

CASTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING: 26th March 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. Eyre, Cllr. J. Judge, Cllr. Stannard.
Also present: T. Dale (Clerk), Cllr. Collins, 1 Resident.

01/03/26	Apologies received from Cllr. Adshead, Cllr. N. Spooner.
02/03/26	No Pecuniary Interest was noted.
03/03/26	<p>Reports:</p> <p>A: County Councillor's Report: None this month.</p> <p>B: Borough Councillor's Report: Cllr. J. Collins advised the Parish Council of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Peak Cluster: There are ongoing discussions taking place across various platforms. Derbyshire County Council is opposing the proposals, and a meeting has also been held in Whaley Bridge. Cllr. Collins informed the Parish Council that other schemes across the County have already been implemented to reduce carbon emissions. For example, in Wrexham an Ultra Low Carbon Cement plant has reduced emissions by up to 85%. Cllr. Collins will forward links to the Clerk for circulation. (AP – Clerk)Food Waste and Paid Garden Waste Collections: The introduction of charges for Food Waste and Paid Garden Waste collections (£45.00 per annum) has been delayed until September.The Number 62 Bus The Number 62 Bus appears to have become busier. Derbyshire County Council and the Mayoral Office have been asked whether there is evidence to support this perception. If utilisation has increased, clarification is being sought on future plans. Cllr. Simm noted that it was understood the 62 Bus was expected to cease in 2026; however, due to the apparent increase in usage, the scheme will be extended. It is understood that the Mayor is working directly with the operators. The situation remains confusing due to the transfer of departments and responsibilities between Derbyshire County Council and the East Midlands County Combined Authority. Hope Valley Climate Action, along with Anne Robinson, have met with the Mayor, and a summary was provided with the agenda. Cllr. Simm offered to send further information to Cllr. Collins. (AP – JS).Reorganisation of Land and Facilities: The Parish Council was advised that, as part of the reorganisation, Parish Councils and community groups will be offered the opportunity to take ownership of current land and facilities—such as village toilets—from High Peak Borough Council. The Chair asked what land and facilities within Castleton may be included. Cllr. Collins will investigate and update the Parish Council. <p>C: Police Report: None this month.</p> <p>D: Chair Report: The Chair advised the Parish Council that there were numerous activities being worked on at present and covered under Council Matters.</p>
04/03/26	<p>Public Participation:</p> <p>Resident 1, following Cllr. Collins' update questioned whether the Parish Council should consider taking ownership of a small parcel of land at Weaving Avenue. This land is currently being maintained by a village group through the planting of flowers, but it is not being regularly mowed.</p> <p>Additionally, several concerns were raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Cycle Routes – Bamford to Castleton: Following a recent survey, cycle routes from Bamford to Castleton were included. Many years ago, a similar initiative resulted in cycle lanes being added to pavements for safety reasons. If this is expanded to include roads in Castleton, issues may arise due to the narrow roads, existing congestion from parked cars, heavy traffic, and misdirected heavy goods vehicles. Cllr. Simm advised that an update had been provided with the agenda as follows:

“We are aware that over 350 local residents responded to the public consultation last year. Derbyshire County Council commissioned consultants, Jacobs, to prepare an Active Travel Plan for the Hope Valley, which includes an improved walking and cycling route between Bamford and Castleton. To date, the three reports have not been placed in the public domain and are undergoing internal review. We have been informed that once this is complete, the findings will be communicated to stakeholders.”

2. Potholes Outside the School:

The Parish Council was advised that two large potholes outside the school require urgent repair, as cars are swerving to avoid them, which will be a concern when pupils return to school. Cllr. Simm advised that the potholes have been reported. The Clerk noted that the more residents who report these issues—alongside the Parish Council—the higher the likelihood that repairs will be prioritised.

05/03/26

Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto:

A: The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 26th February 2026 were then considered, the minutes were approved. (Prop AD, 2nd JS, unan).

06/03/26

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 26 th February 2026	NS&I
Balance brought forward 01/04/25	£14,567.79	£18,859.17
Total Income	£17,628.41	£188.59
Total Expenditure	£20,739.22	£0.00
Balance	£11,456.98	£19,047.76
Last Statement Balance 15/03/26	£12,718.98	£19,047.76
Less un-presented cheques	£1,262.00	£0.00
Add uncleared deposits	£0.00	£0.00
Available Balance 26/03/26	£11,456.98	£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, allowances plus expenses - £454.17
- ii) HMRC – Employee Tax Period 9 – 12 - £62.98
- iii) Castleton Village Hall – Room Hire - £30.00
- iv) Network – Noticeboard Refurbishment - £990.00
- v) Network – Replacement Village Sign - £198.00
- vi) Derbyshire ALC – Annual Subscription - £549.65

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

- i) Raise the Bar – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- ii) M. Eyre – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- iii) Castleton Village Hall – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- iv) Taylor Place – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- v) Treak Cliff – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- vi) Peak Cavern – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- vii) Castleton School – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- viii) Coach House – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- ix) Speedwell Tavern – Donation to Peveril Post - £25.00
- x) N. Rowland – Rental Strip of Land behind Burial Ground - £60.00
- xi) DCC – PROW reimbursement - £495.00

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

07/03/26

Council Matters:

A The Chair provided a brief update on responses to visitor pressures in Castleton and the wider Hope Valley. In January, a group of Hope Valley parish councils met to discuss tourism pressures, with transport also raised as a linked issue. A letter was subsequently sent to the East Midlands Mayor, who replied on 9th March. The response will be discussed at a further meeting of the Hope Valley parish councils, with the date to be confirmed. Key points paraphrased from the Mayor’s letter include:

- They are open to exploring the use of the transport network to share Countryside Code messaging

and balanced visitor information, particularly as wider plans develop and as they consider how transport, visitor experience and environmental responsibility can better support one another in future.

- They are committed to harnessing the benefits of tourism in a way that does not harm local communities or fragile landscapes.
- They understand concerns about marketing campaigns increasing pressure on the National Park without corresponding benefit, and are preparing to introduce an overnight visitor levy, with revenue reinvested to support both local communities and the visitor experience.
- Concerns about environmental pressures in the Hope Valley align with their wider regional agenda.

A meeting with local farmers took place earlier in March due to concerns about access, particularly during lambing season and with the holiday period approaching. Some questions relating to parking rules were forwarded to the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Team, who have provided helpful responses; other matters will need to be addressed separately. The CPE Team has confirmed that they will be on patrol over the Easter weekend.

A list of relevant contact numbers for reporting issues to include parking, fires/barbecues etc will be collated and shared with residents through the Parish Council's usual communication channels. **(AP – AD, All)**. Regarding the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), the Parish Council is awaiting an update but expects progress soon.

Cllr. Judge entered the meeting.

Standing Orders Suspended

Cllr. Collins reported on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) relating to fires and barbecues, which gives authorities the power to issue fines to offenders. However, it remains unclear which body is responsible for enforcing the policy and whether there is sufficient willingness to do so.

Signage is available through High Peak Borough Council, and Cllr. Collins will investigate the possibility of placing signs at the bottom and top of Old Mam Tor Road (Odin Mine) and at Treak Cliff.

In addition:

Cllr. Eyre suggested that local farmers may be willing to assist by placing signage on their land. Cllr. Eyre will liaise with the farmers. **(AP – ME)**

It was recommended that a letter be sent requesting that enforcement of the PSPO be upheld, including the issuing of fines to those who light fires or use barbecues. This letter should also be sent to Cllr. Gourlay at Derbyshire County Council. The Chair will draft the letter. **(AP – AD)**

Standing Orders Reinstated

B: Cllr. Simm provided an update on **Buses, Public Transport and Active Travel**, included with the agenda at Annex A.

As discussed earlier under the Borough Councillor's Report, there remains some confusion regarding roles and responsibilities due to the transfer of services between Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and the East Midlands County Combined Authority Infrastructure Team (EMCCA). For example, the current work to repair and update the bus shelter was initiated by DCC; however, the DCC contact responsible for this work is now employed within the Bus Infrastructure Team at EMCCA.

Councillors were asked if they had any questions. No questions were raised.

Following discussions with Anne Robinson, it appears there is limited awareness of the *Switzerland in the Peak District* initiative. This project includes a five-year feasibility study exploring integrated transport solutions. The plan has been shared with the Mayor and neighbouring Mayors, but the project team has been informed that available funding is very limited.

The Parish Council was asked whether they would be willing to assist the project team in raising awareness of the scheme, potentially by hosting an open information session followed by a Q&A in collaboration with the team.

Standing Orders Suspended

Cllr. Collins advised that the equivalent scheme in Switzerland took 10 years to implement, making this a very ambitious project. However, the project team is also seeking some "quick wins," such as integrated ticketing.

Standing Orders Reinstated

The Parish Council agreed to support a drop-in session to be held in Castleton.

C: The Chair provided an update on the Peak Cluster project. The Parish Council has submitted further questions to both the Peak Cluster project team and to Breedon; these were attached to the minutes of the

February meeting. Breedon has responded with some initial answers, although detail remains limited as they are still in the process of selecting the carbon-capture technology that would be installed at the cement works. Breedon has offered a meeting with the Parish Council, and this offer will be accepted.

The project may also be included as an agenda item at the forthcoming Hope Valley parish councils meeting. It was noted that the motion submitted by Cllr. Ruth George to the Derbyshire County Council Full Board meeting on 25th March prompted almost an hour of debate and made for interesting viewing. DCC voted to support her motion to oppose the Peak Cluster project on safety grounds.

D: A brief update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) was given by Chair. A decision on which LGR Plan to adopt is expected from Government soon. Until the decision is made, there is little further information to report.

Standing Orders suspended

Cllr. Collins advised that decisions are expected in July. In the meantime, significant work is taking place behind the scenes, including identifying and resolving issues with various IT systems and managing transfers from DCC to EMCCA. It was also noted that High Peak Borough Council, in its current form, will cease to exist in 2028.

Standing Orders Reinstated

E: The Chair provided an update on the repairs to the two noticeboards located in the main car park and at the bus turnaround. These are the two *Welcome to Castleton* noticeboards.

The noticeboard in the main car park is currently being repaired, with some components removed for off-site work. The noticeboard that had previously been removed is to be replaced by EMCCA, who have now taken over responsibility for bus-infrastructure matters from DCC.

High Peak Borough Council has agreed to extend the deadline for the grant, and the Parish Council is exploring the development of a new village plan for the noticeboards.

The Chair will chase an update on the replacement noticeboard, as previously agreed verbally and confirmed by email following the discussion **(AP – AD)**.

In addition, as agreed at last month's meeting, a quote for £230.00 had been received for repairs to the Parish Council noticeboard due to water ingress and the need for re-varnishing. It was resolved to accept the quote.

(Prop AD, 2nd JJ, Unan)

The Chair will advise the contractor to commence the repairs. **(AP – AD)**

The Parish Council were further advised that because additional varnishing in a darker colour is needed, due to rain staining, the strapline also needs replacing at an additional cost of approximately £30.00. It was resolved to include these additional repairs.

(Prop AD, 2nd JJ, Unan)

The Chair will organise the additional works. **(AP – AD)**

Cllr. Stannard raised a question regarding the contents of the two refurbished noticeboards now that they are owned and managed by the Parish Council. It was noted that, moving forward, the noticeboard should be used for promotion of e.g. Countryside Code and local culture events for both residents and visitors, rather than for the advertisement of businesses.

It was further noted that a new map of the village will need to be produced. A working group will be formed to agree what should be included on the updated map, as the current version identifies businesses that no longer exist. To ensure longevity, it was suggested that the new map will include only landmarks—such as Peveril Castle and caverns—rather than commercial premises.

F: There were no additions or update to the events diary.

G: Cllr. Stannard provided a brief update on the replacement dog-fouling signage. Ideas for how best to use the drawings created by the school children are still being considered. To ensure the project is inclusive, one option being explored is creating a collage incorporating all the pictures with a strapline. It was also discussed that all drawings will be used on a rotational basis and displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard.

As noted in previous meetings, the Head Teacher has expressed interest in using the children's artwork on a banner for the front of the school. The Chair asked whether the school would be willing to accept a donation from the Parish Council to fund the banner. Cllr. Stannard agreed to speak with the school and will provide an update at the next meeting. **(AP – JAS)**

Cllr. Collins left the meeting.

H: The Chair provided an update on flood-resilience activities. Representatives from the Environment Agency (EA), Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Resilience Team, and the Alliance (High Peak Borough Council) met with the flood wardens on 24th March to view an inflatable flood barrier that may be suitable for use in the village. There are advantages and disadvantages to the system, and further discussion will be required.

	<p>The meeting also provided an opportunity to raise questions about other high-risk areas in the village and known pinch points along Peakshole Water. A separate meeting with additional EA representatives, focusing on surface-water flooding, has been arranged for 31st March.</p> <p>Cllr. Simm asked whether the resilience activities also included addressing issues caused by leaves blocking drains. The Chair confirmed that this was included.</p> <p>I: Cllr. Eyre provided a brief update on the speeding-prevention measures currently under review. As mentioned at last month's meeting, the Derbyshire Police liaison for Speedwatch has asked the Parish Council to hold off installing the Speedwatch signs while negotiations with Derbyshire County Council Highways continue. This remains ongoing.</p> <p>The Speedwatch team has commenced this year's activities.</p> <p>J: Cllr. Eyre provided an update on the replacement of the missing "Welcome to Castleton" entrance sign. The signage has now been purchased and received. On inspecting the site, it was noted that the screws from the previous sign are still present but are extremely rusty and unusable. Additional assistance from someone with more experience will be sought to help install the new sign (AP – ME).</p> <p>In addition: Cllr. Eyre advised the Parish Council that he had spoken to the family with farmland in Brough regarding the possibility of placing HGV signage. Unfortunately, they are unable to accommodate permanent signage, but they recommended that the Parish Council speak to Hope Parish Council, who they believe own the land between the Stone Enclosure and Pinfold.</p> <p>Cllr. Eyre will liaise with Hope Parish Council. (AP- ME)</p> <p>K: The item on testing of electrical connection for the Christmas tree was deferred until the next available agenda.</p> <p>L: The item on Community Resilience plan was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting. The Chair reminded the Councillors to read the paper produced by Cllr. Spooner and feedback. (AP – All)</p> <p>M: A letter received regarding parking and the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was discussed. Concerns were raised about the potential impact of the TRO on residents living at The Island, as it may worsen the existing parking difficulties in that area.</p> <p>When residents are unable to park closer to their homes, they have previously used Buxton Road, where parking was free. This will no longer be possible if the TRO is implemented. Prior to this, residents were able to pay a small fee for a parking permit at the High Peak Borough Council car park, but this option was withdrawn several years ago.</p> <p>After discussion—including support in principle for an on-street residents' parking scheme for residents at The Island—concerns were raised about setting a precedent for charging residents for parking. The Parish Council also felt that, in this situation, the alternative strategy would be to ask High Peak Borough Council to consider an arrangement for residents parking at the car park.</p> <p>It was resolved to write to DCC in support of the resident's request and to High Peak Borough Council on this matter. (AP – AD, Clerk)</p> <p>N: There was nothing of urgency that required discussion and or resolution.</p>
08/03/26	<p>Planning:</p> <p>A: The following applications were discussed, and the Clerk instructed to report the Council's views to PDNPA:</p> <p>None this month.</p> <p>Further discussion took place on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) NP/DDD/1225/1235 - Hope Works, Pindale Road, Hope, Derbyshire. Proposed lateral extension of the Limestone Quarry to extract up to 13 million tonnes of limestone for the purpose of continued on-site cement manufacture and the quarry's restoration. <p>The Chair, prior to the meeting, circulated a copy of the planning document highlighting various areas requiring consideration. It was felt that further information is needed on several aspects of the plan. A précis will be compiled in response to the planning application, including (but not limited to) additional questions regarding noise, vibration, the impact of south/south-west winds on dust dispersal within the village, and the potential effects on the local geological structure that could influence water displacement—particularly relevant given the increased flooding experienced in recent years.</p> <p>B: To note any planning decisions as notified by the Peak District National Park Authority:</p> <p>None this month.</p>
09/03/26	<p>Correspondence and DALC Circulars:</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"> i) DCC – Community News, Holiday Activities, Mobile Library. ii) DALC – Newsletter, Derbyshire LGR. iii) NALC – Events, Newsletters, Bulletins.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv) HVCA –Newsletter. v) Staffordshire Moorlands District Council– Agenda for Economy and Growth Select Committee, Agenda for Development Control Committee, Supplements. vi) PPPF – Presentation and Information. vii) Cllr. Collins – Next Round of Community Climate Change Grants. viii) Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner – Question Portal Now Open on Serious Violence against Women and Girls, Women and Girls Invite to Share Their Experience of Gender Violence. ix) HVCA – Newsletter. x) Travelling Light – Switzerland in the Peak District. <p>Clerk to advise attendance of CLLRS Darlington, Simm and Judge will be attending the High Peak Parish Forum being held on the 16th April. (AP – Clerk)</p>
10/03/26	<p>Peveril Post: Parish Council report to be provided by mid-April. (AP-AD, JS)</p>
	<p>Meeting closed 8:55pm The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 30th April 2026 at The Village Hall, Castleton.</p>

UNADOPTED