

CASTLETON PARISH

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19th MAY 2025 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, five Resident.

Minutes taken by: Cllr. J. Simm.

APM **A: Introduction and Welcome.**

01/05/25

The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting:

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for Castleton to raise any matters of concern to them which relates to their local community.

B: To appoint the Chair and Clerk of meeting.

The Chair of the Castleton Parish Council chaired the meeting, and the minute taker was Cllr. Simm, with contributions from other Councillors

C: To note persons, present and to consider accepting any apologies for absence.

Five residents attended. Cllr. Adshead, Cllr. Spooner and Cllr. Stannard sent apologies.

APM

02/05/25

Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto:

A: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting upon agreement of all those present (Proposed JS, Seconded ME, unan).

B: There were no matters arising.

APM

03/05/25

Reports and Presentations:

A: Parish Council Chair Annual Report for 2024-25.

The Chair summarised some of the key Parish Council (CPC) activities in the year since last May, others to be covered by the councillors present. The Chair began with the reminder that parish councils are legal entities in the first tier of local government. Castleton Parish Council has seven councillors and one clerk who (from the Good Councillors Guide) is “the proper officer of the council in law”. Our clerk Trish Dale provides advice and administrative support, delivers many actions in support of CPC meeting decisions and is also our RFO (responsible financial officer). The Parish Council aims to work as a team to provide a service to the community.

Amongst ongoing responsibilities are:

- Caring for a number of village assets such as the War memorial, benches installed by the Parish Council, grit bins, and certain pieces of land including the Village Burial Ground on Hollowford Road. Regular maintenance of the green spaces is one of our biggest expenses.
- We are notified of planning and license applications and respond to these as appropriate.
- We listen to and communicate with the community and try to take concerns forward to the relevant authorities.
- The printing of the Peveril Post is funded by the Parish Council with the help of donations from local sponsors.
- We also deal with matters concerning local services provided by HPBC and DCC such as street litter, rights of way, and parking.

To achieve as much as we can, we network at many meetings and forums and meet key people

from the various agencies. We recognise and welcome a number of new initiatives from within the community, i.e. Concerned for Castleton, Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch who are all making a huge contribution to the well-being of the village.

A quick run through of some hot topics of the past year.

Visitor pressures, as a result of inadequate signage, overnight campervan parking, large, organised events and ineffective messaging, and resulting in illegal car parking, obstructions and increased littering in and around the village. The Parish Council have networked and engaged with relevant authorities and organisations including the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), Visit Peak District and Derbyshire, High Peak Borough Council (HPBC), Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and National Trust (NT). Jon Pearce MP accepted the invitation to join our January Parish Council meeting and answered questions on this and other topics such as Local Government Reorganisation for nearly two hours to a large gathering of local people. New signage has gone up at the top of Winnats to explain the significance of clearways and on the Treak Cliff road to try and discourage littering. The council and NT are now communicating information on events. PDNPA are convening a multi-agency visitor management meeting in June and have invited CPC.

At the request of CPC, DCC carried out two **speed surveys** on Castleton Road and Buxton Road last year that confirmed perceptions of significant speeding at both locations but particularly at Buxton Road. The newly set up Speedwatch group is now gathering further evidence.

A TRO (traffic regulation order) was proposed by DCC Highways last year and CPC liaised with DCC and held an open evening in the Village Hall to ask for local feedback. It was a very well attended event and following submitted feedback via CPC, DCC have amended certain details. The TRO is about to enter its formal phase during which there will be a formal consultation with the community.

An increasing **issue with HGVs** on Winnats Pass and in the village came to a head with serious damage to a cottage on Back Street in June last year. Given that HGVs still appear in the Market Place, DCC have recently agreed to place advisory signage on Buxton Road on the junction of Castle Street and Cross Street.

Thanks to local volunteers a Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp has been set up that is already proving useful in alerting residents and businesses to crime as it occurs in the local area. CPC has had discussions with other Hope Valley (HV) parish councils and our Safety neighbourhood team (SNT) to agree steps to increasing a network of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (**ANPR**) cameras around the HV and Breedon are also contributing to the scheme to help make the valley less attractive to criminals.

Late last year the PDNPA launched their **Draft Local Plan** and the first consultation phase in the form of a very unwieldy 200-page questionnaire. This document is important because it will provide the template for future planning decisions in our area. CPC responded to this on behalf of the village, at the end of November. A second consultation round is expected later this year.

The flood wardens continue to improve **flood resilience** by liaising with the Environment Agency (EA) and DCC. For example, a new flood warning system was set up late last year, based upon water levels at Perryfoot Farm and Goosehill bridge, and sounded (on phones) for the first time on 1st January, fortunately without need. Non return valves are to be fitted to drains on the riverbank between Goosehill bridge and Newhall Bridge, to be kindly funded by Breedon. We hope that DCC will provide additional resilience equipment.

At the **burial ground** the planters have just been refreshed, a wildflower area for pollinators has been created and a large holly bush has been removed from the cremation memorial area. There are plans for a second birch tree to commemorate VE/VJ day.

Before handing over to the other councillors the Chair said that over this last year, it feels as though Castleton as a community has grown and accomplished a lot through the combined effort of the Parish Council and a number of other very hard-working organisations.

Thanks to the other Castleton Parish Councillors, to Trish Dale our excellent clerk, and to all the groups who work so hard for the community including Village Hall, Playing Fields, WI,

Bellringers, the Silver Band, the editors of the Peveril Post, Care for Castleton, the Village email group, the First Aid Group, Better Buses for Castleton, the Flood Wardens, the litter pickers, NHW, Speedwatch, Concerned for Castleton, the Garland Committee, our churches, Castleton Christmas and also to Val Burgess for managing the invaluable Village website. Thanks also to our local HPBC Councillors, our DCC Councillor and to our Safer Neighbourhood Team.

There were a couple of questions from the floor. A residents asked if red lines were on the final TRO proposal, answered as far as we know yes.

VE Day celebrations and the planting of a silver birch tree. Flagged up that VJ Day is on the next Parish council agenda.

The Chair invited Cllrs present to provide a brief update on some of their responsibilities.

Cllr Simm outlined some of the developments with public transport and bus updates and the role of Better Buses for Castleton (BBFC) and CPC in lobbying for survival of 271/2, 173 and 62. She emphasised that monthly updates are provided to the CPC and published online via the village email group, village website and posted on the CPC noticeboard. They are also sent to the action group, Better Buses for Castleton on which Cllrs Simm and Spooner represent the CPC. Concerns remain about the open-top bus using Winnats and will continue to discuss with DCC.

A resident asked about Visitor Management and controlling the use of cars in the PDNP.

Visitor tax was mentioned and what is being done to encourage park and ride. Cllr Simm reported that the Transport Hubs proposed at Bamford and Hope Stations were still a possibility but that very little had been done to progress this further.

Cllr Eyre provided an update on signage at Mam Tor and the top section of Dunscair Farm.

APNR was discussed and the Chair thanked Breedon for their contribution to finding this.

Reference was also made to the replacement of signage at the top of Winnats and new signage to be placed in the village advising HGVs to not enter the Market Place.

A resident asked about the PDNPAs stance on conservation and preservation of the countryside. Their aims state put first but she asked if this was correct.

Discussions took place on the 60-day rule and pop-up parking which has been picked up by the media, also the concept of higher parking fines which Jon Pearce is looking into.

Suggestions of booking car parking spaces and a business levy were made, also bylaws to prevent overnight parking on roads and in car parks.

Cllr Judge reported back on her commitment to supporting residents in the village. She also highlighted her involvement in the setting up of Concerned for Castleton and of Speed watch and informed the meeting that 7 sessions had taken place recording 47 speeding. We understand that our MP, John Pearce will attend one of the Speed watch sessions.

A resident agreed the Speedwatch results were encouraging and that noise was also an issue.

The replacement of the Concerned for Castleton Facebook page with a reporting website was discussed.

B: Finance and 2024-25 Accounts, Audits and Annual Return.

This was not covered at the meeting due to no NSI statement being available.

C: Presentations, Updates and Reports by Village / Community Organisations

A member of the Village Hall Committee provided a report. As part of kitchen improvements, there is new racking in the kitchen. The Committee continues to be very active in the village and emphasised the monthly Community Café as an integral part of village life.

Cllr Simm reported back on a new community action group, Reduce – Reuse – Recycle being set up with the support of the Parish Council, to help residents and businesses in Castleton, Hope Valley with reducing waste, reusing and recycling. It also aims to exchange ideas about products with a lower environmental impact. A website is being created on the Village website which is trying to reduce the amount of waste we produce in the village. It aims to be informative, collaborative and keep abreast of changes in

legislation around recycling and waste management. The group will launch its activities in the near future so lookout for announcements! Thanks go to other residents for leading on this.

D: Written Notices.

There were no written notices presented.

APM
04/05/25

Open Forum - Any Business to be Raised for Discussion and Invitation for Questions from the Public:

Questions, issues were raised earlier in the meeting as subjects were raised as part of the reports and presentations above.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.

*Mrs T. Dale, Clerk to Castleton Parish Council
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