

Minutes of the Annual Aston Parish Meeting

**Held on Monday 27th April at 7.00pm
at the Travellers Rest, Brough**

1. Present:

Cllr Chris Perkins, 18 residents of Aston, PCSO Will Brockett, PCSO Mikey Edwards, Alison Wheeler (Clerk)

2. Apologies:

9 residents of Aston

3. Introduction:

Cllr Chris Perkins (Chair of Hope with Aston Parish Council) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the PCSOs and Clerk.

Thanks were extended to Cllr Price for chairing and Diane Tenbuuren for acting as secretary for the meeting for the last few years. Cllr Perkins passed on Cllr Price's apologies for absence due to ill health.

4. 2025 Minutes

The minutes of 28th April 2025 were agreed as a true record.

5. Safer Neighbourhood Team Report

PCSO Will Brockett introduced the new team member PCSO Mickey Edwards. The 3rd member of the team is PCSO Alex Simpson. The Hope Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team is based in Buxton.

Aston is a low crime area with 3 recorded crimes in the last year. These were possession of drugs, a civil dispute and two railway workers fighting.

In the Hope Valley the main concerns of residents are parking (especially in the Ladybower and Mam Tor areas) and speeding.

In the Hope Valley there have been 100 crimes in the past 6 months that were mainly theft. These included 2 house burglaries, shed and outbuilding break-ins and car break-ins particularly in the Bamford and Edale areas. Three arrests have been made, and no break-ins have been reported since.

Due to the rural nature of the Hope Valley the police are reliant on locals informing them of suspicious activity in the area. PCSO Brockett encouraged residents to report incidents on 999 (in an emergency) or use 101 or Messenger (in a non-emergency) and allow the police to make the decision about following the report up. He stressed that members of the public should not put themselves at risk.

If no members of the Hope Valley Team are on shift the area is covered by the Buxton and Glossop teams.

PCSO Brockett provided details of the ANPR project that he instigated. These cameras

allow cars to be "marked" and assists in the identification of offenders and provides valuable evidence. Funding was received from local Parish Councils and Breedon.

Residents were encouraged to sign up for Derbyshire Alert and complete a survey about concerns as a resident. Derbyshire Alert is a free messaging service that provides updates on local issues and some national items.

Due to an increase in staffing the SNT has been able to carry out Safe Drives and has more of these planned in the near future. These are random stop checks of drivers to carry out vehicle checks.

In Castleton, the new traffic restrictions do not stop campervans parking overnight on the broken road. PCSO Brockett feels that if vans were restricted in this area, it would displace the vans to another location. His main concern is lack of welfare facilities. It is hoped that the new red routes will discourage inconsiderate parking.

In Castleton and Edale, pop-up car parks have been created by landowners. This does help with parking issues but is weather dependent.

Cllr Perkins informed the residents that the Hope Valley Parish Councils are now meeting regularly, and the main focus of these meetings is visitor pressure.

Residents raised the following concerns with PCSO Brockett:

- The Travellers Rest "improved" lights – PCSO Brockett and the Parish Council have raised this with DCC Highways.
- Overnight van parking in the passing place on Aston Lane. PCSO Brockett agreed that a "passing place" sign was required.
- Illegal rave on 25th / 26th April – the police received a number of reports. Due to staffing levels, it is not possible to stop this type of event once it is in full swing.
- Off-roaders on Winhill – last month the team stopped 6 people from Chesterfield who subsequently received fines and points on their licenses. It is very difficult for the police to stop motorbikes, but the traffic department now has 4 off-road motorbikes. The police are now authorized to use stingers and a spray that will mark the rider and bike for future identification.

6. Chair's Report:

Cllr Perkins explained that the full report would be available on the website after the annual Hope parish meeting, but the highlights are:

- There have been several alterations to the internal administration of the Parish Council due to changes in legislation and all documents moving forward will be accessible.
- The Parish Council are trying to encourage different community groups within the village to work together.
- At present the two major projects are the refurbishment of the war memorial and the purchase of Speed Indication Devices. Funding is being sought for these.
- A smaller project of refurbishing benches is underway.

7. Distribution List:

Everyone present agreed to their email address being securely stored by the clerk use in the future. N.B. Residents that had sent apologies agreed by email response.

8. Open Forum:

Cllr Perkins invited questions, comments and discussion from the residents of Aston. The following items were raised:

- Potholes on Aston Lane
- Potholes on Thornhill Lane (near Barnbrook)
- Parking causing an obstruction on Parsons Lane
- Blocked drains on Thornhill Lane
- Travellers Rest Traffic Lights
- Overgrown trees between Melodys Corner and the Travellers Rest
- A tree growing out of the bridge on Pindale Road
- Poor bridleway signage at the start of Edge Lane
- Poor condition of the footpath from Aston Lane towards the station.

The Clerk agreed to report all these items to D.C.C. and to send the appropriate link to all residents to report as well.

An email from a resident that had sent apologies was received. The points included were:

- The need for a dog bin near Barnbrook – the clerk agreed to investigate this.
- A missing sign detailing that Thornhill Road is a single-track road – the clerk reported this some time ago and is chasing it with D.C.C.
- Morrison's vans speeding on Thornhill Lane – the clerk has previously had correspondence with Morrison's about this issue.
- Encouraging residents to continue to monitor the use of a field on Thornhill Lane for glamping.
- Thanks were extended to the Parish Councillors for their time working on behalf of residents.

A resident made those present aware of an issue with Sky no longer supporting copper cables and that the service would cease in August 2026.

All residents agreed that they would like the Parish Meeting to continue in its current format.

Cllr Perkins thanked everyone for attending.

The Meeting closed at 20:19.