CASTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING: 27th March 2025, 7.05pm 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. J. Simm (Vice Chair), Cllr M. Eyre, Cllr. J. Stannard.

01/03/25	Apologies received from Cllr. S. Adshead, Cllr. N. Spooner, PC Alex Simpson
02/03/25	No pecuniary interests declared.
03/03/25	Reports:
	A: County Councillor's Report: None this month.
	B: Borough Councillor's Report: Cllr J. Collins provided the following update:
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): There was a meeting held with High Peaks, but no consultation
	with Derbyshire County Council as no obligation or requirement to do so. There are currently two proposals:
	1. One single unitary council, the entire Derbyshire County excluding Derby City. Derby City to remain in its current form as a city unitary council.
	2. Create two unitary councils to cover the county – one in the north, and one in the south with High Peak in the north.
	The previous option of moving to Manchester is no longer considered an option.
	Option 2 still needs some clarification regarding boundaries, High Peak Borough Council are committed to
	engagement with local communities before the government decisions on the 28th November. Promising more
	frequent meetings with Parish Councils and consultations.
	There will be an election in 2027 and by 2028 High Peak will be absorbed and no longer exist. Staff will be
	TUPED into the new organisation but there is likely to be disruption as some may choose to leave. A meeting covering LGR held with High Peak Borough and HP Parish Councillors, attended by Cllrs
	Collins, Darlington and Simm, also discussed the collection of commercial food waste currently provided to
	establishments with over ten staff or producing two kilos of waste, collected by AES (Service Provider). It is
	proposed that this is rolled out to residents within High Peak by 2026, separating collections for food and recycling.
	Cllr Eyre questioned where/if the waste will be processed. Cllr. Collins responded that there are no landfills
	and that it is expected that the waste will be converted into compost.
	Cllr. Collins stated that food caddies and bins will be provided.
	Cllr. Darlington added that AES review the litter bins regularly, their location, frequency of emptying, and
	whether they should be bigger. They had investigated the big belly bins being trialled by Derbyshire Dales but have deemed them as not cost effective at £3-4K each.
	Standing Orders Suspended
	Resident 1: Asked Cllr. Collins, with regards to the Local Government Reorganisation, how do residents of
	Glossop feel now that the move into Manchester is not an option. Residents have a strong connect to
	Manchester and historic links. Housing was built in Glossop for residents of Moss Side to move in the 70's.
	Cllr. Collins responded that there did not appear to be a strong enough case to sway the decision.
	Standing Orders Reinstated
	D: Police Report: PCSO Will Brockett provided the following report:
	A report on crimes committed in the last 28 days was given. On 10th March 2025, there was a disturbance on Weaving Avenue. A driver trying to park was told she could
	On 10 th March 2025, there was a disturbance on Weaving Avenue. A driver trying to park was told she could not and was also threatened by an individual who was saying that parking was not allowed.
	16 th March 2025, a shed was broken into with fishing rods stolen, unfortunately there was no CCTV.
	21st March - Malicious communications involving blackmail. Enquiries continuing.
	22 nd March 2025, a road rage incident took place on Arthurs Way, the victim was assaulted and mobile phone
	taken. Enquiries continue.
	unten. Enquires continue.

A multi-agency meeting with Highways, DCC, National Trust, Peak Parks and MP Jon Pearce was held with another meeting scheduled this week. The visitor issues are being taken seriously.

Standing Orders Suspended

Cllr. Collins advised that a Tourism Charter has been produced (not published to date). Although the group have no powers to enforce, they are hopeful that the authorities, such as Highways, will act.

Cllr. Simm, asked if Cllr Collins had heard the interview with Phil Mulligan, that it was disappointing that there was no mention of multi-agencies working together.

PCSO Will Brockett advised that following the meeting held on the 11th March with agencies it was very positive, coming up with possible solutions. They are aware and are serious about solutions to the visitor issues. They were made aware that 263 tickets were issued at Mam Tor, that with the use of mobile data it was established there were 1.4 million visitors with 1 million ascending to the top of Mam Tor in 2014.

The representative from National Trust was very good with a "let's get things done" attitude. Consideration was given to extending the car park and better use of the existing car park at Mam Tor.

Working with Highways to define the layby's etc.

It was noted that the price of the parking tickets, £70.00 reducing to £35 if paid within 14 days, is not a deterrent.

Cllr. Collins advised that in Edale a farmer opens his field under the 28-day rule and looks after his field, when it is open, and he helps a lot with addressing parking issues.

PCSO Will Brockett, this has been considered and the possibility of providing farmers with grass protection mats to help farmers open their fields.

The momentum is building with Peak Park and Highways taking these issues seriously.

Cllr. Stannard asked if there were other alternative places to visit rather than considering more parking. Whilst understanding the rationale it is feared by providing more parking it would increase the numbers of visitors rather than solve the problem. Could other places be advertised?

The Chair reminded those in attendance that a letter raising these issues had been sent to the National Trust, Peak Park etc and that it was good that we are hearing the issues echo in recent communications. It is hoped that a strategy can be agreed, and the organisations have the strength to see it through.

With regards to the Parking fines, it was asked if these could be increased as they were not a deterrent. PCSO Will Brockett believed the rates were set by the Government, Cllr. Collins believes that the current rate charge is below the maximum therefore they could be increased if it were agreed.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council should send another letter to keep up the pressure. (AP – Clerk, AD)

Other updates:

Local Officers will be setting up road safety campaign for the A57 Snake Road following four fatalities last summer.

Visits were paid to Hope Valley College and the Primary School giving Road Safety advice.

Following the set up of the Castleton Speedwatch Group two training sessions have been completed.

The Chair thanked PCSO Will Brockett for the update and wished to send, on behalf of the Parish Council, a thank you to Paul Newbury and Sue Speed for all their hard work.

Cllr. Eyre asked PCSO Will Brockett about dogs on lead signage, as there have been incidences where unleashed dogs have been seen in inappropriate areas. Who is responsible for producing and installing signs? Cllr. Simm added that there had previously been signs for ground nesting birds and lambing season.

Cllr. Collins interjected that farmers tend to place signs.

PCSO Will Brockett, was of the opinion National Trust also place signs.

It was agreed that dog advice is generally included in the Countryside Code.

Standing Orders Reinstated

E: Chair Report: The Chair advised the Parish Council that at this point in the meeting consideration is being given to communicating a list of all the meetings, not included in updates, attended by Councillors: This month:

Cllrs. Darlington and Simm attended High Peak Parish Forum held in Buxton.

Cllr. Darlington attended The Town and Parish Liaison Forum held in Matlock.

04/03/25 | **Public Participation:**

Resident 1: Asked the Parish Council what impact the doubling of Council tax on second homes will have on residents. The Chair explained that this was an item on the agenda (Finance G) and will be explained at the point the item was discussed.

Resident 2: Questioned the Parish Council on the current situation regarding public transport considering recent events including the loss of a bus service provider, especially the 271 and 272 service. Who will be the provider and what are the timetables?

Cllr. Simm responded: It has been a difficult week; it is understood that the 271 and 272 will be operated by

High Peak Buses. Cllr. Simm attended a meeting at the beginning of March which was attended by the Chief Executive and Marketing Manager regarding transport organised by the Hope Valley Climate Action Group and advised that the village Better Buses for Castleton are keeping the village updated via the village email group.

Resident 2: Responded, that there were a lot of informational messages via the email group some very long and confusing. As it was still unclear, if they want to travel to Sheffield tomorrow would the service be running and where could they find the timetable? That they were concerned that this has highlighted there was no contingency plan which has been demonstrated with the collapse of Hulleys.

Cllr Simm responded that things had been put in place and that subsidised routes were up and running. Commercial routes will take longer as there is a requirement to tender for these routes as they were a commercial operation.

Resident 1: Shared their opinion that not enough people use these services and that this was an example of why small electric buses should be used.

The Chair advised that an email had been sent to the Environment and Transport Director specifically about the 272 services as this is a commercial route. Following the meeting a response was received confirming that High Peak Buses has made a commitment to replace service 271 and 272 on a like for like basis and that these will start in the next few days. Updates can be found on their website at <u>Bus Services High Peak</u>. *Resident 2 left the meeting*.

05/03/25 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto:

A: The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 27th March 2025 were then considered, the minutes were approved. (Prop AD, 2nd ME, unan).

06/03/25 | 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:

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	Current Account	NS&I	
Balance brought forward 01/04/24	13,472.08	18,671.94	
Total Income	17,835.36	0.00	
Total Expenditure	15,770.00	0.00	
Balance	15,537.44	18,671.94	
Last Statement Balance 14/03/25	16,065.64	18,671.94	
Less un-presented cheques	528.20	0.00	
Add uncleared deposits	0.00	0.00	
Available Balance 27/03/25	15,537.44	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, milage and Holiday Pay £536.87
- ii) HMRC Employee Contributions £44.80
- iii) Castleton Village Hall Room Hire £60.00
- iv) PPPF Subscription £12.00
- v) Griffiths Gardening Ltd Grounds Maintenance £480.00
- vi) V. Burgess Reimbursement Registration Domain Village Website £23.98

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

- i) Lean3D Ltd Network signage and installation (Funded Cllr Gourley) £312.00
- C: To note the income and receipts of the Council:
 - i) Jepson Funerals Burial Ground £300.00
 - ii) Strip of Land behind Burial Ground Rent £60.00
 - iii) PROW Reimbursement repairs to footpath £495.00

All payments, receipts were agreed. (Prop ME, 2nd JS, unan).

D: A discussion on the requirement to purchase a replacement Laptop took place, Clerk explained that the current laptop is no longer working properly, multi colour lines appearing and generating noises when in use. As a safety measure all work has been backed up with access via another device for emails, until the issue is resolved. A quote has been received for a replacement laptop at a cost of £479.00 with an additional £90.00 for set up, updating and installation of all software, email accounts and transfer of all documents from the old laptop to the new machine. The Parish Council agreed that the replacement was required, and the quote was reasonable.

(Prop AD, 2nd ME, unan).

E: A brief discussion on the Clerk attending a Burial Ground Training Course at a cost of £120.00 took place. It was agreed the course was required and therefore Clerk to attend.

(Prop AD, 2nd JS, unan).

F: The Clerk updated the Parish Council that the 2024-25 financial year end accounting was to be commenced and finalised together with the internal audit. The Clerk requested that the Parish Council consider and agree, as in previous years, to apply for an exemption certificate as income and expenditure was less than £25K for the year. After consideration it was agreed to apply for exemption. (Prop ME, 2nd AD, unan).

G: The Parish Council were requested to note the change to the 2025-26 precept calculation for households would decrease by 15% due to the introduction (inclusion) of tax on second homes. The Parish Council were notified that fifty-two households met the criteria for the increase in Council tax therefore the divisor for residents' payment of the Parish Council Precept, by adding the additional fifty-two, resulted in a reduction of 15%.

H: Authorising signatories for the N &SI savings account was discussed.

It was unanimously resolved that Cllr. Angela Darlington is Treasurer.

It was unanimously resolved that Clerk Trish Dale is Secretary.

It was unanimously resolved that Cllrs Jane Simm, Matthew Eyre and John Stannard would be additional signatories.

(Prop ME, 2nd JAS, unan).

07/03/25 Council Matters:

A: An update on responses to CPC letter on visitor pressures in Castleton and Hope Valley was covered earlier in the Police Report. In addition the Chair provided the following update.

The recent letter sent from the Parish Council to different agencies covered illegal parking, impact of sporting events, littering and conservation, and messaging. Responses have been received from Duchy of Lancaster, National Trust (NT) and Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA).

Regarding the impact of parking for events, many organisers have not been contacting the Parish Council, providing events information so the Parish Council could have more visibility and could assist and/or advise. This also is the case with the NT, as such it has been agreed that information will be shared between CPC and NT, following a meeting organised by Cllr. Collins, with NT and Hope Valley Parish Council representatives.

PDNPA updated the Parish Council on their meeting with NT, Derbyshire County Council and the police held on 11th March. The plan is to focus on Winnats/ Mam Nick area as a model for controlling illegal parking and erosion. They are considering options for more parking capacity here and in the wider Hope Valley area, alongside improving public transport, they also intend addressing joined up communications between all partners and encouraging responsible visits. This meeting was seen as a good start, plan to involve the wider stakeholders and publicly recognising visitor pressures.

The Chair noted that the work being done by Concern for Castleton on litter, gathering evidence and recent publicity via BBC Radio Derby has given some excellent coverage of litter issues in the area. On behalf of the Parish Council a thank you to all the team for their efforts and for the invitation to participate in the radio interview. A thank you also for the good job done by Cllr. Simm.

The Parish Council is also looking into providing space for "visit responsibly" messaging. Consideration being given to refreshing the two noticeboards near the visitor centre. Quotes are being obtained. $(\mathbf{AP} - \mathbf{AD})$ The Parish Council were asked if there were any questions.

No questions raised.

- B: The Clerk advised the Parish Council that MP Jon Pearce has agreed to a follow up meeting, post his meeting being held this week with other interested parties. Date of meeting to be confirmed. (AP Clerk) C: The update on Local Government Reorganisation and next steps was covered earlier in the meeting, see Borough Council Report.
- D: An update on the Castleton Public Transport Survey 2024 and Bus strategy currently being developed was issued with the agenda as Annex A. Cllr Simm had intended to update on the current situation with Hulleys at this point but it was discussed earlier in the meeting under Public Participation.

Cllr Simm updated the Parish Council that the meeting organised by Hope Valley Climate Action at the beginning of March was very productive, discussions around the number 62 bus, High Peak uses and Peak Park. Some interesting ideas and marketing plans were put forward. There are also concerns around chaotic public transport timetables once the current situation has been resolved and everything is back up and running.

With regards to the recent situation with Hulleys it is believed that this is a wake-up call that something needs to be done to give assurance in the future.

The Parish Council were asked if there were any questions.

No questions were raised.

Standing Orders Suspended

Resident 1: Raised concerns of health and safety in relation to the tourist bus, people are not wearing seat belts, standing whilst taking photos, pedestrians forced over to the side of the road due to width of the bus. Cllr Simm was asked to provide a contact so the resident could send an already drafted letter on this matter. (AP - JS)

Standing Orders Reinstated

E: There was no update on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) available. A current progress report had been requested but no response received prior to the meeting. Response to be chased. (**AP – AD**) *Standing Orders Suspended*

F: A discussion regarding HGVs on Winnats and in village took place, PCSO. W. Brockett reminded that to seek a prosecution, clear evidence was required, clear photo, dash cam images, date, times, and willingness to provide a statement within 14 days of the event.

Cllr. Eyre questioned if nonservice buses (coaches) are weight restricted. PCSO. W. Brockett confirmed that they were but difficult to prosecute as route used by services buses making it impossible to justify them not being allowed.

Standing Orders Reinstated

The Chair asked if incidents are still being reported despite the replacement of the sign at the top of Winnats Pass. The response was unfortunately yes. It was recommended that another letter requesting signage at Travellers rest should be sent. Already sent is a request for signage near the Castle pub to Derbyshire County Council Highways. (AP – Clerk, AD)

Standing Orders Suspended

G: An update on Speedwatch group was provided earlier in the meeting, see Police report. A further update was given by PCSO Will Brockett, as the first practice sessions have taken place. The location near Weaving Avenue was decided on as it was a quieter area more suitable for training. 200 vehicles were measured during the training session.

Cllr Simm asked if permanent signage throughout the village stating that this was a Speedwatch area could be installed as experience shows that this works on speeding at times when a group is not active. PCSO Will Brockett agreed to research what signage was available and from whom, although felt it was likely to be the responsibility of the Parish Council to purchase and gain permissions for placement of signs.

H: An update on the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) project was given by PCSO Will Brockett, following a meeting held at Bradwell last month. Original plan revised to reduce costs and implement in two stages, making it more affordable and justifiable to the electorate. Currently waiting on agreement from some Parish Council and Police and Crime Commissioner on funding. Contacted Tideswell and Grindleford for their views and engagement. Grindleford have suggested they may possibly provide a donation of £500 but to be confirmed.

Standing Orders Reinstated

I: The item on parking issues in and around the village and signage were discussed earlier in the meeting, see Police Report.

PCSO Will Brockett left the meeting.

J: In relation to a Community Response Plan. The Chair advised that this was mentioned at a recent flood warden training event. Castleton has a Flood Plan, written by flood wardens and constantly under review. This plan prepares the village for flooding events. However other emergencies could also affect the village and to this end the Parish Council should develop a more generalised plan to cope with these. A Community Risk Register is available for each region and the 2022 Derbyshire version online is currently being updated. It grades risks for each region from low to very high. As an example the High Peak very high risks are power failures and pandemic, and examples of high risks are fluvial flooding, severe space weather, storms, etc. The Chair believes that the Parish Council should initiate a Castleton Community Response Plan, which once agreed and drafted further input and involvement from other relevant village groups would be anticipated. Clerk to email template/background documents to Councillors and add to the next agenda for further discussion and identify a Parish Councillor lead on this initiative. (AP – Clerk)

K: A brief discussion on the Events Diary took place. Three events needed further clarification, The Bradwell

Hilly Billy Sportive, it is still unsure as to the date of the event, no information is available and contact details are elusive. The Peak District Birthday Bash, further information on contingency parking required, unfortunately the contact for the event has since left the organisation. Prior to leaving Chris had kept the Parish Council informed of events, providing feedback post event and always been available to answer any questions. At present the Clerk is trying to identify who is the new contact. (AP - Clerk).

The third being Peak District Ultra, date of event to be confirmed. Information on the event and route have been obtained and shared with the Parish Council, it is now thought to have a minor impact on Castleton although there are concerns on the number of participants, which mixed with visitors/walkers could be an

It has also been agreed that details of events will be shared with National Trust and the Duchy of Lancaster who have not received any requests for sporting events crossing their land. Event organisers have a duty to liaise with landowners and a responsibility to liaise with parishes.

Cllr. Collins and Resident 1 left the meeting.

L: An update on flood management planning was received. A request for funding has been submitted to the Flood Resilience Team at Derbyshire County Council. This is for a shortlist of several small items of equipment including another pump and for the fitting of non-return valves along Peakshole Water.

M: The item on an update on options for moles on Goosehill Green deferred to the next meeting.

N: The Peak District National Park Authority Local Plan Review and Call for Sites Consultation was announced on 10th March. The Call for Sites is part of the statutory process of the Local Plan Review and is described as an opportunity for landowners, developers, community groups, and individuals to suggest sites to be considered for the development of new homes and businesses, nature recovery or designation as Local Green Space. The process does not determine whether a site can be developed. Examples of land uses are affordable housing, care homes, allotments, community-led renewable energy. More details at https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/policies-and-guides/the-local-plan/call-for-sites. Closing date 5th

May. The Chair advised that all Councillors should look at the details and participate. (AP – All)

O: A quote was received refreshing the Plants and Planters at Castleton Burial Ground. For the planters, the Parish Council are considering a combination of Lavender, Rosemary, Heather, Rose, and African Lily. These will provide shrubs that look good year-round along with perennial flowers, all of which are hardy. The cost for the plants/planters is £267.00 with a cost of £200.00 plus VAT for labour. After a brief discussion, the quote was accepted and agreed.

(Prop AD, 2nd JS, Unan).

In addition a request was received from Candle Factory for pruning of trees adjacent to the property to prevent damage. The pruning will cost between £300 - £600 plus VAT depending on the work required, Cllrs Darlington and Eyre will visit the burial ground and agree what pruning is required. (AP - AD, ME) (Prop AD, 2nd ME, Unan)

P: Cllr. Stannard provided an update on village wild flowering. Cllr Stannard proposed a wild flowering project throughout the village. Why? It is part of the Parish Council's pursuit to biodiversity. Where, what locations would be used? Various locations, Parish Council owned land including the burial ground, playing field, enthusiastic residential gardens, and others. How would locations be decided? Cost and ease of access would need to be considered along with other considerations.

If was suggested that an area of the burial ground be used as a trial. To start the project, the area to be identified, a box or boxes of wildflower seeds, bags of compost and seeding medium be purchased along with netting to protect the seeds from birds. As the planting is time critical it was asked that the Parish Council agree to the project with an initial budget for the trial of c£75.00. It was agreed to commence with the trial. (AP - JAS)

(Prop JAS, 2nd ME, Unan)

Q: The discussion on Parish Councils communication channels was deferred to next meeting.

R: An update on dates for April, and May Annual Parish Council and Annual Parish meeting was received. The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting to be held on Thursday 17th April at the Village Hall.

The Annual Parish meeting to be held on Monday 19th May at the Village Hall

The Annual Parish Council meeting and May Ordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday 28th May – venue to be confirmed. (AP - Clerk)

	S: A discussion on VE Day 8 th May took place. The Parish Council considered if and what could be done to		
	mark the occasion. If was suggested to ask the Church Bell Ringers if they could ring the bells, and to ask		
	Steve Hayes for advice/consideration and to plant the Silver Birch tree along with a plaque.		
	It was agreed a Silver Birch Tree (donated by Cllr Eyre), and plaque would be installed at the burial ground.		
	Griffiths Gardening to be asked to obtain the tree sapling and plant the tree. (AP- ME, AD)		
	(Prop ME, 2 nd AD, Unan)		
	T: There was nothing to note or urgently required to discuss and or resolve.		
08/03/25	Planning:		
	A: The following applications were discussed, and the Clerk instructed to report the Council's views to		
	PDNPA:		
	None this month.		
	B: To note any planning decisions as notified by the Peak District National Park Authority:		
	None this month.		
09/03/25	Correspondence and DALC Circulars:		
	A: The following correspondence, received and pre-circulated to Members by email, was noted and		
	discussed:		
	i) DCC – Community News, Derby and Derbyshire Housing, Holiday Activities, Parish and Town		
	Liaison Forum Invitation, Agenda and Presentation Slides, Public Experiences of Local Pharmacy Services, Mobile Library, Smoke free Derby and Derbyshire.		
	ii) DALC – Newsletters, February Forum.		
	iii) Democratic Services – Various.		
	iv) NALC – Events, Newsletters, Bulletins.		
	v) PDNP forum – Current Issues, Copy of Presentation.		
	vi) HVCA –Newsletter, Newsletter Extra, Carbon Emissions.		
	vii) HPBC – Possible Funding Opportunities, VE/VJ Days 80.		
	viii) Cllr Collins – Notes from meeting between National Trust and HPBC.		
	ix) PDNPA – Consultation on the Updated Local Validation List, Host of Peak District Organisation,		
	Local Plan, National Park Authority approves restructure.		
	x) HPB Forum – Link to Council Report on English Devoluntion/Local Government Devolution, Agenda		
	xi) Breedon – Liaison Committee meeting notes.		
10/03/25	Items for the Peveril Post:		
	Chair/Parish Council report (AP – AD, JS)		
	Meeting closed 8.55pm		
	The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 17th April 2025 at The Village Hall,		
	How Lane, Castleton.		