

CASTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING: 1st October 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. J. Simm (Chair), Cllr. A, Darlington (Vice Chair), Cllr. N. Spooner.

Also in attendance was the Clerk, Mrs T. Dale, Cllr. C. Farrell.

	The Chair welcomed all present and noted that the meeting had been rearranged following the deferral of the 24 th September meeting.
01/09/26	Apologies received from - Cllr Ashead, Cllr Eyre, Cllr Judge, Cllr. Stannard.
02/09/26	No Pecuniary Interest was noted.
03/07/26	Reports: A: County Councillor's Report None this month. B: Borough Councillor's Report: Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Further to the initial communications regarding the suspension of the LGR, information remains vague about the next stages of the process. <i>Standing Orders Suspended</i> Cllr Darlington advised that communications from both Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) have now been issued, providing statements that offer useful information regarding the current position. Although broader clarity on next steps remains limited, these statements help outline the situation as it stands. It was suggested and agreed that copies of both statements should be made available on the Parish Council website and Facebook page to ensure residents have access to the most up-to-date information. (AP. Clerk, JJ) <i>Standing Orders Reinstated</i> Waste Management & Recycling Following the deployment of the garden waste bin scheme, some residents have experienced issues receiving the stickers confirming prepayment. Cllr Farrell advised that, in the interim, residents should inform the bin crews if they have not yet received their sticker, so collections can continue until the matter is resolved. <i>Standing Orders Suspended</i> The Chair asked whether a consultation or presentation on waste management and recycling within High Peak could be provided, noting that there is some confusion among residents. Cllr Farrell advised that this should be possible. Cllr Darlington suggested that the most suitable venue would be the Community Café. Rather than a formal consultation or presentation, it was felt that an informal approach would be more effective, with a representative speaking to residents at individual tables and/or being available at a designated table for residents to approach with questions. Cllr Farrell will investigate the options and report back. <i>Standing Orders Reinstated</i> C: Police Report: None this month.
04/09/26	Public Participation: None this month.
05/09/26	Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto: A: The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 30 th July 2026 were then considered, the minutes were approved. (Prop AD, 2nd NS, unan).
06/09/26	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 28th May 2026	NS&I
Balance brought forward 01/04/26	£11,369.18	£19,047.76
Total Income	£7,424.50	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£6,790.65	£0.00
Balance	£12,003.03	£19,047.76
Last Statement Balance 15/07/26	£12,003.03	£19,047.76
Less un-presented cheques	£0.00	£0.00
Add uncleared deposits	£0.00	£0.00
Available Balance 30/07/26	£12,003.03	£19,047.76

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

- i) T. Dale – Clerk’s salaries August and September, allowances, expenses and arrears. - £553.78 + £431.40 = £985.18
- ii) Castleton Village Hall – Room Hire – £24.00
- iii) Griffiths Gardening Ltd – Grounds Maintenance July and August - £960.00 + £960.00 = £1,920.00
- iv) Networks – Parking/Turning Circle signage - £106.80

A late submission was received from the Village Hall for room hire for this meeting, as well as for the showing of the People’s Emergency Briefing film. These invoices were requested to be included at a cost of £54.00

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

None this month

D: The Clerk advised that the 2025–26 Financial Audit had been completed successfully. Work will now commence on preparing the 2027–28 budget. Cllr Darlington suggested that the project reserves should also be reviewed. It was agreed that, once the budget has been approved, a further exercise on reserves will be undertaken. (AP – Clerk, All)

Standing Orders Suspended

Cllr Farrell reminded the Parish Council that the Councillors’ Initiative Funding was still available. The Clerk asked who was eligible to request the funds. It was confirmed that the total funding of £1,000.00 is shared across the five Hope Valley Parish Councils and is also available to local organisations within the Parishes, subject to those organisations meeting the set criteria.

Standing Orders Reinstated

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

07/09/26

Council Matters:

A: Cllr Darlington provided an update in relation to visitor pressures in Castleton and the proposal to seek a change to the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007 to allow Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to be issued by post based on time-stamped evidence submitted by members of the public.

Following correspondence received, advising that the Parish Council could lobby for an amendment to the Regulations—like the existing dashcam portal used for moving traffic offences—the Parish Council considered the matter and agreed that a letter should be sent to MP Jon Pearce to explore this option further.

(AP – Clerk)

Regarding ongoing activity relating to visitor pressures, a further meeting has been held with the Hope Valley Parish Councils. It was agreed that, due to recent weather conditions, the focus should be on wildfires and the use of barbecues.

Cllr Darlington advised that she has been investigating the possibility and costs associated with placing advertising or warning messages on the backs of buses to reach a wider audience. Initial enquiries have been promising, with indications that agreement could be reached for placement. Estimated costs are approximately £1,200, for signage on six buses for a four-week campaign with Chesterfield Stagecoach, across Chesterfield and parts of the Peak District including Hope Valley.

Correspondence has been sent to and received from bus companies and the Mayor’s Office in general support of the proposal. The Mayor’s Office has agreed to assign the matter to a caseworker.

In the meantime, consideration is being given to whether the Hope Valley Parish Councils could jointly fund a campaign next year. Any such contribution would need to be agreed at each full Parish Council meetings.

(AP – AD)

B: The Chair advised the Parish Council that, following recent correspondence, a group organised by Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA) had undertaken a clean-up in Castleton under the *Trash Free Trails* initiative. The Chair thanked the group for their efforts and commended them on a job well done. It was also noted that Castleton has several residents who regularly clear waste within the village and surrounding areas. The Chair suggested that, in future, it may be beneficial to coordinate a joint clean-up exercise. If advance notice is provided, the Parish Council could publicise the event and invite volunteers to assist.

C: An update on buses, public transport strategies and Active Travel was provided by the Chair with the agenda (Annex A). As noted in the update, EMCCA has formed a Steering Group to deliver the *Mini Switzerland* project, and an invitation has been sent to all Hope Valley Parish Councils to attend the inaugural meeting on 24 September. It was noted, however, that Hope Valley Parish Councils have been given Observer status on the Steering Group.

On behalf of Castleton Parish Council and *Better Buses for Castleton*, the Chair responded seeking clarification on how the Steering Group intends to take account of Hope Valley residents' views, particularly as Castleton Parish Council's local transport survey does not appear to be reflected in the report. Concerns were raised that, without elected Parish Council representation with voting powers, local communities and transport groups cannot fully participate or influence discussions. While HVCA's involvement is welcome, they do not represent residents' views.

Cllr Darlington attended the meeting, along with strong representation from other Parish Councils.

Assurances were given that Parish Councils are regarded as stakeholders and will be kept informed through communications and consultations, with this message reiterated throughout the meeting. Assurances were also given that residents will be consulted directly.

The project is at a very early stage and is scheduled for delivery in three years (2029). Concerns about high expectations are already emerging, with questions being raised about what can realistically be achieved. The main objectives will focus on connectivity and streamlining. It was stressed that initiatives will be tested, evaluated, and analysed, with lessons learned prior to any agreed implementation.

The Parish Council will review all documents and consider its response. The Steering Group has already been provided with the Castleton Parish Council Transport Survey for consideration. **(AP – JS, NS)**

D: An update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) was provided earlier in the meeting under the Borough Councillor's report.

Cllr Darlington provided an update following the recent Hope Valley Parish Councils meeting. It was agreed that the future terms of the Councils will be as follows:

- The group will henceforth be known as the Hope Valley Parish Partnership.
- It will consider issues of joint concern to the majority of parishes within the Partnership.
- It will operate as a relatively informal structure, acting as appropriate to each topic under consideration.
- Each Parish may send up to two councillors to each meeting (plus their Clerk, if desired).
- Irrespective of the number of attendees, each Parish present shall have one vote.
- Parish representatives will seek to represent their Parish Council's view, rather than personal views. Where necessary, potential decisions of the Partnership may need to be referred back to individual Parish Councils for endorsement before any action is taken.
- The aim is to meet quarterly, or more frequently if a particular need arises, with each Parish taking turns to host, chair, and clerk the meeting.
- Parish Meetings within the Hope Valley will be invited in writing to join the Partnership.

E: A brief discussion took place regarding Parish Council communications. Several initiatives were considered. The possibility of placing Parish Councillors' details on the noticeboard was discussed; while it was felt there was some merit, concerns were raised that this could lead to Councillors receiving contact late at night or being approached by non-residents.

The option of producing a separate newsletter was also considered. After discussion, it was felt that this would add little value, as the Peveril Post is already an established and effective means of communication. The Parish Council noted that it already operates both a website and a Facebook page, and it was agreed that the Facebook account could be utilised further. It was resolved that all Councillors should identify items suitable for posting, format them, and provide them to Cllr Judge for publication on the page.

F: Cllr Darlington advised the Parish Council that the planned closure of Winnats Pass has now been

suspended, possibly until autumn next year.

She further reported that there has been no additional information regarding the proposed closure of Hathersage Road for Severn Trent works, despite recent contact with Severn Trent.

G: The Chair provided an update following the showing of the *People's Emergency Briefing*. The event was attended by around fifty residents and was considered extremely well planned and chaired by Castleton resident Ed Proctor. Following the film, residents were able to discuss the content, with positive feedback received both on the film itself and on the provision of the screening.

As a result, it was noted that future events relating to environmental issues and renewables should be explored. Ideas such as solar panels were mentioned, although it was acknowledged that this remains a contentious topic with the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA).

Standing Orders Suspended

Cllr Farrell advised that the Parish Council may wish to wait until the outcome of the PDNPA Local Plan consultation is communicated, as changes to policy relating to renewables are likely.

Standing Orders Reinstated

Item to be added to the next agenda **(AP -Clerk)**

H: Cllr Darlington advised that the replacement of the noticeboard in the bus turnaround by the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) is expected in November. Work on the map for the noticeboard there and in the main car park is ongoing.

I: The item regarding the replacement of two out of the three "Respect This Space" notices on the war memorial triangle were discussed. It was resolved to replace the signs. (Prop AD, 2nd JS, Unan) **(AP – AD)**

J: Cllr Darlington advised that the replacement sign for the turning space on Pindale Road has now been completed, with the new signage now in place. Thanks were given to Cllr Darlington.

K: Cllr Stannard provided an update prior to the meeting on the replacement dog-fouling signage throughout the village. The design was circulated to Councillors via email and approved, and this approval was formally endorsed at the meeting.

As agreed at the previous meeting, production costs for the signs will be £72.00 (including VAT) for ten signs. Together with the previously agreed design costs, the overall cost of the project will be £188.00.

Following production, the next stage will be installation. A map of proposed locations will be provided, and it is estimated that a further cost of approximately £100.00 will be required for installation. It was resolved to proceed. (Prop JS, 2nd AD, Unan) **(AP – JAS)**

L: Cllr Eyre, prior to the meeting, provided an update on current speeding-prevention items. Speedwatch sessions are continuing, with another session scheduled for Thursday morning.

He confirmed that options are still being explored for securing funding for SID devices, including potential grant opportunities or the possibility of purchasing a shared unit with neighbouring Parish Councils.

Cllr Darlington advised that there may be a potential grant available through the Regeneration Fund. The Clerk will initiate enquiries. **(AP Clerk, ME)**

M: Cllr Spooner provided an update on the Community Resilience Plan. The first meeting has been held, with a second meeting scheduled for next week. The core members of the Emergency Action Group have now been established, with the possibility of a few additional residents joining.

The group has reviewed the documentation in its current form, and the next steps will be to complete the plan. In the meantime, publicity will be undertaken to launch the plan to all residents, initially via the Peveril Post.

N: The Clerk advised that a quote has now been received for repairs to the footpath under the PROW scheme, at a cost of £495.00 plus VAT. It was resolved that the repairs should commence. (PROP JS, 2nd AD, Unan) **(AP – Clerk)**

O: An update on the audit of Parish Council benches throughout the village was deferred to the next meeting. Clerk to add to the Agenda **(AP – Clerk)**

P: Cllr Eyre, prior to the meeting, agreed to coordinate arrangements for Remembrance Day. He will organise the poppies, tommies and be involved in Remembrance Sunday. **(AP – ME)**

Q: The grounds maintenance tenders for 2027 were considered and agreed. The Clerk will commence the tendering process. (Prop NS, 2nd AD, Unan) **(AP- Clerk)**

R: The Clerk advised that, although there was nothing urgently requiring discussion or resolution, confirmation was needed on whether the Parish Council wished to participate in the 2026 Snow Warden Scheme. It was agreed that the Parish Council would participate. (Prop JS, 2nd AD, Unan) Clerk to commence process **(AP – Clerk)**

Cllr Farrell left the meeting.

Cllr Darlington wished to highlight the recently circulated Peak Cluster Report. She noted that it is claimed to be a non-biased report, lengthy, and is unattributed but intends to read it in full. The Chair confirmed that she will also do so.

08/09/26	Planning: A: The following applications were discussed, and the Clerk instructed to report the Council's views to PDNPA: i) NP/HPK/0926/0927 - Blue John Cavern, Mam Tor, Castleton. Renovation and enhancement of existing buildings at Blue John Cavern. NO OBJECTIONS RAISED B: To note any planning decisions as notified by the Peak District National Park Authority: None this month C: Applications received by the Licensing Authority ii) Castleton Village Hall, How Lane, Castleton, S33 8WJ – TEN 17/10/26 - NO OBJECTIONS RAISED iii) Peveril Tearooms, Castle Street, Castleton, Hope Valley, S33 8WG – TEN - 29-30/08/2026 - NO OBJECTIONS RAISED
09/09/26	Correspondence and DALC Circulars: A: The following correspondence, received and pre-circulated to Members by email, were noted and discussed: i) DCC – Various. ii) DALC – Various. - iii)NALC – Various. - iv)HVCA – Various. v) High Peak & Staffordshire Moorlands District Council - Various. - vi)HPBC – Various. vii) HPHV Community Rail Partnership – Various. - viii)Office of Police and Crime Commissioner –Various. - ix)PDNPA – Various. Councillors were advised that, should they feel any correspondence received requires further consideration, they should notify the Clerk, who will recirculate it as appropriate. (AP – Clerk, All)
10/09/26	Peveril Post: The Chair and Vice Chair will draft an article on Parish Council matters to be shared with all Councillors for input (AP – All). Cllr Spooner will provide an article on the Community Resilience Plan (AP – NS).
	Meeting closed 8:30pm The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 29th October 2026 at the Walker Room, Peveril Centre, Castleton.