

CASTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING: 31st October 2024, 7.02pm

Village Hall, How Lane, Castleton

These Minutes are hereby approved as a true and accurate record of the above meeting following Resolution of the Council at its Monthly Parish Council meeting date to be confirmed.

Signed Chair of meeting

In attendance: Cllr. A, Darlington (Chair), Cllr. S Adshead, Cllr. J. Judge, Cllr M. Eyre, Cllr. N. Spooner.
Also present: T. Dale (Clerk), and five members of the public, PCSO W Brockett.

01/10/24	Apologies received from Cllr. J. Simm, Cllr. J. Stannard
02/10/24	No pecuniary interests were declared.
03/10/24	Reports: A: County Councillor's Report: None this month. B: Borough Councillor's Report: None this month C: Police Report: PCSO Will Brockett reported that there had been c12 crimes reported, two of which were within Castleton. Crimes included bikes/motor bikes being stolen, vehicles entered, car windows smashed with purse/handbag and dashcam stolen, cooking oil stolen from a business, vehicle theft and a four-by-four vehicle driven off the road and causing damage to a site of significant interest, with a member of the public being assaulted when driver challenged. Within Castleton, on the 7 th October a vehicle was stolen from Weaving Avenue, the vehicle was abandoned at Sheffield, location of vehicle had been tracked down with the help of ANPR. On the 4 th October at the top of Old Mam Tor suspects stole 56 litres of Diesel from plant machinery over a two-day period. D: Chair Report: None this month.
04/10/24	Public Participation: Two representatives from the Castleton at Christmas Group provided an update to the Parish Council. The Group has been set up to bring life back to Christmas in Castleton. The Group have been amazed at the support given by local businesses and a number of residents. Money has been raised to provide Christmas lights with the aim of bringing unity/conformity to the village. The intention is to spread the lights throughout the village, including less well lit areas. When the lights have been placed the group will assess and identify any dark areas that have been missed and ensure these are included in future years. In addition, lighting is being provided to the Churches and the School. The lights are expected to be installed and then officially switched on 16 November. There will also be a new Nativity at St Edmunds, and a Santa Grotto with a professional Santa will be included for the festivities. The Chair thanked the group for all their efforts and hard work. The Councillors look forward to seeing the results and Castleton lit up for Christmas with uniform lighting, as it was historically. Resident 1 requested input into item J on the agenda "To receive an update on local Crime mitigation, Neighbourhood Watch, ANPR cameras". Chair agreed item to be brought forward under Council Matters. Resident 2 requested input into item B on the agenda "To receive an update on Bus strategy currently being developed". Chair agreed. Resident 3 provided an update on changes to the Village Hall Committee. All parties that wish to resign have now done so and handed over to the new incumbents. The handover has been very smooth, and all has gone well. The new Chair is Steve Hayes, Secretary is Ellie Houlston and Treasurer is Paul Newbury. The next meeting will be held on the 27 th January at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.
05/10/24	Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto: A: The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 26 th September 2024 were then considered, the minutes were approved. (Prop ME, 2nd AD, unan).
06/10/24	Finance: A: The Council's monetary assets are shown below, and the Chair examined and approved the bank reconciliation and the latest current account statement, signed at the end of the meeting:

	Current Account	NS&I
Balance brought forward 01/04/24	13,472.08	18,671.94
Total Income	14,066.00	0.00
Total Expenditure	9,367.55	0.00
Balance	18,170.53	18,671.94
Last Statement Balance 15/10/24	18,380.53	18,671.94
Less un-presented cheques	210.00	0.00
Add uncleared deposits	0.00	0.00
Available Balance 31/10/24	18,170.53	18,671.94

B: To approve and instruct the payment by cheque, of presented invoiced items, including the following:

- i) T. Dale – Clerk’s salary, allowance, mileage plus arrears - £472.87
- ii) HMRC – Employer contributions - £24.40
- iii) Castleton Village Hall – Room Hire - £30.00
- iv) Griffiths Gardening – Grounds Maintenance September and October - £480.00 + £480.00 = £960.00
- v) Peak Park Advertiser – Tender for Grounds Maintenance Contract - £34.20

In addition, it was agreed to include late submission from the following:

- vi) M. Eyre – Reimbursement printing of Transport Survey - £21.00
- vii) N. Topping – Reimbursement Peveril Post - £296.92
- viii) British Legion – Wreath - £50.00

C: To note the income and receipts of the Council:

- i) HPBC – Precept - £5,263.50
- ii) Poor Piece – Rental - £500.00

The above payments, receipts were agreed. (Prop AD, 2nd ME, unan).

D: The Clerk talked the Parish Council through the draft budget/Precept for 2025/26 (copy included as Annex A). It was agreed to reduce the precept required by offsetting £400 providing a reduced increase of 2% on Band D household, in monetary terms this is an increase of 1p per week.

(Prop AD, 2nd ME, unan).

Two representatives from the Castleton at Christmas Group left the meeting

07/10/24

Council Matters:

J: As per request under Public Participation item moved to top of Council Matters.

Standing Orders Suspended.

The following updates on local crime mitigation, Neighbourhood Watch, ANPR cameras was given.

Ed Proctor introduced himself to the Parish Council; after moving to the village he had personally experienced a break in, and this was the instigator in setting up the Neighbourhood Watch group. The group is currently sharing and providing alerts via a WhatsApp group which has eighty-eight members. The group also liaise with other Parishes such as Baslow, Hope etc and with PCSO Will Brockett. The group is set up to share information and raise the awareness of crime in the area.

The Group would also welcome any feedback from the Parish Council.

The Chair noted that there appears to be a recent rise in crime and thought that in part this could be due to increased perception because of local media coverage on Concerned for Castleton Facebook and reports produced by Neighbourhood Watch, which are sent out monthly, and asked if this was the case.

PCSO Will Brockett responded that actual crime figures show a slight reduction, however it is likely the case that the publicity makes it appear crime is on the rise. But this was not a bad thing as it is heightening awareness and can raise crime prevention activities by residents. It is also believed that the Neighbourhood Watch is working well and being managed responsibly.

Moving the subject to ANPR, the Chair advised the Parish Council to having in the past being spoken with PCSO Karl Webster and understanding that PCSO Will Brockett was now taking over the lead role. PCSO Will Brockett confirmed that this was the case.

The Parish Council are happy working in conjunction with the police on the ANPR, but recent correspondence demonstrates how expensive to purchase and install the cameras would be. The Parish Council has had some correspondence with Bamford PC who have been gathering feedback on interest in ANPR cameras from other HV Parish Councils and so far, it seems lukewarm, mainly due to costs. The letter received from Karl estimates £40K for nine cameras, which is too much for Parish Councils to subsidise

alone but with other funds (grants, donations from businesses) this may be doable.

PCSO Will Brocket said he was aware of the financial difficulties and was hoping that other funding opportunities would be available. That a private business has now already purchased three of the cameras reducing the costs to c£4,400 per Parish Council, which he appreciated was still a large sum of money. It is also hoped that following the imminent release of the Police Commissioners plan, funding would become available.

It was asked how much would this help HV security, would police provide the follow up? In response, this would not be a silver bullet and solve all criminal activities, but it helps provide lines of enquiry. The idea of involving all nearby villages is to provide a ring of steel so all cars/bikes can be picked up when entering and leaving the villages.

The PCSO will lead and involve Hope Valley Parish Councils, setting up a meeting in the new year. The Chair thanked Ed Proctor and PCSO Will Brockett for their updates and time.

Standing Orders Reinstated

PCSO Will Proctor left the meeting

A: Following on from the September meeting Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport were contacted to provide numbers of Castleton residents who currently use their services and where they intend to advertise their services in order for the Parish Council to consider and agree a donation.

The response was that there are currently 31 passengers residing in Castleton who are registered and actively using both our volunteer car scheme and regularly going on our trips. They also provide transport for Castleton primary school and transport a resident of Castleton to and from a day centre in Bakewell, three times each week. They advertise via posters, advertising trips, group transport and access to healthcare car scheme, which are displayed on several noticeboards in Castleton, in Peveril Stores, the church and in healthcare surgeries and noticeboards throughout the Hope Valley. In July they attended an open afternoon at the Evelyn Medical Centre and conversed with several Castleton residents about their services.

Regular programme of trips is advertised in each edition of the Peak Advertiser and on our Facebook and Instagram pages they are also posted on Facebook groups in the Hope Valley. An article about their services has been published in the Peveril Post in May and more recently in the Peak Advertiser.

Based on the information received and that the Parish Council has previously provided a donation it was agreed to donate £150.00. (Prop AD, 2nd ME, unan). Clerk to make the arrangements. **(AP – Clerk)**

Standing Orders Suspended

B: An update on the Bus strategy currently being developed was discussed. Cllr Simm and Cllr Spooner attended an Activity Group organised by HVCA along with representatives from other Parishes. Amongst other activities there was a focus on lobbying DCC, the new Major and newly appointed Transport Lead, Ben Bradley, regarding strategy. As well as highlighting by forming of a buzzword/phrase “One Network, One Time, One Ticket”.

Concerns were raised over the number 62 bus that has been funded for a year which ends in spring 2025 and is now under threat. There has been some positive feedback, and they want to retain the service. However there is a funding gap, in that funding opportunities will not become available until 2026.

To support the retention of the service the number of users needs to increase and there is not enough publicity about the service, which is needed to help improve usage and all other suggestions are welcome.

The group were interested about the Parish Council survey, following discussion with Better Buses for Castleton Group they hope to share the results/data.

Cllr Simm and Cllr Spooner were requested to come up with further ideas to support the service. **(AP – JS, NS)**

Resident 2 raised a couple of issues.

1. Residents have welcomed the service going to Buxton but the time between dropping off and returning on the same bus to Castleton is very short. It does not provide enough time to attend appointments such as opticians. The turnaround time needs extending, otherwise you have a long wait for another bus.
2. The sightseeing bus is causing issues, it is far too large for the road and above the weight restriction of 7.5T. The road is too steep and not wide enough to accommodate the bus. Was there an agreement that a bus of 13.7 T could use the road? Was this documented? As it is causing damage to grates and should it have to perform an emergency stop, would potentially put passengers on the top deck in

danger. In addition, other road users need to move aside and off the road.

The bus goes up and down seven times a day and this is increasing congestion, emissions and a health and safety issue, how has this been justified?

The Chair had received verbal confirmation from Councillor Cupit in terms of safety and weight limit that it complied. But another letter will be sent setting out the concerns.

It was also mentioned that buses may be exempt from weight limits.

Further questions were asked, could it not stop at the turning circle? Could it not use the circular route? This was not thought to be viable as it's purely a drop-on/drop-off service for visiting.

the council to draft a letter to DCC relaying the concerns.

Standing Orders reinstated

Resident left the meeting.

C: An update following the PDNPA Planning Consultation Event was given by the Clerk on behalf of Cllr Simm.

The Local Plan Review appears to have been given limited publicity. Cllr Simms attended a drop-in organised by PDNP to put forward views. A lot of the issues raised mirrored those of the Parish Council village survey. Cllr Simm recommended that the survey, with additional comments, should be sent to PDNP. Cllr Simm managed to liaise with the Head of Planning who would be happy to talk to the Parish Council. In addition to the update a letter from a resident was received by the Parish Council on the subject raising concerns and questions.

- The resident found the online process difficult to engage with and complete the questionnaire; after seeking advice the resident is awaiting a response. Due to these issues there are concerns about how extensive the consultation process will be? It was asked if others had similar issues?
- The consultation document raised the same/similar concerns raised in the Castleton survey, with Castleton and the Hope Valley mentioned several times. How adequate the consultation process will be and to what extent the Parish Council will be able to respond to the consultation.
- In particular the resident was concerned about the following: 1. Changes to housing tiers and the exception rule; 2. Changes to planning rules by designating some areas of the NP as recreational areas and hubs with different planning rules; 3. Changes to policies about camp sites, campervan sites, parking and car parks; 4. Changes to policies about mineral extraction. Since these matters do not affect all parts of the National Park equally, they are concerned about how the policy team at the NP will weight or consider the views of those from different areas of the park, a major issue given that the general direction of the proposals is to create planning tiers and specific tailored planning rules for different parts of the park. The resident also asks how the Parish Council will be responding to the consultation? Does the Parish Council think it would be helpful to engage with residents about these proposals, and if so, how can this be undertaken in the short timeframe left before the consultation closes?

The Parish Council share the concerns raised. Feedback from the Chair and other residents agree that the online survey is not user friendly and difficult to use, echoing the experience set out by the resident. They are also concerned about the publicity this exercise has had and concerned about the nearing closing date for completion at the end of November.

With regards to the form it appears it was better to download the PDF document albeit very large, but the layout is in sections (discrete topics) some of which are very relevant to Castleton. By using the PDF users could then identify the topics of concern/s and respond to the survey only against these sections.

Because of the concerns mentioned it is in everybody's interest to complete the survey. Residents should not rely solely on the Parish Councils input as the more residents who complete will add more weight. The Parish Council intends to encourage as many residents as possible to complete the survey. A notice will be on the village noticeboard, email sent via the village email group and to consider other options such as drop-in session. It was proposed to also communicate via the Community Café but as this is not being held until the 20th November it was thought to be too late Councillors to meet as soon as possible to identify avenues of communication, advice and engaging with residents on this matter. **(AP – AD, JS, JJ)**

D: The Parish Council wrote to planning department officers in August on the subject of temporary

campsites, expressing concerns generally about their operation and how they are being monitored. We are aware that among Castleton's four temporary campsites at least one has been operating beyond the permitted 60 days and others have not provided waste disposal facilities for customers. The PDNPA have responded and are relying on members of the public to monitor the situation for them and are also updating the letter they send to landowners, so they are clear on what is permitted, and visiting sites when resources allow.

E: An update on the Castleton Public Transport Survey 2024. Annex A published with the agenda. Currently Cllr Spooner and Cllr Simm are working through lots of comments that came out of the survey. Eighty-eight residents responded, the top five priorities identified are as follows:

1. Access to accurate real time bus and train time information at all stops and online.
2. Reliable, regular connection between Castleton buses and trains at Hope/Bamford.
3. Hourly daytime bus service to/from Sheffield via Hathersage.
4. Frequent local "Hope Hopper" minibus service linking local villages and services.
5. Regular direct bus service to Buxton.

Next steps are to discuss the results with Better Buses for Castleton Group and establish the best way to use the data. To compile reports to be used for lobbying purposes. There are some concerns regarding the number 62 bus (see item B above) and further feedback from residents would be useful, it was suggested that a request should be made via the village email group. **(AP – NS)**

There is a need to consider how the Parish Council co-ordinate with other parishes and HVCA.

A further report to be provided at the next meeting.

F: An update on proposals for TRO was provided. After consulting the community, the Parish Council summary report was sent to DCC Highways following the September meeting. We have not yet received a response. Following a response or further information this item will be added to the next available agenda.

G: An update on the traffic surveys on Buxton Road and Castleton Road was provided with the agenda (Annex B). The survey is now complete and provides the evidence required to support the need for a Speedwatch Group. All feedback has been forwarded/shared with the group.

H: Cllr Eyre updated on the setting up of the Speedwatch group. Following all the work on setting up the group by Sue Speed meetings have taken place to configure the group and the handover process. A meeting with Steve Brent from Bamford Speedwatch Group was found to be very useful. Unfortunately there will be a delay, due to illness, regarding training, which is now hoped to be arranged early in the new year.

Following the agreement on funding the Parish Council has been advised of the cost of equipment and the Clerk asked for confirmation on what was to be ordered and what sizes. It was agreed to discuss this outside of the meeting. **(AP – ME, Clerk)**

Cllr. N. Spooner asked if the issue regarding noise could be included within the Speedwatch group activities. It was clarified that the Group does not have the facility to include noise pollution that this is a different activity. This item to be discussed prior to the next meeting to generate ideas, item to be added to the next agenda. **(AP – NS)**

Resident left the meeting.

I: There was no further update on Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), update to be provided for the November meeting. **(AP – ME)**

K: An update on parking issues in and around the village and signage was given. Clearway signage working and size have now been agreed and shared with PCSO Will Brockett. Network have also provided a quote of £12.50 plus VAT for each sign. Cllr Gourlay has been contacted for the funding of the signs and installation. The funding is likely to come via Community Leadership Scheme on endorsement by the County Councillor. It is hoped a response will be received imminently.

L: An update on litter, including signage on lower Mam Tor Road and overloaded bins in the village was provided.

Signage is proposed for the lower Mam Tor Road and was agreed at the last meeting, specifics of style and wording now being agreed, will consult with landowners who own walls. Overloaded village bins have been an issue at busy times and letters went out to request campsites to require customers to use onsite facilities. There is a movement to have bins where the campervans are, but CPC is not convinced this is the solution.

M: A brief update on the Events Diary was provided. Clerk confirmed, following the last meeting, the organisers for the Endurance Life Event had been contacted regarding possible ground conditions for car parking. The organisers thanked the Parish Council for the information and will take this into consideration. The Chair raised the issue relating to a recent event held in Hope. This caused traffic disruption, with a traffic jam backing up to the traffic lights at the Travellers Rest. It was put forward that we should liaise with Hope Parish Council regarding events that could have an impact on both Parishes. Clerk to contact Hope Parish Council requesting a joint approach. **(AP – Clerk)**

	<p>N: An update on flood management planning was given. The group are waiting a quote for installing non-return flaps on drains on the wall along Waterside. They have recently met with EA regarding dredging of pinch points along Peakshole water, and all being well this will happen early next summer. A resident has kindly donated some of his flood resilience grant to provide a new flood board and fixings to the path along Waterside – this should help reduce flooding down the path.</p> <p>O: An update on Grounds Maintenance tender 2025 was received. The Specification has been updated and forwarded to the existing contractor and other interested parties. An advert for tender has been issued via Peak Advertiser and to date one tender has been received, with the closing date prior to the November meeting where all tenders will be reviewed and an agreement reached.</p> <p>P: An update on the Snow Warden scheme was given. Notification of inclusion for this year has been sent along with request for grit. The grit has been received and all other forms due to be received and forwarded to the Clerk. The Clerk requested that all grit bins belonging to the Parish Council to be filled. This item will be completed and closed prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>Q: The Clerk updated the Parish Council on moving to online banking. This has now been completed, as the Clerk is not a signatory this was actioned and completed by the Chair Cllr. A. Darlington.</p> <p>R: There was nothing urgently to note that was required to discuss and or resolve. Although the Chair asked for an update on Remembrance Day preparations and Cllrs Eyres and Adshead confirmed that poppies and Tommy silhouettes have been placed with a few more poppies to go. The replacement Tommy, following theft last year, will be resited to a different location. The receipt for the wreath was presented and it was agreed to include in this month's payments. (Prop ME, 2nd SA, unan).</p>
08/10/24	<p>Planning:</p> <p>A: The following applications were discussed, and the Clerk instructed to report the Council's views to PDNPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) NP/HPK/0724/0753 - Bulls Head Hotel, Cross Street, Castleton. Proposed first floor extension over existing flat roof area to provide additional letting bedrooms. <p>All Councillors to consider the application and feedback any concerns by the 4th November to allow Clerk to collage and notify Planning by the 6th November. (AP – ALL)</p> <p>B: To note any planning decisions as notified by the Peak District National Park Authority:</p> <p>None this month.</p>
09/10/24	<p>Correspondence and DALC Circulars:</p> <p>A: The following correspondence, received and pre-circulated to Members by email, was noted and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) DCC – Community News, Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum, Flood Risk Management, Mobile Library, DCC Council Plan, Road Closure. ii) DALC – DALC Day Agenda/Documents, Employment Law updates, Training, Newsletters, iii) Democratic Services – Various. iv) NALC – Events, Newsletters, Bulletins, NALC Website. v) PDNPA – Bulletins, Community News, Community Nature Funding. vi) HVCA –Newsletter, Travel and Transport News. vii) HPBC – Heat Hub Events, Possible Funding, Annual Green Day. viii) PPPF – AGM. ix) Rural Housing – Rural Affordable Housing Staffordshire.
10/10/24	<p>Items for the Peveril Post:</p> <p>None this month.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed 8.55pm</p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 28th November 2024 at The Village Hall, How Lane, Castleton.</p>

UNADOPTED

Annex A

Draft Budget Castleton Parish Council 2024/2025

	Budget	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Notes
	2024/25	Apr-Oct 2024	2024/25	2025/26	
Expenditure					
Clerk's salary and expenses	5,500	2,685	5,500	5,600	Pay Award implemented - 2025 award to be agreed
Consumables & Sundries	200	12	30	100	underspend due to clerk using up personal old supplies
Subscriptions (DALC) & Others	350	72	600	350	DALC £472 PPPF £12 ICO £40 Microsoft £60
Ground Maintenance	5,600	4,740	5,600	4,000	budget to be Split with S137 for Market Place
Village Hall	360	200	350	360	10 months @ £10.00 ph. plus additional meetings and possible increase to hourly
Audit (internal)	130	110	110	130	
Training	200	0	100	200	
Peveril Post	1,300	474	1,074	1,300	
Website	120	0	120	120	
Insurance	500	529	529	550	
S137	200	0	200	1,900	Wreath/Christmas Tree Plus Market Place maintenance c£1,700
Sundries	100	0	0	100	No increase.
Projects	0	120	200	0	Paid out of reserves
Non budgeted expenditure	0	426	826	0	Grit bin and Flood Pump
Commercial Waste Burial Ground	0	0	240	240	No previously included
Total	14,560	9,368	15,479	14,950	2.7% increase on 2024/25 budget
Income					
Burial Ground	200	170	250	200	
Rents	1,330	450	1,510	1420	Poor piece £1000. 3 Roofs café £360. Burial Strip £60. 2024 figure includes arrears
Grants	0	0	0	0	
Donations	0	325	325	300	Possibly £750 from filming, Estimated donations for Peveril Post
Total	1,530	945	2,085	1,920	
Capital Expenditure	0	0	1826	0	Grit bin, Flood Pump and Speedwatch equipment
Balance at September 2024					
Natwest	21,202				Includes second payment of Precept
NSI	18,672				

Total	39,874
Estimated additional spend	6,111
Estimated additional income	1,140

Estimated balance	34,903
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Reserves/Projects

General Reserve (covering if no precept/income)	15,000
Projects	15,630
Misc/Contingency/small projects	3,873
Total Reserves	34,503

Estimated balance B/F	400	400
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Precept (includes Tax and parish grant)	13,030
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No. of households	252	252
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Council tax report grant	0	0	Final Payment ceased 2024/25
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Parish grant	1,894	1,894
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Expenses less income	13,030	13,030
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Less grants	1,894	1,894
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Less Balance B/F	609	400
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Precept request	10,527	10,736
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Band D charge	41.77	42.61	Increase of 2%.
			Increase of 2% 82p per week or about 12p per day.

Note: The PC will use misc funds to subsidise the increase in Precept, it is recommended that this is done again providing £400 offsetting allowing for a reduced increase to 2%