

DERWENT AND HOPE WOODLANDS PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH MAY 2026 AT ST HENRY'S HALL DERWENT

32/26 Apologies – Cllr A Wheatley, I Butler

33/26 No declarations

34/26 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed

35/26 PC Simpson and PC Edwards from The Safe Neighbourhood Team, Miles Tewson from STW and Helen Parry, the Head Ranger from Fairholmes were welcomed to the meeting. The agenda was suspended and Item 11 brought forward.

The Safe Neighbourhood Police Team cover Buxton east and west areas and the wider Hope Valley. They have set up Operation Cruiser to enable them to carry out random vehicle checks and they are also setting up speed traps using a mobile speed camera. The Police and the Fire Brigade have been visiting areas frequented by wild campers, including Hope Woodlands, putting out their fires and then taking names and addresses. This takes up a considerable amount of time and resources. The police handed round a report which detailed recorded crime in the Parish between 21st February and 20th May 2026. The police advice is to phone 999 if a fire/lit bbq is seen and report to the Fire Service and Police. It is important that such incidents are reported so that a fuller picture of the problem is created. Councillors asked for police to be present on the Snake Road at weekends, especially during early evenings when most speeding and racing take place. The police were also asked for a contact number other than 999 and 101, because Councillors are reluctant to use 999 unless there is a genuine emergency, and it can take a long time to get through on the 101 number.

Helen Parry informed the meeting of the work the rangers are doing. During the Summer months the five full time rangers and volunteers spend most of their time speaking to the general public and campers about the dangers of open fires and putting out fires that they come across. Peak Park has also employed a Wild Fire Engagement Officer plus volunteers. Rangers at Fairholmes are on duty between 8.30am and 6pm.

Most wild campers in our Parish congregate in Hope Woodlands which is owned by Forestry England. FE has no rangers and there is only one person who covers the whole of the Midlands area. Clerk to contact FE, inform them of the extent of wild camping and open fires and ask them to engage with the organisations that need FE support.

Clerk to contact HPBC and ask how many fines have been issued under the Public Space Protection Order which bans open fires in our area. And also find out if any HPBC staff are patrolling areas where there are wild campers with fires.

There have been fewer incidents of fly tipping this year compared to 2025. These should be reported to HPBC which is very efficient at clearing up the rubbish on their land.

Helen has requested more frequent visits from the Parking Enforcement Officers who should now be visiting our area at weekends and Bank Holidays. The police have been ticketing and fining drivers where cars which are parked on double yellow lines or causing dangerous obstructions. Rangers have been stationed during weekends at the barriers to the closed road that goes to King's Tree and this has been fairly successful. However, rangers have been instructed not to get into arguments with members of the public nor tolerate verbal abuse.

The X Box game Forza is partially to blame for the regular road racing and back firing we are seeing currently. The police do check insurance information for car modifications and criminal offences, both of which must be declared to insurance companies. It has been found that 'noise cameras', which are supposed to detect noisy vehicles, do not work and there are too many hoops to jump through to bring about a successful prosecution.

Miles Tewson reported on the work STW are doing this year. There is a new manager at Ladybower Fisheries. He does not want to manage the paddleboarding on Ladybower so STW are looking for a dedicated manager for this activity. Parking remains a challenge. There are no plans to expand water sports on the dam. STW have been repainting lines on the road around Derwent, filling pot holes and repairing boundary fences. A new gate has been installed at Alport which has been successful in preventing cars accessing the fields and ford. Hedgerows have been relaid and planted, and tree felling, to remove infected Larch, was completed over the winter. Invasive Rhododendrons are regrowing and will be removed. Miles also reported that people have been climbing the dam walls then diving into the water.

STW is to clean up the Ladybower War Memorial and has offered to clean the Derwent War Memorial at the same time. This offer was gratefully accepted.

Dr Carroll (parishioner) asked Miles Tewson about the derelict STW house next to the Fisheries Office which he has reported to the authorities and STW. Miles has also reported it to STW management who will look at the issue later this year. The house now has holes in the roof and has become an eyesore. Clerk to follow up in the Autumn.

The best email on which to contact Miles' office at The Wood Yard is as follows:

upperderwentvalley@severntrent.co.uk

PCs Edwards and Simpson, Helen Parry and Miles Tewson were thanked very much for all of their hard work and for taking the time to attend the Parish Council meeting.

The agenda was resumed.

36/26 Matters arising: a reply has been received from Brian Taylor, Head of Planning at PDNPA, regarding the siting of the e-communications mast at Ladybower. After checking that all procedures had been followed correctly, Mr Taylor concluded that there was nothing further that can be done.

37/26 Pot holes near Drs Gate have been repaired and the bollards between The Fisheries Office and Yorkshire Bridge have been cleaned. The A57 will be closed from 15th June until 5th July to investigate the road foundations at Drs Gate.

38/26 Planning – An e-communications mast on Snake Summit comes under permitted development therefore we cannot object. EE has been awarded the emergency network and will not be using the existing equipment which will therefore become redundant. It will be replaced with a 12m high mast. Clerk to email Peak Park planning to ask if anything can be done since such a structure will be completely out of place in the moorland landscape.

39/26 The Parish Council will be objecting to the Peak Cluster pipeline which will run from Hope Cement Works and other cement works in Derbyshire to the East Coast and then extend under the sea. Cllr A Wheatley to write the response.

40/26 Meeting reports. At the Hope Valley Parish Forum, the reply to the Mayor's letter about visitor pressure was discussed. There was a strong objection to the proposed visitor levy and this will be communicated to the Mayor. It was agreed that each Parish Council would compile a list of problems and possible solutions for the Forum in order to find common ground with practical solutions.

41/26 Reports from the recent Annual Parish Meetings are attached to these minutes.

42/26 Finance:

Spent:	Apex for boiler service	£190.80
	J Marriott Accountant	£50.00
	D/D Brit Gas	£52.31
Income	HPBC Precept	£1194.00
	Belles hire of hall	£225.00
	HMRC	£237.68

Balance at 5th May 2026 £6841.68

43/26 Items for the next agenda – A list of issues affecting our Parish to be sent to the Hope Valley Forum.

44/26 The next meeting will be held on the 8th or 15th July.

The meeting was closed at 9.25pm

Cllr Jill Gascoigne
Clerk