

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL

100 YEARS 1895-1995

EXTRACTS FROM COUNCIL MINUTES

BY

EDWIN CHAPMAN

E. Chapman
14.10.03

CHRONOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

BY

JOE DALTON

Commissioned and sponsored

by

Hope with Aston Parish Council

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HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

100 YEARS – 1895-1995

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by Edwin Chapman**

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Edale Road



1906



Late 20th century

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

FOREWORD

When considering the form of celebration for the Millennium in Hope it was decided to create a garden with a large piece of limestone at its centre. Several organisations were asked to contribute a short account of their history, which would be placed in a capsule under this rock. The Parish Council decided to include dated extracts, taken from Parish Council Minutes from 1895, (when the Parish Council was first set up under the Local Government Act 1894), and from 1995, one hundred years later. These were then placed in the time capsule.

The Parish Council realised that the development of Hope village as outlined in the Parish Minutes was of great interest and should be made available more widely. Edwin Chapman kindly agreed to write extracts from the minutes to show the work of the Parish Council over one hundred years. Many thanks are due to Edwin for his time and expertise in creating such an interesting book.

Joe Dalton
(Councillor August 1973 to April 2003)

INTRODUCTION

This book is not a history of Hope, but aims to give a brief outline of the work of the Hope Parish Council at their meetings here in Hope. A total of 58 Councillors have either been elected or co-opted to the Parish Council to carry out the formal business at 905 meetings since January 1895. Thirteen of the 58 have been elected as Chairman, some acting as combined Chairman and Clerk to the Council. From the records it would seem to have been an office maintained either for quite a few years or only for a relatively short space of time. It has obviously been an arduous task, but the occasions when any minute was queried at the following meeting are very few.

The entire content of this outline of the work of the Council is taken directly from the Minutes recorded, the only disappointment is the lack of any statement illustrating the conclusion of work by the Council.

The involvement of Parish Councillors on Committees and local and national Associations has increased dramatically since 1946 and has meant much time and energy has been spent on matters not always directly associated with the Parish.

In 1895 Hope was a village buzzing with the advent of the new railway, with a population of 350, living in 83 houses. Most inhabitants were involved directly in the village, working as farmers, farm labourers, shop keepers and quarrymen. By 1995 the village has grown to be a place where about 950 people live in 370 houses and flats. There are very few farmers, many commuters, and many retired and old aged people. It is fair to say that the work of the Parish Council is proportional to the figures.

The figures given are approximations from the 1891 census and other data, but the illustrated maps of the village in 1898 and 1995 show that there is a vast difference between the two periods.

Included in this document is a list of Councillors, Chairmen and Clerks to the Council giving dates abstracted from the minutes where possible.

The subject matter has been divided in an attempt to give a picture of continuity on any particular topic. This document cannot be considered to show the entire picture, as there are so many items discussed at the Parish Council Meetings which are brief and in some ways irrelevant to the Parish of Hope with Aston.

Edwin Chapman

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

COUNCILLORS	DATE ELECTED	COUNCILLORS	DATE ELECTED
J Abraham Furness	Jan 2 nd 1895	W Hazlehurst	Feb 14 th 1946
Jesse Wain	Jan 2 nd 1895	Mrs DB Winston	April 16 th 1946
Adam Barber	Jan 2 nd 1895	WW Green	April 16 th 1946
Joseph Holme	Jan 2 nd 1895	H Gouge	April 16 th 1946
George Wilson	Jan 2 nd 1895	Mrs EE Walker	April 16 th 1946
John Tym	Jan 2 nd 1895	Mrs Z Eyre	April 16 th 1949
Wm Watson	April 15 th 1901	P Wardrope	May 20 th 1952
Arthur Chapman	April 16 th 1904	JA Walker	May 20 th 1952
Joseph Unwin	April 16 th 1910	W Parker	May 24 th 1955
John T Hall	April 16 th 1910	R Ollerenshaw	May 24 th 1955
George Hall	April 23 rd 1913	W Jepson	May 1958
Henry Ashton	April 23 rd 1913	J Eyre	June 3 rd 1958
Joseph Robinson	April 23 rd 1913	PM Cox	Oct 6 th 1959
Samuel Purseglove	April 23 rd 1913	DT Sanders	June 2 nd 1964
DW Chadwick	April 23 rd 1913	FW Knowles	June 2 nd 1964
Charles Barber	April 15 th 1919	SA Elliott	Jan 30 th 1967
Geo W Hadfield	April 15 th 1919	Mrs M Hobson	Aug 7 th 1973
Chas Proctor	April 11 th 1922	Mr J Dalton	Aug 7 th 1973
Geo Cox	April 14 th 1928	Mr Ashmore	Sep 4 th 1976
Chas J Preston	April 14 th 1928	Mrs AE Bramwell	June 4 th 1979
DT Bramwell	April 14 th 1928	G Randles	March 18 th 1982
C Graham (GF)	April 15 th 1929	JS Elliott	May 23 rd 1983
C Bullivant	April 15 th 1931	JE Mason	Nov 7 th 1983
F Longden	April 15 th 1931	DD Speight	May 18 th 1987
AS Evason	April 13 th 1934	E Robinson	May 18 th 1987
D Lewis	April 13 th 1934	R Watson	May 13 th 1991
CD Lewis	April 16 th 1937	Mrs Cooper	May 11 th 1992
C Chatburn	April 16 th 1937	Mrs Keeton	May 10 th 1993

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

CHAIRMEN OF COUNCIL

John Tym	1895-1913
D W Chadwick	1913-1929
C Graham	May 1929
C J Preston	Sep 1929-1931
C Bullivant	1931-1932
Henry Ashton	1932-1937
H Chatburn	1937-1946
C D Lewis	1946-1951
W Hazlehurst	1952-1955
P Wardrobe	1955-1971
C D Lewis	1971-1990
J Dalton	1990-1994
J E Mason	1994-

CLERKS TO THE COUNCIL

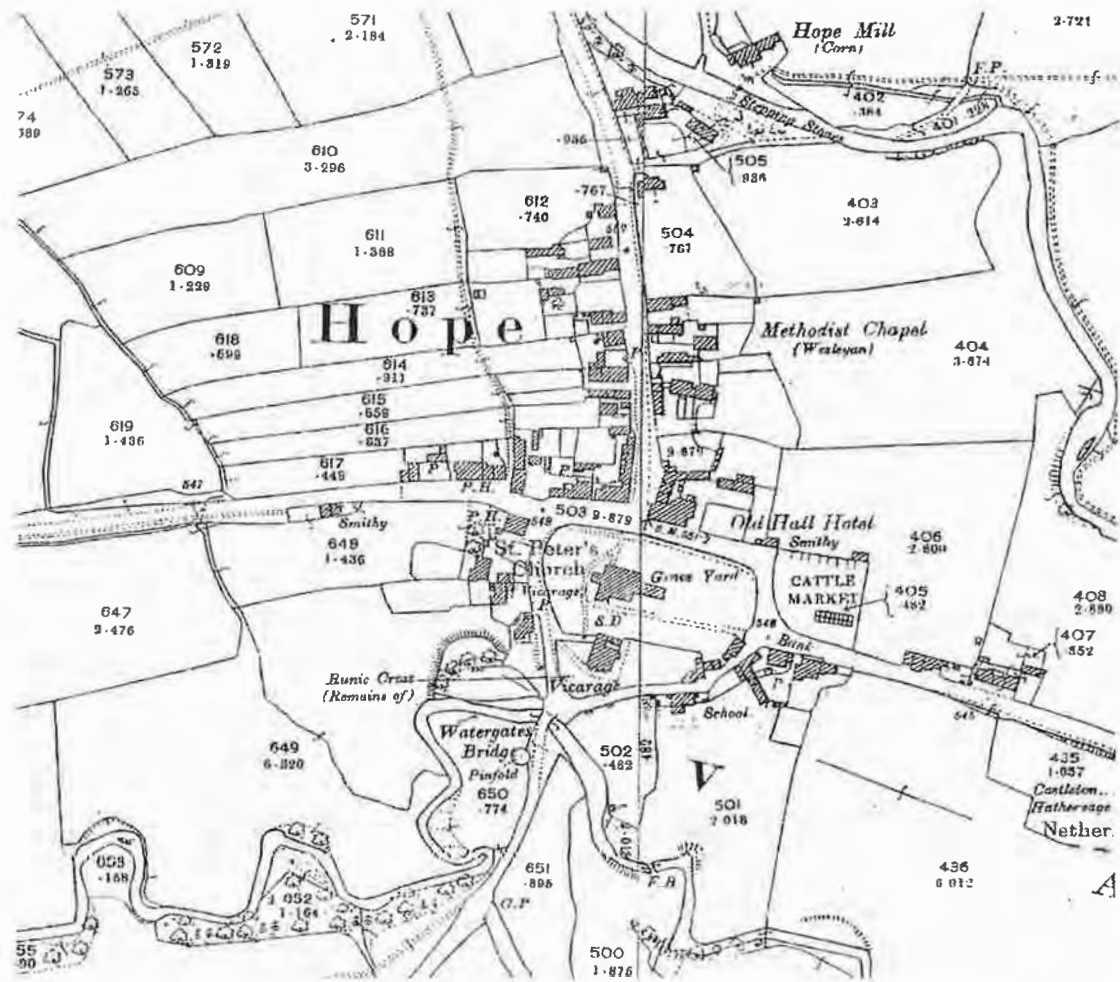
D W Chadwick	Clerk	15 th April 1896-15 th April 1929
G F Graham	Acting Clerk	8 th May 1929
P M Cox	Clerk	23 rd December 1929
J A Walker	Clerk	24 th April 1931
Miss Whale	Clerk	May – October 1952
Mrs Flack/Lewis	Clerk	2 nd Dec 1952
Mrs Lampard	Clerk	1978-1980
D D Speight	Clerk	1980-1986
S A Fox	Clerk	June 1986 – March 1989
Mrs Edmonds	Clerk	March 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

9TH JANUARY 1995

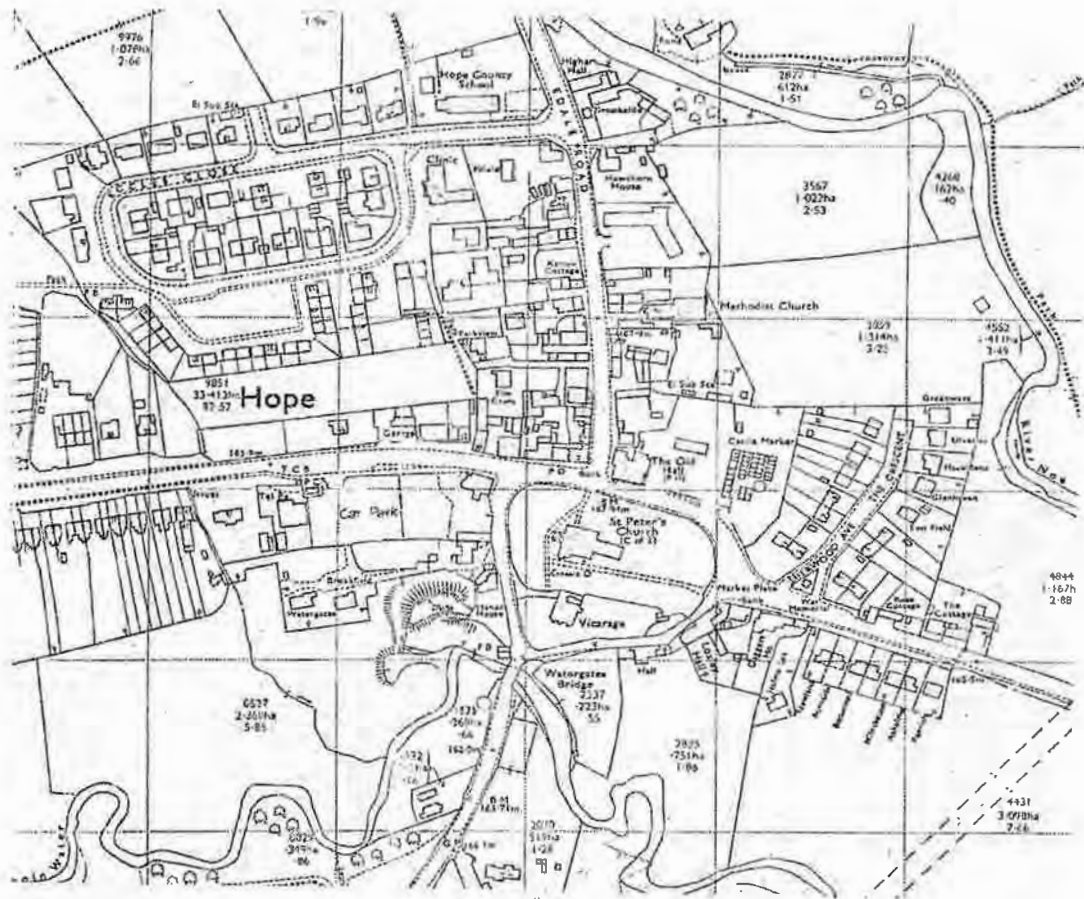
J E Mason	Chairman
J S Elliott	Vice Chairman
J Dalton	
G Randles	
E Robinson	
D T Sanders	
Mrs Keeton	

Apologies from:- R Watson, Mrs Bramwell



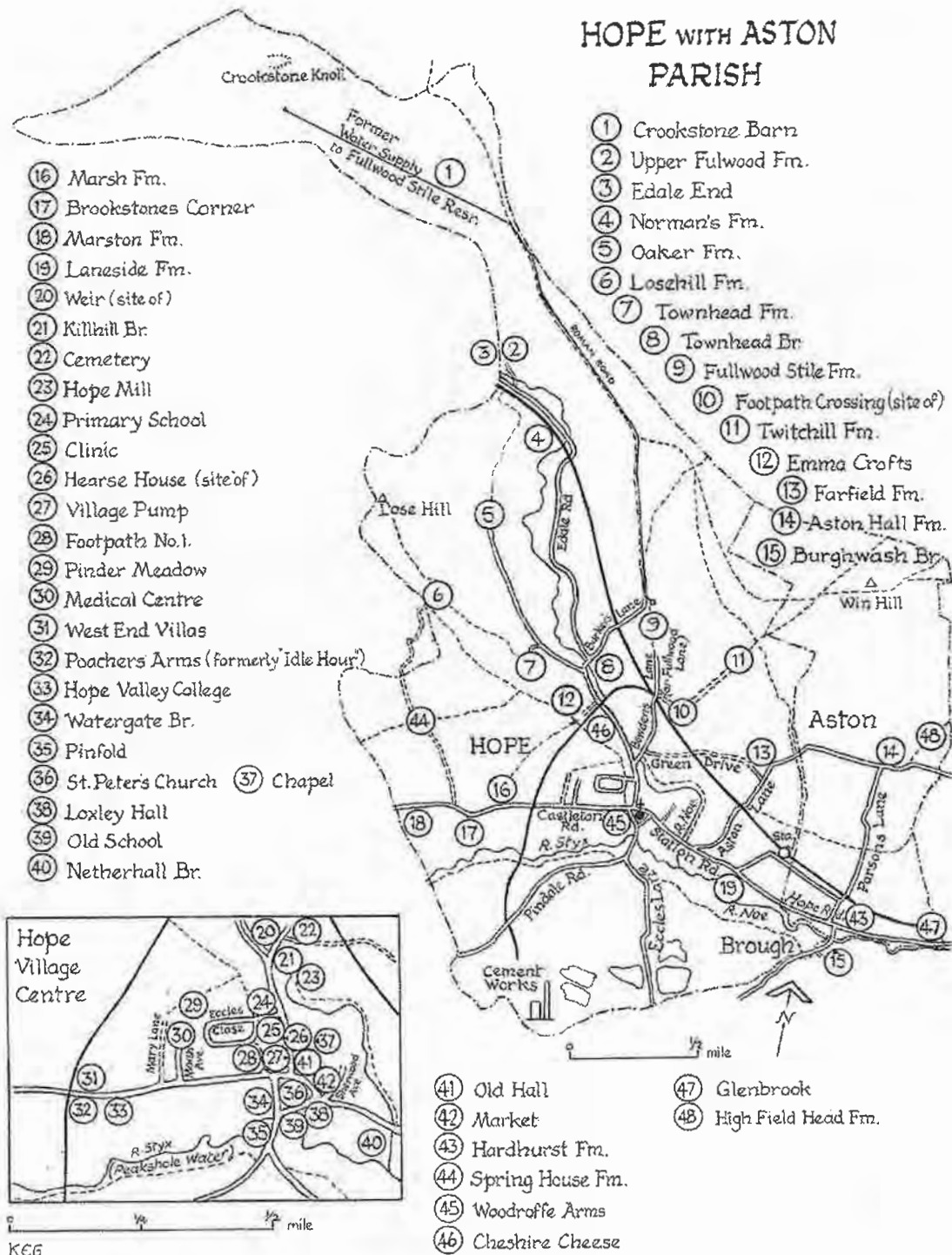
Copy of OS map of Hope - 1898

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995



Copy of OS map of Hope - circa 1990

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KEG

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EXTRACTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

by

EDWIN CHAPMAN

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Wife of Rev. R. B. ... 1895

... ..

... .. in the Parish Council?

I Abraham ... stating ...
Elected Parish Council for the
Parish of Hope hereby declare the
of which the said ... upon
myself and will take and fulfil
fully ... the duties thereof
according to the best of my judgment
and ability

I ...
Councillor for the Parish of Hope hereby declare
that I take the said office upon myself and
will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties
thereof according to the best of my judgment
and ability

I ...
Councillor for the Parish of Hope hereby
declare that I take the said office upon
myself and will duly and faithfully
fulfil the duties thereof according
to the best of my judgment and ability

Signatories to First Declaration of New Councillors

January 2nd 1895

I Joseph Holme having been elected Parish Councillor for the Parish of Hope hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof according to the best of my judgment and ability.

I George Wilson having been elected Parish Councillor for the Parish of Hope hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof according to the best of my judgement and ability.

Minutes of Meeting Jan^y 2nd 1895

- 1 Proposed by Adam Barber and seconded by George Wilson. That John Lynn be chairman of the Parish Council. supported by Abraham Furness Jesse Wain. Adam Barber. & George Wilson. Carried. Joseph Holme did not vote.
- 2 Proposed by Joseph Holme, and seconded by Jesse Wain. That Abraham Furness be Vice Chairman. Carried. Unanimously.

Signatories to First Declaration of New Councillors
January 2nd 1895

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

1 - SIGNATURE OF OFFICE

Every Councillor is expected to sign a Declaration on first being appointed. This is done strictly in accordance with the rules applicable to Parish Councils and in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1894, "whereby every Parish Councillor shall, at the first meeting after his election, or if the Council at the first meeting after his election, or if the Council at the first meeting so permit, then at a later meeting fixed by the Council, sign, in the presence of some member of the Council, a declaration that he accepts the office, and if he does not sign such a declaration his office shall be void."

It is interesting to note that at the first Declaration on 2nd Jan 1895 each Councillor wrote the declaration in full and signed. (See Pages 12 & 13.)

The declaration was obviously agreed and copied as follows:- I.....having been elected Parish Councillor for the Parish of Hope hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof according to the best of my judgement and ability.

The first Parish Council minutes in Jan 1895 showed some inconsistencies. Five Councillors signed the Declaration of Office excluding Mr John Tym, although he was elected to be the first Chairman of Hope Parish Council. It is also interesting to note that the minutes state that "The Election of Chairman was not supported by Joseph Holme".

Similar declaration written out in full appear in the Minute Book in 1897, 1898, 1901, 1904, 1907, 1909, 1913, 1919, and any new Councillor co-opted did the same. At the meeting of April 11th 1922 the Declaration was written out by the Chairman – (then also the Clerk) and signed by members, in the minute book.

The minute books contain the signatures up to 1973. From some date in the 1980s the declarations have been signed on separate documents - the only reference in minutes is that Councillors were asked to sign.

There would only appear to be one occasion in the minute books where the record of two new Councillors does not refer to a Signature of Declaration.

There are some references to the results at Parish Council elections but these are not recorded in every case, just a note of the names of those persons elected. In 1899 there is an obvious error in the minutes which says all the Councillors signed - Mr Furness' name is not included as he was not noted as being present. - he was however.

It is of interest to note just one Annual Parish Meeting held on March 17th 1919. The minute states that approximately 80 persons were present with Mr D.W.Chadwick in the Chair. Nominations for Council were :- Henry Ashton, John Thomas Hall, Charles Barker, George Hall, Joseph Holme, George W Hadfield, George Cox, Joseph Townsend, John Tym - votes cast for each nominee were (in order as above) 67, 66, 66, 62, 64, 58, 13, 6, 4. The first six were duly elected to act as Parish Councillors in addition to Mr D.W. Chadwick and Mr Joseph Robinson.

As a comment one should note that the population of the Parish at that date would be about 575 and for 80 electors of the Parish to be present, voting for six Councillors is in itself an item of particular interest when looking at the working of the Parish Council at that time.

The election of March 1922 with upwards 60 parishioners present produced just one new councillor, and it was at this meeting that the declaration is written in the minute book only once, and then signed by the new Councillors.

In 1928 -there being no nominations or election - two new names appear in the minute book - Mr D.T. Bramwell and Mr George Cox. At the Annual Parish Meeting of that year, whilst there had been no election, 30 parishioners were present.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

After being Clerk to the Council for 34 years and Chairman for 16 years Mr D.W. Chadwick resigned at the Annual Parish Meeting on March 25th 1929. Mr Graham was co-opted as Chairman and Mr C.J. Preston - himself a Councillor for many years - was appointed Clerk. However at the next meeting Mr Preston stated that he could not accept the office as Clerk.

There is a distinct change in the hand written minutes, the scholarly hand of Mr Chadwick being replaced by the clear open writing of Mr Graham which is generally easier to read, Mr Graham acting as Chairman and Clerk. Sadly this was only for the period April to September as he died on September 14th 1929.

Despite a wish not to act as Clerk, M Jepson agreed to take over these duties until another Clerk could be appointed.

Mr P.M. Cox became Clerk and acted in a temporary capacity for just one year until the formal appointment of Mr J.A. Walker in April 1931 "at a remuneration of £5 per annum". This payment had been maintained at £5 since 1895.

In 1931 there were 10 nominations to serve as Parish Councillors. Of the six elected, new members were A.E. Bullivant, F.W. Longden and C Proctor. One of the unsuccessful in this election was Charles D Lewis. Mr Bullivant was elected Chairman but resigned in March 1932 after only one year in office when Mr Henry Ashton - a Parish Councillor for 29 years was duly elected Chairman. The elections of 1934 produced two new names as Councillors - Messrs H S Evason and D Lewis.

It should be noted that at this time the Council met six times during the year plus the Annual Parish Meeting.

After three years as Parish Councillor Mr D Lewis was joined in April 1937 by his son Charles D Lewis - the only time in 100 years of the Hope Parish Council that two members of one family represented the electors of Hope. Mr Ashton had retired after 24 years as a Parish Councillor and Chairman, to be replaced by Mr E J Chatburn.

Parish Council Meetings continued through the Second World War with normal business, plus meetings about the village Fire Service and a note that the call for fireguard volunteers was disappointing. Issues such as the provision of additional allotment land and reports from Hope ARP and the Small Pig Keepers Association are all included in some detail in meetings under the Chairmanship of E J Chatburn. There was a special meeting about the Peace celebrations and the first mention of some additional memorial.

At the Parish Council Meeting of 16th April 1946 for the first time on the Council two ladies signed the declaration - Mrs D B Winston and Mrs E E Walker with C D Lewis elected Chairman of the Council.

Mr W Hazlehurst was elected Chairman in May 1952 having been Vice Chairman for the previous term. He was followed in 1955 by Mr P Wardrobe who served for 16 years and resigned in favour of C D Lewis in May 1971.

Many new names appear on the list of parish Councillors during this period, Messrs Parker, Ollerenshaw, Jepson, and Walker. In 1958 a Council of eight was formed for the first time, but although there are the signatures to the Declaration, there is no record of nominees or any election. Mr H Gouge who had been Vice Chairman in several terms died in June 1959 and Mr P M Cox was co-opted on to the Council.

A new Council was formed in May 1961 under Chairman P Wardrobe with W Green as Vice Chairman. By now the Council met every other month except August with extra meetings where necessary.

In June 1964 the Council included two new members - Messrs D T Sanders and F Knowles and there followed a busy session. In 1967 Mr S A Elliott replaced Mr Eyre on the Council. Annual Parish Meetings during this period were well attended with up to 50 parishioners present.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

As mentioned earlier Mr Wardrobe resigned in 1971 and was replaced by Mr Charles Lewis in his second period as Chairman of Hope Parish Council, a position which he held until May 1990.

During these years Mr Lewis was for some of the time a Borough Councillor, a position which enabled the Parish Council to consider matters most carefully under his guidance and from the minutes it is clear the work of Councillors increased dramatically as he encouraged them to represent the Parish on many committees. He was ably assisted by Councillors Elliott, Dalton, Ashmore, Randles, Mason, Speight and Robinson together with Councillors Mrs Hobson and Mrs Bramwell.

Mr Lewis was replaced in 1990 by Mr J Dalton and later by Mr J E Mason as Chairman of the Council, Mr Lewis retired from the Council at the elections of May 1991 after 45 years as Parish Councillor and 25 years as Chairman.

The 100 years of the Hope Parish Council was concluded on January 9th 1995 when the Chairman, Mr J E Mason, brought the Council's attention to the centenary. Members present at the meeting were J E Mason, Chairman, J S Elliott, Vice Chairman, Messrs Dalton, Randles, Robinson, Sanders and Mrs Keeton. Apologies were received from Mrs Bramwell and Mr Watson.

It is interesting to note that up to July 1981 all minutes were hand written by the Clerk to the Council and despite requests for copies of the typed minutes the Council voted to maintain the present system where minutes are read at the following meeting.

2 - MISCELLANEOUS COUNCIL MATTERS

There are a number of statements made in Parish Council minutes where there is no reference to the discussion prior to the vote nor information as to who or what the action, described as "Carried Unanimously", is related. The first such minute is shown in October of 1896 when there is the statement "That this Parish Council is in favour of the District Council having the same power as an Urban Authority".

There are several references to "Model Bye Laws" in the 1896/7 period and as far as can be ascertained these have to do with "carriage stops" and charges - all by reference to page numbers and usually amended to the Bye Laws. There is also an interesting note stating that only "Hope Parish Council can recommend such drivers as drive for the Hope Hackney Carriage owners"!

A very formal named list of ten "capable drivers" is given in the minute of August 1898 as being sent to the District Council. In the minute of March 1899 a list of fourteen is given, only six of whom were in the list of only nine months before. Eight of these are local names, including Watson, Hallam, Unwin and Marsden, but Liversedge, Pickford, Jennings and Quined cannot be found in the census of 1891 and may have come as railway workers.

As well as usual Council business, members have throughout the years recommended persons for various duties. The first of these was in August 1897 when "Mr Sam Riding be named to the Court Lees as a suitable person to be appointed Pounder for Hope".

Each year at the Annual Parish Meetings two Overseers were appointed by the Council. There were occasions when these persons were required to attend Council meetings to receive formal instructions etc. In addition to these, Trustees for various bodies were elected quite formally and recorded in the minutes.

In October 1904 the minutes record the first meeting where an amendment was made to a formal proposal - the amendment was carried by 3 votes to 2. This was regarding a request to the Parish Council for a light rail crossing at Pindale Road "on the level" the original plan being to go under the road. The amendment was in favour of the level crossing.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

The Parish Council was responsible, in those days, for confirming the date for the Annual Fair and the Clerk is asked to advertise in "The Sheffield Telegraph and Independent, The Buxton Chronicle and The High Peak News" - and to make Bills for distribution.

There are not many references to telephone over the 100 years but the first is interesting. The subject was introduced in June 1902 in a letter from Bradwell Parish Council together with papers stating the object, advantages and cost of a "Telephone System". "The System was looked upon by the Members with much favour". The Councillors thought that this would be a "boon" to the district and arranged to call a Parish Meeting. This was attended by many parishioners and representatives of Bradwell Parish Council and it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with an "Official from Sheffield". This meeting was held but it was explained that unless there were a large number of subscribers the cost of extending the service from the Hathersage exchange would be too great.

1913 saw the first reference in any minute to the salary for the Overseer.

The Chairman of the Council was requested to write to the President of Local Councils asking that in future the election of Parish Councils should be by ballot and not by a show of hands as previously. It was felt that a show of hands was not a true test of feelings of the electors.

In October 1914 it was proposed and "carried unanimously" that the box containing Parish papers etc, now in the Manor House should be transferred to the Council School for safe keeping, and that the school managers be asked to give permission for this arrangement.

Several Parish Meetings have shown very good attendance throughout the years by parishioners. The most notable exceptions were in March 1915 and 1918 when the only persons present were the members of the Parish Council and the two Overseers.

There is an unusual note in the meeting of 19th December 1917 when a letter was read from the local secretary of the National Union of Railway workers protesting at the action of the Vicar in refusing the local members the use of the Parish Room on the pretext that they did not attend church. The minute states that "This Council considers this action to be entirely out of order". The Council could not however intervene as they had no power over the Parish Rooms. The Chairman was instructed (here we should note that the Chairman is also the Clerk to the Council) to write to the local secretary and suggest that he write to the Trustees of the School Charity stating his grievance, and if no satisfaction can be obtained that he request the Chairman of the Parish Council to call a public meeting.

At the next meeting of the Council letters were read from the Vicar and the secretary of the Railway Workers Union regarding the above. The agreement between the trustees of the Old Parish School and the Vicar and churchwardens was discussed and considered to be unsatisfactory. A resolution was passed that "In the opinion of the Parish Council the Trustees of the Old Parish School should alone have the right of letting it for parish purposes, and that the clause in the agreement stating that the Vicar and Churchwardens have certain powers in the letting of the room should be deleted". This resolution was forwarded to the Chairman of the Trustees asking that this might be carried out as soon as possible. This brought an immediate response from the Vicar referring to the Trustees selling the Parish School and stating that "for the present matters continue according to the present agreement".

In February of 1930 the Chairman and Clerk of Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council attended a meeting of Hope Parish Council to explain The Local Government Act 1929 Section 46 - Review of County Districts. After some discussion about the proposals contained in this document the Parish Council put forward a resolution "That this Council object to the proposal of the Bakewell RDC to include the Parish of Hope in the Bakewell Rural District and desire to remain in the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District which has in the past given efficient and economical services to the District and also to the Parish".

Bradwell Parish Council wrote to the Council in February 1944 asking for support of other councils regarding the status of parish councils under the suggested re-organisation of local government.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

In 1966 the Parish Council agreed to support a suggestion to change the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District to the High Peak Borough Council. At a lengthy meeting the Royal Commission on Local Government was discussed and comments were made putting Hope Parish Council's opinion.

1. The Hope Parish Council maintains that Parish Councils are a vital necessity in Rural Areas.
2. The Hope Parish Council is satisfied to be in the jurisdiction of the Rural District Council, and see no reason to change.
3. The Hope Parish Council would be willing to accept the neighbouring Hamlets of Aston, Thornhill, Brough and Shatton incorporated into the Hope Parish, as it had been ecclesiastically centuries ago.

This matter was raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 1967 when the Chairman spoke of the Local Government Act now in preparation, in which the abolition of parish councils was strongly advocated. The Hope Parish Council opposed this and considered that local knowledge was necessary for the needs of the village. If the new system came into operation, one person per 600 population would suffice.

The Parish Council expressed full support to the Borough Council in its opposition to the preliminary data relating to the Maud Report (which was about the re-structuring of local government) and later expressed concern about proposed reform in respect of boundaries.

The Annual Parish Meeting of March 1971 was told that in the White Paper on Local Government, Hope would remain in the County of Derby and suggested that it was possible that more powers would be given to parish councils in the near future. At the next Council Meeting a letter was read from the Derbyshire Association of Parish Councils regarding reform of local government and the possible increase in the powers of parish councils. A reply suggested that Hope Parish Council would welcome:-

- a) More consultation on planning matters
- b) More interest in financial affairs including rates
- c) The inclusion of Aston, Brough, Shatton and possibly Thornhill in the Parish of Hope

The Parish records found at the Primary School were sent to Matlock and have been cleaned and are considered to be some of the best in Derbyshire. After cleaning the documents could be returned to Hope or retained in the Record Office. They will remain the property of Hope Parish Council and could be borrowed at any time and a list of documents had been prepared.

In August 1972 the Parish Council were informed, along with many parishioners, about the local government re-organisation where the Borough Council suggested that Aston be included in the Bamford area. The Hope Parish Council said that they felt strongly that Aston and Hope are one village - historically and ecclesiastically, using Hope shops and Hope schools. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Borough Council asking that the suggestion should not be implemented until the people of Aston had been consulted. The Council were informed in September - only one month later - that the Borough Council had already approved linking Aston with Bamford. Objection to this now to be sent to the Secretary of State and Aston residents to meet to object to this, following which a petition was signed by every elector in Aston who opposed the decision.

The Derbyshire Association of Parish Councils wrote to Hope Parish Council in October 1973 regarding the method of taking minutes and writing in long hand in a book as had been the case since January 1895. They suggested that the minutes should be duplicated and sent to each member prior to the following meeting - The Council decided to leave the minute taking in a book in its present form.

The 1st April 1974 saw the dissolution of the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council and the forming of the High Peak Borough Council. Hope Parish Council would in future be referred to as Hope Local Council. Concern was expressed by the Parish Chairman regarding these alterations which could mean higher rates and less efficient working of various items.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May 1974 it was reported that Aston residents had overwhelmingly voted to become a ward of Hope Council with a local member on that council.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

The Peveril Ward of the High Peak Borough Council would comprise Hope, Castleton, Aston and Edale and be ward no.18 with one councillor acting for the four villages.

There was a most unusual meeting reported in September 1975 when the Chairman expressed concern regarding his apparent lack of control of members at the previous meeting and offered to resign. There is no mention of the reason for this nor any discussion, just a minute that there was a unanimous decision that the Chairman should not resign - which he accepted.

A Special Meeting was called in March 1976 to hear a representative from Peak Park Planning Board explain to the Council the new "Structure Plan". Hope is affected as a service centre, having a Clinic, Primary and Secondary Schools and the A.P.C.M.works (Cement).

The representative "hoped for better relationships between the Council and the Board". Discussion took place on the Structure Plan at another Special Meeting of the Council in January 1977. Information had been received by the Chairman from various villages and organisations for inclusion in his report to a Special Meeting at Buxton.

There are only a few occasions minuted throughout the 100 years of criticism of the Chairman. One such occasion occurred during 1977 when a decision on planning matters relating to caravan sites was taken independently without reference to any other Councillor or at a meeting. In fact, the members criticising the Chairman did not accept his explanation, they said he had acted in "wrong manner" and in future such decisions should be put to the Parish Council not just acted upon by the Chairman and Clerk.

The venue for the Council Meetings changed in 1979 from the Loxley Hall to the Methodist Church Hall.

Concern was expressed over the Local Government Boundary Commissions plans for the Hope Valley at a meeting in December 1980, when Councillors were told of the draft proposals to absorb the Peveril Ward into the Chapel-en-le-Frith Electoral District. It was felt that this measure could deprive the Hope Parish Council of direct representation on the Borough Council at some time in the future.

In June 1989 the Chairman brought to the Council's attention news that the Sheffield City Council had proposed to the Boundary Commission that the Hope Valley be included within the City of Sheffield. It was resolved that the Parish Council would strongly object to this proposal. The Clerk was requested to write to the Boundaries Commission and the High Peak Borough Council expressing the Parish Council's views. Notice came to the Parish Council within two months saying that Sheffield Council have now withdrawn their request for the absorption of the Hope Valley.

Hitherto members were asked to declare an interest in any matter on the Council agenda and were unable to vote on any corresponding motion, but in August 1990 the new Chairman brought to the attention of the Council the fact that they must not only declare an interest, but also withdraw from the meeting room during voting. Concern was also expressed that reports of Council Meetings were appearing in the Parish Magazine prior to authorisation of official minutes. Official minutes are to be displayed on the Parish notice board after approval at the next meeting.

The involvement of the Parish Council was encouraged by Peak Park Planning Board to make comments on planning applications rather than simply giving approval. In future all applications will be publicised and neighbours notified. This was the culmination of comments over the years about planning applications, where it would seem that no strict guidelines had been set down.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

3 - PRECEPT FIGURES

In his opening remarks at the January meeting in 1895 the Chairman spoke of the precept raised as £15, in fact this was the only item referred to in the meeting of February 5th 1895 where the minute states that the "£15 should be issued to the overseers to be paid to the Treasurer on Wednesday the 13th Instant".

It is interesting to note that this figure was reduced to £10 in 1909 and to £5 from 1911, to 1917. The next reference is a precept of £15 in 1922 but by 1925 this was back at the £5 figure and it remained so until 1928 when there was a "dramatic" increase to £28 for lighting and £7.10.0 for General Fund. The Lighting Fund was increased to £58.10.0 in 1933 and increased in most years until 1966 when the figures were combined to give a single precept figure of £50.

There was a dramatic increase of £600 in 1973 to £1200 and then in 1974 to £3385 and to £6285.66 in 1979. There have been years when no precept has been "called" as in 1980 and 1982 when the cash balance was in excess of £6000 and this sum was approved and the statutory precept form forwarded to the Borough Treasurer for this amount. Figures stayed fairly constant from that date to 1994.

The estimated precept in Feb 1974 was described as the product of a 1p rate at £342!

It is of some interest to schedule the precept figures to illustrate how they have varied but generally increased over the years! In the years between 1934 and 1966 there were always two figures given, one specifically for lighting, the other as a general precept.

YEAR	1934-1966			1967-1993	
	GENERAL £	LIGHTING £		YEAR £	PRECEPT
1934	7.10.0	39.0.0		1967	450
1936	7.10.0	50.0.0		1968	375
1937	50.0.0	65.0.0		1969	650
1938	5.0.0	50.0.0		1970	600
1939	7.0.0	50.0.0		1971	700
1941	10.0.0	-		1972	600
1942	10.0.0	-		1973	1200
1943	10.0.0	-		1974	3385
1944	10.0.0	-		1975	3421
1945	10.0.0	60.0.0		1976	3421
1946	10.0.0	50.0.0		1977	NIL
1947	60.0.0	71.0.0		1978	3124
1948	30.0.0	75.0.0		1979	6285
1949	35.0.0	75.0.0		1980	
1950	30.0.0	120.0.0		1981	3000
1951	50.0.0	120.0.0		1982	-
1952	50.0.0	130.0.0		1983	-
1953	90.0.0	120.0.0		1984	-
1954	30.0.0	120.0.0		1985	3400
1955	30.0.0	140.0.0		1986	3513
1956	45.0.0	400.0.0	New lamps	1987	3472
1957	45.0.0	125.0.0		1988	3514
1958	35.0.0	166.0.0		1989	-
1959	40.0.0	250.0.0		1990	-
1960	40.0.0	164.0.0		1991	3000
1961	40.0.0	200.0.0		1992	4000
1962	?	220.0.0		1993	4000
1963	100.0.0	300.0.0			
1964	150.0.0	400.0.0			
1965	150.0.0	250.0.0			
1966	150.0.0	350.0.0			

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4 - THE EARLY YEARS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The working of the Hope Charities are referred to at all Annual Parish Meetings and financial reports given by those Councillors elected with this responsibility. A note in the minute of the Annual Parish Meeting of 1991 states that "some details were given of the nature and work of the Charities".

The initial matter of concern in the early years of the Parish Council's existence was the parochial charities of the parish, and at their second meeting it was agreed that Messrs Furness and Wain should be "a deputation to wait on the Vicar to enquire what are the Charities belonging to Hope Parish".

One of the oldest of these is the Pinder Meadow Charity, which existed well before 1819, when records show that Trustees were appointed.

Particular references in the minutes are to discussions regarding housing development on Pinder Meadow and to correspondence with the Charity Commissioners regarding the sale of the land.

In January 1981 a minute refers to the Charity Commissioners and illustrates a scheme which would provide a new Trust for the charity. Under the terms of this Trust:-

1. The Charity would be administered by Parish Councillors as Trustees
2. Trustees could vest the legal estate in the land in the Official Custodian for Charities
3. They were given power to let the land for the best rent available
4. They could direct that any excess funds be applied for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish

The Parish Council agreed to accept these proposals.

When the use of the Pinfold ceased the meadow had no definite user until 1990 when the documents relating to the Pinder Meadow were made available to the Council, and their Trustees informed the Council that they wished to let the field on a grazing licence to the "highest bidder". Despite many discussions which have taken place between the Trustees, the Peak Park Planning Board, the Rural District Council and various Housing Associations regarding development for housing, the meadow is still grazing land, let to the adjacent landowner.

Another of the old charities referred to is the Bull Meadow Charity. In 1898 the first reference is made to the village bull - "free for the use of Cow keepers in Hope". In 1906 the Clerk was asked to request applications for the keeping of the village bull, and a Special Meeting was held to appoint Mr Benjamin Watson as a fit and proper person. The Clerk was asked to draw up a formal agreement whereby from the first day of April 1906 the bull provided by the Bull Meadow Charity would be "for use by farmers in the Township of Hope". The first mention of any charge was not made until 1923 when a fee of one shilling was agreed to ensure Mr Watson continue as the keeper. (See page 22) This fee was increased to 2/6d in 1926 when Mr Watson had again asked to terminate his office as Bull Keeper.

It would appear that until 1927 the Parish Councillors and Overseers were "ex officio" trustees for the Bull Meadow Charity, but this ceased from 1st April. of that year. Separate formal appointments of Trustees were then made annually, with their reports being noted in the minutes of most Annual Parish Meetings. A drastic change in the way the charity operated was made in 1969 when the Trustees suggested that the capital of £244.16s should be invested through the "A.I." (Artificial Insemination) Association, and the interest be made available for local farmers to use. The balance in the Charity Funds and how it was used were reported at the subsequent Annual Parish Meetings.

In 1971 it was reported that the Bull Meadow Charity is now under the auspices of the Milk Marketing Society.

Whilst reference was made to parochial charities in those early years of the Council there are no minutes of the working or even the names of other charities until 1913, when a Special meeting was convened so that parishioners could "hear a statement re the Parochial Charities". The minute of the meeting states that "an account was given by the Clerk of Five different charities". It was at this

— AGREEMENT —

I, Benjamin Robert Watson, of the Chestre Cheese,
Hope, in the County of Derby do hereby agree to keep
a good Bull for the use of the farmers in the Township
of Hope in consideration of the payment of a fee of
One Shilling for each Cow served, in addition to the amount
received from the Charity Commissioners.



Signed:- Benjamin Robert Watson
Witness:- D. W. Chadwick
Date: 7 April 1924

Copy of Bull Meadow Charity Agreement 1924

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meeting that a request was made for a list of the recipients to be produced and approved by the Parish Council. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the mode of payment of the "Apprentices" Charity and it was decided that the Parish Council should devise a method of payment more in accordance with the wishes of the parishioners. This was after an Annual Parish Meeting at which more than 60 parishioners were present!!

Reference is made in a minute of March 1904 appointing Messrs Chapman and Holme as Trustees for the Joseph Champion and Champion Bray Charities and in 1910 when "Mr Hall, Farmer of Fullwood Style Farm" was appointed. These are the only references noted regarding this charity.

We know that as well as the previously stated charities there was the Phoebe Creswell Charity with arrangements for payment to Apprentices. This was established in 1730 when Mrs Creswell left Hall Croft Head for this and the Jacob Creswell Widows charity.

Following a report by Joseph Eyre (Assistant Overseer) regarding the Creswell Charities at a meeting in March 1914 it was proposed that apprentices should be extended to pupil teachers and that the Charity Commissioners be so informed.

No mention is made in any minute of this period of the balance in any of the charities' funds nor of any payments made. By April 1919 the total balance is stated to be large. The Council felt that the funds were not likely to be absorbed for the purpose for which the charity was founded and members all agreed that a request should be made to the Commissioners for a portion of the fund to be used to enable children of poor parents, who show special ability, to attend a secondary or technical school, covering fees and/or railway expenses. This was accepted by the Commission and the Trustees of the Creswell Apprenticing Fund were given the "power to apply part of the funds to the assisting of parents desiring of sending their children to the Secondary School". It is important to note that at this time the Chairman of the Parish Council (and the Clerk) was D.W. Chadwick - the schoolmaster. A vote of thanks was expressed to the Chairman for his work in this matter during the Annual Parish Meeting of March 1920.

In August 1932 the Chairman was asked if Mrs Creswell's Apprenticing Charity could be extended to include youths taking up farming. The matter was put in the hands of the Trustees and no further mention was made in future minutes.

The funds of Jacob Creswell Widows' Charity were increased dramatically when in May 1937 by agreement with the Board of Charity Commissioners a piece of land adjacent to Eccles Hall was sold to Messrs G. and T. Earle Ltd. for the sum of £300.00 - "the clay underlying the land is included in the sale". The entire copy of the sale document is written in full in the minute book by the Clerk, Mr J.A. Walker.

In the ensuing years reference is made at Annual Parish Meetings to reports on various charities but no detail is given in the minutes, and not until March 1946 is the name of the trustee given (Mr A Boyce). In 1959 reference is made to Mr Boyce answering questions on the administration of the charities - no questions or answers are minuted!

Included in the minute book is a detailed record for future reference regarding the disposal of assets of Mrs Creswell's Apprenticing Charity. The old allotment land was sold to build the Hope Valley College, War Savings certificates were cashed, two cottages in How Lane, Castleton were sold making a total of £979.8.2 towards the charity fund. The figure was made up to £1000 from the current account. This sum was invested in 3 1/2 % War Stock - December 13th 1958 per the Ministry of Education (Charity Commissioners) which purchased £1511.16.11 worth of stock, all placed to the credit of "The Creswell Apprenticing Charity". This was to be administered as in previous years by the Trustees for the benefit of apprentices, teachers and nurses residing in the Parish of Hope. Trustees at that time were :- Canon Hooley (Vicar of Hope) Mr Percy Wardrobe (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Mr A. M. Boyce. It is of interest to note that at the Annual Parish Meeting March 8th 1960 Mr Boyce reported that "money in Government Stock had doubled".

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The Church Widows and the Apprentices Charity were combined during 1962 and in March 1963 Mr Boyce reported that many people had availed themselves of the Apprentices' Charity and that the Combined Charity accounted to £1 for each widow.

For the next thirty years most Annual Parish Meetings include reference to details of payments to and from and balances in the various Charity Accounts

In February of 1974 Mr Green informed the Parish Council that the Trustees of the Apprentices' Charity, - Rev G Turner, Mr P Wardrobe and himself, considered it of no service. The Council agreed that the Charity Commissioners be persuaded to allow it to be combined with the Widows Charity. This seems to be an additional reference to combining Charities first mentioned in 1962. Payments were made from the two Creswell Charities as reported at the Annual Parish Meeting of March 1973. The largest payment from the Apprentices' Charity was in 1983 when 5 payments of £20 were made but since 1986 there is no reference to reports of accounts or payments!

5 – EDUCATION

The first reference to education was in March 1896 when Messrs Wilson, Barber, and Holme were elected to be on the Committee for Technical Education for the district. No mention of the working of the committee is made until November 1900 when it was proposed that arrangements be made for "Ambulance" classes, followed in 1904 when an application was made to the Derbyshire Education Committee for a course on sick nursing. The alternative to this was a course of lectures on veterinary work!

The first Parish Councillor to act as a school governor was elected for a three year period, in March 1905.

In January 1911 a letter was received from the County Architect stating that the County proposed to build a Council School at Hope to accommodate 150 children and the hope was expressed that "the above would commend itself to the Parish Council". This was approved with comments regarding the possibility of heavy rates. The Clerk was asked to write to the Director of Education at Derby, stating that "all the children from the Townships of Aston, Brough, Shatton and the majority of those from the Township of Thornhill attend the Hope School, and the Hope Parish Council would be grateful if information could be given as to how the ratepayers of the above Townships will contribute towards the cost of the new Council School shortly to be built at Hope".

There is no reference in later minutes as to how this was dealt with - just a letter asking Hope Parish Council to appoint two Managers for the proposed new school. Two other Managers were elected in June 1913 for evening classes.

The Chairman Mr D W Chadwick had been School Master at the old Church School (old Parish School) and had been appointed as such at the new Council School, but it would appear that not until 1917 was any mention made of an agreement between the Trustees of the Parish School, and the Vicar and Churchwardens, a copy of which had been made available. This was discussed and it was unanimously resolved that a copy should be entered in the minute book of the Parish Council. Dissatisfaction was expressed at some of the clauses in the agreement. This agreement was dated May 22nd 1915 and related mostly to the use and upkeep of the Parish School and does not seem to have any bearing on the new Hope Council School. At the Annual Parish Meeting of March 1921 the members suggested that the Parish School be transferred to the Parish Council. (Just exactly what is meant is not made clear!)

There are several references to special classes in veterinary work, horticulture, pig and poultry keeping, diseases in young cattle and agriculture.

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Some discussion or notice must have been made available to the Council in 1950 when it was agreed at the December Council Meeting to protest to the Minister of Education regarding the decision not to proceed with the erection of the Hope Valley Bi-Lateral County Secondary School, with a Grammar School wing within the next five years. It was agreed to ask the Minister to take immediate steps to have the building of this school restored to the 1951 programme. The Parish Council also protested against the extravagant costs of transporting Hope Valley scholars to and from the New Mills Grammar School by train, bus and taxi, and the long hours for the pupils concerned. They urged that steps be taken to ensure that the Hope Valley scholars have the same educational facilities as those in urban areas and in areas nearer to Secondary and Grammar Schools in the County of Derby.

In 1955 the Council received a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries asking if Hope Parish Council were prepared to find alternative ground suitable for allotments, as the ground was required for the building of a new school - there is no reference to Hope Valley College but this is what the "School" was to become.

At a Special Meeting in May 1953 the Parish Council put forward a draft resolution regarding the increase in rates particularly on education. After much discussion by the 20 parishioners present it was agreed that the following resolution be sent to the Derbyshire County Council and to Hugh Molson MP.

"This meeting, representing as it does the Ratepayers and Local Government electors in the electoral division of Aston and Hope, express its deep concern at the increase in rates and in particular the substantial increase in Education expenditure". The resolution went on to comment on the County rate of 15/6 in the £1 and put to the County considered measures to reduce expenditure!

- a) Abolish all divisional Education Executives and Committees.
- b) Reduce Transport costs and Travelling Grants.
- c) Reduce Youth Services.
- d) To investigate the whole structure of Educational Costs and administration.

In April 1967 strong complaints were made regarding the lack of room at the Primary School for 4 1/2 year old children coming up to 5 years old to commence school. This complaint was passed to the school managers.

There is no further mention of the college development in any minute until in November 1967 there is a note of a communication from Derbyshire Education Committee indicating that they propose to build extensions to enable the College to accommodate 456 pupils most of whom travel from outside the village and at the Annual Parish Meeting of March 1974 protests were made regarding travelling arrangements for the Hope Valley College and the Primary School.

There are several references to complaints about the behaviour of Hope Valley College students in various parts of Castleton Road.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May 1982 there is a minute regarding a report that the Education Committee had put forward proposals to close Castleton School and transfer pupils to Hope. The Managers at Hope Primary School had made a recommendation that Castleton School be closed, demolished and a new school built on the site or that Hope School be extended to allow for amalgamation. It was reported at the October meeting of 1982 that a new school was to be built at Castleton and £75,000 was required to improve Hope Primary School. There is reference to the school at Castleton in the minutes of November 1982 when it is stated that Castleton School is not to be closed, also a new school would not necessarily be built at Castleton.

Throughout the entire 100 years of the Hope Parish Council school governors have been elected, and have represented the Council at the Church School and the Primary School. These representatives are sometimes referred to as Managers.

There are very few cases reported where any Parish money has been paid to assist the school, the exception being in 1993 when a donation of £300 was made to the Primary School for "filling in the Arches".

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Donations were made to help pre-school organisations in Hope, the Nursery School and the Hope Play Group and reference is made in 1987 to a donation of £25 to Hope Valley College under Section 137 of the Local Government Act for the purchase of musical instruments, expenditure incurred being in the interests of the Parish of Hope and its inhabitants!

On many occasions the school managers as members of the Parish Council have brought to the notice of the Council the concerns of the school staff, such as ages for entry as referred to earlier, and in 1980 the request for support from the Parish Council against the proposed reduction in the school teaching staff.

6 – RAILWAY

The first reference to the railway in Hope was in April 1895 when it is minuted that "Mr Buckston be asked to mention to the County Council that the inhabitants of Hope would like a footpath from Hope to the Station Road". It is not clear in the minute whether this refers to a roadside path or some other "way". (The road over Netherhall Bridge from the village would in those days be quite narrow but without a defined surface edge.)

In May 1896 the Clerk was instructed to write to the solicitor - Mr Bagshawe asking him to move in the matter of the Twitchill footpath. (It should be noted that the path made when the railway was installed was a direct route up steps from Fullwood Lane through stiles and on a sleeper path across the railway lines to the bottom of Twitchill Road. Photo page 27)

At this period there are handwritten copies of the letters from Mr Bagshawe to the Chairman referring to an "interview in regard to the position of matters between the Townships of Hope and the Midland Railway Company", and informing the Parish Council that "The Company are willing to contribute £150 towards the expense of improving Fullwood Lane, if the Twitchill footpath is legally diverted." The minute states that Mr Firth is willing to allow the Twitchill footpath to be diverted from its present course into Fullwood Lane and that he would grant a right of footpath into his land on the north side of the railway-"providing the diversion is legally carried out and that he is to be at no expense in the matter". It appears that these proposals were rejected.

The Parish Council were advised to accept the offer of the Company of £50 towards the cost of waste land in the formation of Barker's Lane.

No further mention is made of the matter until April 1901 when the Clerk was asked to write and complain to the railway company regarding the state of the embankments on either side of the level crossing on the Twitchill footpath and to remind them of their promise to pay compensation for waste land.

The letter makes it quite clear what has to be done as "this footpath from Hope over Win Hill to Ashopton is very dangerous, especially in wet weather". It goes on to make the point that "as children have to travel this way to school every day, these banks and the level crossing constitute grave danger". The Clerk made the suggestion to the railway company of making steps up the embankments. (This came about because of frequent "complaints made by various persons in the Township". This closed the matter at that time and we have to assume that the Parish Council received the £50!

Use of the railway was demonstrated when in 1913 the Clerk was asked to write to the Midland Railway Company asking for the better facilities to be given to persons "desirous of taking Contract Tickets "between Hope and Sheffield by extending the zone system from Dore and Totley to Hope. The Council also ask in another letter for gas lighting to be installed at Hope Station.

By March 1914 the Parish Council were not satisfied with the replies to these letters, and the Clerk was asked to write to the railway company again.

Parish Councils in the valley combined to request "a workman's train" for many now working in