

# CASTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7:00pm

### At the Village Hall, 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. J. Judge.

Also present: T. Dale (Clerk), PC. A. Simpson, PCSO W. Brockett, 3 Resident.

01/02/26	Apologies received from Cllr. Adshead, Cllr. M. Eyre, Cllr. N. Spooner, Cllr. J. Stannard, Cllr. J. Collins, Cllr. C. Farrell.															
02/02/26	Cllr. J. Judge nonpecuniary interests declared Council Matters N.															
03/02/26	<p><b>Reports:</b></p> <p>A: County Councillor’s Report: None this month.</p> <p>B: Borough Councillor’s Report: Cllr. J. Collins advised the Parish Council prior to the meeting Council Tax is going up by 2.99% (maximum allowed is 3%)</p> <p>C: Police Report: PC A. Simpson was please to report there were no incidents in Castleton to report with the exception of a few parking issues.</p> <p>It was asked if this was due to the installation of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras throughout Hope Valley Villages.</p> <p>In response: Whilst it was difficult to attribute to the ANPR it is believed they are having an effect.</p> <p>Resident 1 raised the issue of HGV vehicles travelling up Winnats, recently another resident had to help three vehicles reverse down as they could not turn or pass through Winnats. What was happening with signage advising drivers that it is not passable. Current signage is not viable and does not compare to others such as those in Bamford.</p> <p>In response: The Police are aware and have conversed with Derbyshire District Council (DDC) Highways, unfortunately to no avail. That they are due to provide a report to DCC Highways and will include the issue of signage at the Travellers Rest.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Parish Council had also had correspondence with DCC Highways, with the outcome being that no action would be taken on this matter.</p> <p>At a previous meeting it was discussed to investigate if the Parish Council could obtain permission from a landowner in Brough to install a Parish Council advisory sign for HGV Drivers. Cllr. Eyre advised prior to the meeting that initial contact has been made, and any updates will be provided to the Parish Council.</p> <p><i>PC. A. Simpson, PCSO. W. Brockett left the meeting.</i></p> <p>D: Chair Report: The Parish Council were advised that both the Chair and Cllr. Simm had attended the Peak Park Parishes Forum, topics covered included a new litter collection policy and the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) which is an item on the agenda.</p>															
04/02/26	<p><b>Public Participation:</b></p> <p>Resident 1 thanked the Parish Council for reporting the noisy, loose-fitting manhole cover at Newhall Bridge, which has now been repaired.</p>															
05/02/26	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto:</b></p> <p>A: The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were then considered, the minutes were approved. (Prop AD, 2nd JS, unan).</p>															
06/02/26	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>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:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;"></th> <th style="width: 30%;">Current Account 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026</th> <th style="width: 30%;">NS&amp;I</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Balance brought forward 01/04/25</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£14,567.79</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£18,859.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16,848.41</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£188.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£18,380.88</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£13,035.32</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£19,047.76</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Current Account 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	NS&I	Balance brought forward 01/04/25	£14,567.79	£18,859.17	Total Income	£16,848.41	£188.59	Total Expenditure	£18,380.88	£0.00	Balance	£13,035.32	£19,047.76
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Last Statement Balance 13/02/26	£14,297.32	£19,047.76
Less un-presented cheques	£1,262.00	£0.00
Add uncleared deposits	£0.00	£0.00
Available Balance 26/02/26	£13,035.32	£19,047.76

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

- i) T. Dale – Clerk’s salary, allowance, additional training hours (7) and expenses (Netwise, Domain, .gov email set up £160.50) - £493.84+£160.50 = £654.34
- ii) Castleton Village Hall – Room Hire - £30.00
- iii) RJA contract ltd – Repairs to footpath (PROW) - £594.00
- iv) DALC – Burial Course - £120.00
- v) Griffiths Gardening Ltd – Hedge reductions - £960.00

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

- i) Goosehill Hall – Donation to Peveril Post - £50.00
- ii) NS&I – Interest - £188.59

All payments, receipts and requests were agreed. (Prop JJ, 2nd JS, unan).

D: It was resolved to engage Internal Auditor for 2025/26 annual accounts. **(AP – Clerk)**

07/02/26

**Council Matters:**

A: The Chair provided a brief update on responses to visitor pressures in Castleton and Hope Valley. Following the meeting with Hope Valley Parish Councils a joint letter has been sent to the Mayor to consideration which focused on the following:

- **Transport and travel** – improving public transport and connectivity for residents and visitors.
- **Visitor impact** – while welcoming visitors to the beautiful area in which we are privileged to live, raising awareness of the Countryside Code through more effective communications.
- **Thriving and sustainable communities** – while welcoming visitors, ensuring that the tourist economy does not destroy the communities that are the hearts and souls of the Hope Valley
- **Nature and the environment** – conserving the landscape and reducing carbon emissions.

The full correspondence can be found in Annex A.

A second meeting of the Hope Valley Parish Councils will be hosted by Castleton Parish Council. Clerk to arrange date/time and location. **(AP – Clerk)**

B: Cllr. Simm provided an update on Buses, Public Transport and Active Travel. It was reported back at the High Peak Town and Parishes Forum that the Mayor's Transport Survey had received over 5500 responses. This includes a collective response from the CPC, plus our action group, Better Buses for Castleton. The Mayor was particularly keen to hear from rural communities and in our collective response we drew on our own consultations with residents through the 2024 Castleton Public Transport Survey and strongly encouraged participation in the Survey.

Additionally, the Parish Council were informed, after Cllr. Simm spoke to those working at the Bus Station, that the installation of a new bus shelter with real time live information including the installation of solar panels was expected to take place some 18 months ago. It is now being installed and expected to take 3 weeks to completion as the work also includes improving accessibility.

Aside from the bus shelter, there is still a problem with buses idling, which is not good environmentally, the current signage requesting drivers not to idle is becoming worn and in need of replacement.

C: The Chair updated the Parish Council on the Peak Cluster project. There has been a lot of activity on social media, which is engaging public interest which is not surprising as it is a contentious issue.

The Parish Council has submitted a response to the consultation, neither agreeing nor objecting but for clarification on some matters. It is felt at this stage there are still many unknowns, there is a lot to digest and is a complicated matter. Until further information/clarification is sought the Parish Council can not make an informed decision. A copy of the response can be found in Annex B(a).

In addition to the response to the consultation, further questions have been raised with Breedon, these can be found in Annex B(b).

Concerns were raised regarding a lack of consultation with locations that will have the biggest impact, Wirral and Whaley Bridge. It is believed that these areas are becoming more active in questioning the project.

A further meeting on the project (phase 2) will be communicated shortly. In addition, correspondence received raising concerns regarding the project from a resident.

	<p>D: A brief update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) was given by Chair, following the submission of the proposals by DCC and borough and district councils, the government decision process is underway. It was noted the impact on other areas that have already moved gone through the process. Whilst losing a tier within the current structure, another tier is being introduced. The new tier is called Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC) is made up of a Parish Councillor (representing all Parish Councillors), and representatives e.g. from the police, and community groups. More detail is needed on what the committee will be responsible for and what impact it will have on Parish Councils.</p> <p>E: An update on repairs of the two noticeboards in main car park and bus turnaround was given. Unfortunately, it was discovered that one of the noticeboards was removed by those working on the installation of the bus shelter following instruction to remove it by Derbyshire County Council. Discussions are continuing to resolve the situation. <b>(AP – AD)</b></p> <p>In addition, it has been noted that the Parish Council Noticeboard needs repair, there is water ingress and need to revarnish. It was resolved to repair the Noticeboard. <b>(AP – AD)</b> (Prop AD, 2<sup>nd</sup> JJ, Unan)</p> <p>F: There were no additions or update to the events diary.</p> <p>G: The repairs to Dirty Lane under the Public Rights of Way (PROW) scheme have now been completed. Clerk to complete the process requesting the funding from Derbyshire County Council. <b>(AP – Clerk)</b></p> <p>H: The Chair on behalf of Cllr. Stannard shared the results of the pictures drawn by the school children to be used by the Parish Council for signage to replace the existing dog foul signage. It is expected that all pictures will be used on a rotational basis. A further update to be provided by Cllr. Stannard at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked if the pictures, where space allows, can be posted on the Parish Council noticeboard on a rotational basis. In response, due to the pictures for the signage being part of a Parish Council initiative, they are permitted.</p> <p>I: An update on flood resilience activities was given by the Chair. In March, the Flood Wardens are meeting with representatives of Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council and Environmental Agency the aim being to investigate the potential use of flood barriers at Eades Fold/Vicarage Lane.</p> <p>J: An update on the Village Defibrillator was provided prior to the meeting. The pads attached to the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) are due to be replaced as coming to expiry date. It was proposed to replace them with the spare set and purchase new replacements. The cost would be covered by the money donated via collections at a cost of c£76.00. It was agreed (Prop AD, 2<sup>nd</sup> JS, Unan) Clerk to liaise with organiser. <b>(AP - Clerk)</b></p> <p>K: Prior to the meeting Cllr. Eyre provided a brief update on speeding prevention items currently under review. Derbyshire police liaison for Speedwatch has asked the Parish Council to hold fire on putting the Speedwatch signs up, as negotiations are taking place with Derbyshire County Council Highways on this.</p> <p>L: Prior to the meeting Cllr. Eyre provided an update on the agreed replacement of the missing “Welcome to Castleton” entrance sign. A quote for the sign has been obtained at £165.00 plus VAT and will read “Welcome to Castleton Please drive carefully”. A cost of £50 plus VAT was quoted for installation, however, Cllr. Eyre nominated himself and Cllr. Adshead to install the sign. It was agreed to purchase and install the signage. (Prop AD, 2<sup>nd</sup> JS, Unan)</p> <p>Clerk was asked to check the materials being used. <b>(AP – Clerk, ME, SA)</b></p> <p>M: The Parish Council discussed and agreed provisional dates for the upcoming Annual meetings. Clerk to circulate dates to all Councillors for agreement. <b>(AP – Clerk)</b></p> <p>N: Following receipt of correspondence from the Castleton Garland Committee the Parish Council considered their request to support their submission applying for “The Castleton Ancient Garland Ceremony” to be entered into the Inventories of Living Heritage within the UK. This will offer support safeguarding the tradition, raise awareness, increase recognition, and provide visibility. The Parish Council resolved to support the application. Clerk to advise the Committee of the decision. <b>(AP – Clerk)</b></p> <p>Clerk requested permission to offer the Three Roofs Café the renew the contract for the use of outdoor space for tables and chairs. It was resolved. (Prop JS, 2<sup>nd</sup> AD, Unan) <b>(AP – Clerk)</b></p> <p>Cllr. Eyre, prior to the meeting, advised that all grit bins have been replenished and provided a list of locations and that Businesses have been contacted with regards to providing donations to Peveril Post for advertising.</p>
08/02/26	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p>A: The following applications were discussed, and the Clerk instructed to report the Council’s views to PDNPA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) NP/HPK/0126/0018 - Winnats View, Back Street, Castleton. Proposed alterations to existing driveway and front/side garden areas including new retaining walls. Prior to the meeting questions were raised with the planning department. It is regrettable that all the excavation has taken place so there is no opportunity to mitigate the potential harm to potential archaeological remains. The addition of several drains leading to the pump is likely be an improvement on the</li> </ol>

	<p>existing situation for surface water. Amended drawings have now been uploaded to the planning portal. Following the response no further comments were made by the Parish Council.</p> <p>ii) NP/HPK/1225/1249 - Treaks Pringle Farm, Buxton Road, Castleton. Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use - Change of use of land for stationing of residential mobile home is lawful - please refer to supporting planning statement. No Objections Raised.</p> <p>iii) NP/DDD/1225/1235 - Hope Works, Pindale Road, Hope, Derbyshire. Proposed lateral extension of the Limestone Quarry to extract up to thirteen million tonnes of limestone for the purpose of continued on-site cement manufacture and the quarry's restoration.</p> <p>Due to the amount of documentation and complexities of the proposal it was felt that further research/understanding was required before an informed decision was made. Councillors to consider the proposal and feedback to the Clerk. <b>(AP – All)</b></p> <p>Correspondence received from a resident requesting taking into consideration impact on residents living close to the site.</p> <p>NP/HPK/0226/0189 - Castleton Visitor Centre, Buxton Road, Castleton. Advertisement consent – Fascia Sign – Further research/understanding was required before an informed decision was made. Councillors to consider the proposal and feedback to the Clerk. <b>(AP – All)</b></p> <p><b>Late submission:</b></p> <p>iv) N P/HPK/0226/0201- Bulls Head Hotel, Cross Street, Castleton. Demolition of external fire escape, infilling of service yard and construction of first floor letting bedroom extension, together with new external fire escape and kitchen ventilation and extraction system. No comments Registered</p> <p>B: To note any planning decisions as notified by the Peak District National Park Authority: None this month.</p>
09/02/26	<p><b>Correspondence and DALC Circulars:</b></p> <p>A: The following correspondence, received and pre-circulated to Members by email, were noted and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) DCC – Briefing notes re-Public Transport, Community News.</li> <li>ii) DALC – Training – Martyn’s Law.</li> <li>iii) NALC – Events, Newsletters, Bulletins, Annual Conference.</li> <li>iv) HVCA –Newsletter.</li> <li>v) Staffordshire Moorlands District Council– Agenda, Supplements.</li> <li>vi) PDNP Foundation – Impact Report, Latest News.</li> <li>vii) PPPF – EMCA – Mayors Transport Plan.</li> <li>viii) HPBC – HP Parish Forum Agenda, LGR and Start of Statutory Consultation, Possible Funding Opportunities.</li> <li>ix) Derbyshire Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – Report Fraud, Tough New Cyber Laws.</li> <li>x) HP &amp; HV Community Rail Partnership – Visit the Peak District by Train.</li> <li>xi) Travelling Light – Switzerland in the Peak District.</li> </ul>
10/02/26	<p><b>Peveril Post:</b></p> <p>None this month. Next closing date for items is mid-April</p>
	<p>Meeting closed 8:06pm</p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at The Village Hall, Castleton.</p>

Questions to Mayor Claire Ward from eight Hope Valley Parish Councils: We wish to address priorities for our communities in the context of her own aims and ambitions for EMCCA.

We represent the parish councils of Bamford with Thornhill, Bradwell, Castleton, Derwent and Hope Woodlands, Edale, Grindleford, Hathersage and Hope with Aston.

The Hope Valley is a rural area, with stunning landscapes, rich heritage and traditions and is a highly popular visitor destination within the Peak District National Park and as such our focus is on:

- Transport and travel – improving public transport and connectivity for residents and visitors
- Visitor impact – while welcoming visitors to the beautiful area in which we are privileged to live, raising awareness of the Countryside Code through more effective communications
- Thriving and sustainable communities – while welcoming visitors, ensuring that the tourist economy does not destroy the communities that are the hearts and souls of the Hope Valley
- Nature and the environment – conserving the landscape and reducing carbon emissions

We welcome your Transport Plan to guide investment and improve transport across our region, and the recent consultation that will feed into this process.

We also welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Peak Partnership Summit (PPS) workshop convened in Bakewell on 19 November. The discussions around the five overarching themes of the workshop generated lists of challenges, opportunities and aspirations, most of which resonate strongly with our own priorities for our communities. We are keen to work with you in order to see these develop into concrete actions and results.

Your 30 January newsletter mentions the new “At the Centre of it All” marketing campaign, targeting London and the South-East and positioning the Peak District and Derbyshire as a relaxing getaway. While a great idea for other parts of the East Midlands, we are concerned that this marketing campaign will add still more pressure on National Park landscapes and communities without benefit to the local economy (even London visitors won’t necessarily stay for more than a couple of days). This initiative may be a direct outcome from the 19 November PPS Workshop.

Question 1: Can you assure us that there will be further outcomes from the workshop that will improve the experience in and around the Peak District National Park for both visitors and residents? Are there plans or other on-going conversations, and what are they?

We see all of our foci being inextricably linked, the success of one being dependent on the other, and here are two examples. Improving public transport and active travel infrastructure to boost connectivity locally and more widely across our region will facilitate low-carbon access for visitors and reduce pressure on roads and car parks, while providing mobility for residents of all ages. Secondly, raising awareness of the Countryside Code messages<sup>1</sup> in order to reduce visitor impacts on rural communities and the environment can be addressed alongside visitor destination marketing campaigns and projected improvements in public transport, with a clear welcome, engaging material and different forms of communicate [https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en\\_GB/countrysidecode/](https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/countrysidecode/)

Certain measures are happening locally. For example, the Peak District National Park and the National Trust are deploying rangers to meet visitors in the open countryside and the Landscapes Unlocked project<sup>2</sup> will, through old photos, inform the public about the 75-year-old history of the National Park. Hope Valley Parish Councils are taking action through High Peak Borough Council administered grant schemes to improve messaging in villages. However, we can see further opportunities.

Your Transport Plan and wish to improve public transport in rural areas provides a very clear opportunity for a much wider dissemination of the visitor offer and the Countryside Code, side by side, through installing video and static displays that engage adults and children on buses and trains, at bus and train stations including travel hubs. Some appealing resources already exist<sup>3</sup>. This approach could capture neighbouring mayoral authorities, and content should include not only the current visitation hotspots such as Castleton and Mam Tor, but also wider Peak District destinations earmarked for development such as Buxton.

Question 2: Does your Transport budget currently cover Countryside Code messaging and balanced destination marketing, and if not, do you agree that it should be included?

Social media, TV and cinema are powerful mechanisms that should be fully harnessed to advertise the Countryside Code alongside the visitor offer of the Peak District. Sadly, online marketing of visitor destinations rarely presents Countryside Code messaging with any enthusiasm.

We will continue to work with other stakeholders including PDNPA, district and borough councils and the National Trust with the aim of developing effective local plans. However, we recognise the indispensable role that EMCCA could play in helping us to achieve our ambitions for a much wider engagement of the general public and request your involvement.

### a. Castleton Parish Council response to the Peak Cluster consultation

We are concerned about the project because potentially there will be major impacts on the quality of life for our local communities and all those further west while construction is ongoing and once the project is operational.

Notwithstanding the consultation process there are still many unknowns and details missing. Without these it is not possible to form an opinion on whether the project is a good or bad one for our area or indeed for the UK. We therefore have a list of questions, which is not exhaustive.

- 1 What is the proposed scale of the proposed infrastructure – the AGIs and locally CC at Breedon? We suspect it is large, and it would be useful to see images of examples with likely heights and footprints. What does a typical CC facility and an AGI look like, as expected in the context of the Peak Cluster (PC) project?
- 2 The PC information suggests 3+ years of construction of the entire pipeline + AGIs + CC infrastructure. How long will it take to construct the CC facility at Breedon? What, in detail, will this mean for our communities in terms of disruption, road congestion, noise, air pollution?
- 3 Once installed, what is its (infrastructure) likely environmental impact on landscape, ecology and quality of life for adjacent communities of Castleton, Bradwell and Hope?
- 4 The PC time scales suggest that Breedon will have very limited limestone resources locally by the time the PC project reaches completion/operation. Will the carbon capture (CC) infrastructure be put to some other use? If so, what will that be? If not, how can the investment be justified?
- 5 Is CC technology really proven at industrial scale, or is this an expensive experiment? Are large risk factors built in? Should the project go ahead, are there contingency plans and at what point would those need to kick in?
- 6 UK government infrastructure projects are notorious for massive overspend. Does the balance sheet truly add up?
- 7 What operational “rules” must be in place for CC to meet optimal efficiency and how realistic are these? How long will it take for this project to show a significant reduction of carbon emissions compared with those today?
- 8 Will the project generate more jobs at Breedon going forward, and what impact will it have on the local economy? During construction and even afterwards, there could for example be an adverse impact on the tourist economy.

### b. Questions to Breedon

Peak Cluster are currently consulting with communities along the route of the proposed infrastructure for this project. It is the first time that some residents have heard about it and not surprisingly, concerned social media reactions are gathering momentum.

We are responding to the Peak Cluster consultation (copy attached) but would also like to ask a few questions directly to Breedon.

1. Concerning the carbon capture element to be located at Breedon, our parish councillors attending the Peak Cluster 12 February drop-in at Bradwell heard that the Peak Cluster project will deal with all planning permissions, but that Breedon will select the specific technology to be installed at the Hope Valley cement works. Please can you explain
  - a. The options, your criteria for selection, and how tried and tested the various options are?
  - b. What safety concerns should nearby communities have?
  - c. What is the footprint of the carbon capture infrastructure and what visual impact will it have?
  - d. Once installed, what will be the likely environmental impact, for example noise on nearby communities, in addition to what is there already?
  - e. During installation and connection to the Peak Cluster pipeline, precisely what kind of disruption is expected for communities of the Hope Valley (for example road congestion and noise), where will this be, and over what period of time? How will you mitigate these impacts?
  - f. To what extent will you be using your rail networks to transport construction materials in order to avoid congestion on roads?
2. The first section of the pipeline will travel through the existing quarry to the south of Castleton. What environmental disruption will there be during installation, and how will these plans sit alongside other plans to re-use the quarry in a sustainable way?
3. What other options have you considered to reduce your carbon emissions and how do these stack up alongside carbon capture with the Peak Cluster project?
4. What processes will you put in place to liaise effectively with the local communities throughout the duration of the project?