reports by Village/Community Organisations were given  
D: No written notices were received or read out

Open Forum – Any Business to Be Raised for Discussion and Invitation for Questions from the Public:

Resident 1 raised SIDs, due to concerns about speeding on Buxton Rd. the resident has held conversations with Highways, DCC who had given her advice regarding their availability to communities and costs. Lead Councillor to follow up with the resident (AP – ME).

Resident 2 raised the topic of reporting traffic issues through the right channels and setting up a database of DCC enforcement emails. A subcommittee of the council was suggested but after general discussion it was felt that the recent initiative of resident 1 (FB group Concerned for Castleton) was a promising way forward. Cllr Judge suggested that informal meetings with CPC could help it evolve.

Resident 3 suggested that communications with police and others should also be fed to CPC. Regarding speeding through village there is some obscured signage for the double bend on How Lane behind foliage that could be pruned back. On Buxton Road overtaking has been observed.

Resident 4 reported traffic doing >60mph between 6-7pm.

Resident 5 said she'd been knocked by cars whilst riding her horse several times.

Resident 1 said she was setting up Speedwatch and is looking for volunteers.

A general discussion followed on permit parking, no overnight parking, use of bylaws to control this with signage. Concerns about visitor pressures, illegal parking and occasionally behaviour were expressed.

Resident 6 wanted to know more details about the proposed Christmas at Castleton, especially visitor management. The Parish council had requested more details of the planning for the event.

There were concerns that the 3-month closure for roadworks between Brough and Bradwell would bring a lot more traffic down Pindale Road.

Meeting Closed 8:25pm

*Mrs T. Dale, Clerk to Castleton Parish Council*  
*clerk@cpccastleton.org.uk*