



Old Footpath over Railway on Fullwood Lane

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

Sheffield. This matter was introduced by Bamford Parish Council and is just one of many instances of Hope Valley Parish Councils co-operating. In this regard the Parish Council endorsed a complaint of Bradwell Parish Council about the high cost of season tickets between Hope and Sheffield

The condition of the road leading to the station owned by the railway company has been the subject of many complaints - the first to be recorded in the parish minutes in July 1928.

In March 1930 the subject of the level crossing on the Twitchill footpath was raised again, and following some discussion a resolution was put forward "That the Parish Council in future to keep a better hold on public rights of way and public paths". An amendment was made in a further resolution. "That this is an opportune time for the Parishioners of Hope to show appreciation to the Parish Council in their endeavour to close the footpath over the Dore and Chinley Line and by so doing support the abolition of all level crossings". This discussion was at the Annual Parish Meeting and the amendment was defeated.

The matter of the closure of the level crossing was to become one of the most crucial matters to be dealt with by the Parish Council when in December 1930 a formal letter to the Council Chairman from the London Midland and Scottish Railway, enclosed a Parliamentary Bill regarding the matter which in Clause 26 stated "The Company have the Power to stop up in the Parish of Hope in the Rural District of Chapel-en-le-Frith so much of the footpath leading from Killhill to Twitchill Farm and crossing the Dore and Chinley Railway of the Company as lies between the Company's fences".

A special parish Meeting was called for Saturday 3rd January 1931 to discuss this matter attended by 22 parishioners. A resolution was prepared and it was agreed that copies be sent to Mr A Law MP, the County Surveyor at Derby and to the Clerk to the RDC at Chapel-en-le-Frith. The resolution reads as follows:- "That this meeting of Hope Parishioners emphatically protest against the new attempt of the L.M. and S. Rly Co. to close by Act of Parliament the Twitchill footpath crossing, because if this is done foot traffic would be diverted from a path on which no accident is ever known to have happened, to a dangerous Motor Road only 11 feet wide in some parts, having a dark railway tunnel 53 feet long by 15 feet wide, and where a motor collision took place a few months ago. It would further point out that the motor track is three times as long as the Twitchill track."

By the February meeting of the Council a letter had been received from the County Council stating that the powers to close the Twitchill Path had been deleted from the Bill.

There is no further mention of this path until November 1943 when the Clerk was asked to write to the RDC informing them that the Twitchill footpath was not "properly fenced and is in a dangerous condition". The comment was made that it appeared to the Parish Council that it was the objective of the railway company to get this path closed and diverted. The letter asked that as controllers of footpaths the RDC should make the footpath safe. The condition of the stone steps up to the railway was the subject of a complaint to the Parish Council in October 1949 but there is no note of any action!

The next major involvement of the Parish Council, this time with British Railways was the attempt to close the station and the Hope Valley line to passengers. Concern was expressed at the meeting on 5th May 1959 when the Clerk was asked to write to RDC asking for their support and also to other Parish Councils in the Hope Valley. In response to this two Councillors represented Hope at a meeting in Chapel-en-le-Frith. In May 1963 the Council received a copy of a resolution by Edale Parish Council opposing the proposed closure of passenger services in the Hope Valley. It was stated that the local Labour Party supported the resolution and Hope Council were asked to give their support also. This was agreed to and notification sent to the Derbyshire County Council. (It is interesting to note that this seems to be the only time that a political party is mentioned in the minutes of meetings.) Soon after this we are told that much correspondence was received from the Derbyshire Association of Parish Councils, The Ministry of Transport, the DCC and RDC. A questionnaire had been received from the RDC asking the Parish Council to undertake the work of obtaining the numbers of passengers boarding and alighting from the trains on 2nd July. The Parish Council did not consider one day's figures could give a true picture of the position and the Chairman tabled figures he had taken which he could put before the RDC. The Parish Council did not consider the method proposed by the RDC would serve any useful purpose and the Clerk was asked to inform them of this.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

By January of 1964 a meeting was called at Hathersage to form a committee from various parishes to decide the best way to oppose the proposed closure of the passenger service, A questionnaire would be handed to passengers on 21st to 25th January. 50 were completed and forwarded to the RDC.

British Railways wrote to the Parish Council during April stating that as from 22nd April, freight services would be withdrawn from Hope Goods Depot and that alternative facilities would be available from Grindleford.

The "Heads of Information" prepared by the Railway Board in connection with rail closure were discussed at a meeting at RDC on Feb 19th 1965, A letter was sent to the Board asserting the claims of hardship by all Parish Councils involved and pointing out that the "financial picture" was not a true one, as no credit was given for freight travel from the Hope Valley. Later the Parish Council were to inform British Rail that substitution of rail by bus was considered to be a "monstrous suggestion". Notice was received on March 1968 from the Ministry of Transport stating that the train service in the Hope Valley would *not* be withdrawn. Nine trains would operate each day.

In 1968 the only communications with British Rail were requests from the Parish Council regarding the complaints by parishioners about the state of Station Road and Barker's Lane and the continuing problem of drainage at the railway bridge on Green Drive. There are also several requests for the clearing of overhanging trees along the Edale Road embankment north of Norman's Bridge.

The information received regarding the non-staffing of Hope Station in May 1969 was discussed, and a resolution sent to the Transport Users Consultative Committee objecting to this, particularly whilst extensions were being carried out to sidings further up the line. Within two months British Railways informed the Parish Council that un-staffing at the station had been deferred.

7- ROADS

We know from nineteenth century notes that roads in the parish of Hope were maintained locally and by a person appointed to serve the Parish. The main item every year was the "carting of stone" when called for the repair of any section. In 1895 Henry Ward was elected Surveyor of the Highways at an annual charge of £12.0.0. This was not a full time occupation, but did ensure some continuity of repair for all parts of the village.

At the March meeting of 1895 it is recorded that the Clerk should write to the County Surveyor of Roads and state that the Council "think it desirable that a portion of gravel be stored on the waste land near the Bridge, to be used as the Parish Council think fit". - no mention as to which bridge but we assume this to be Netherhall Bridge. Later in 1896 there is a reference "That 9d per load (cart) be charged for the gravel deposited near Netherhall Bridge".

The first reference to major road works comes in 1897 when the minutes state "The Parish Council are in favour of a new bridge rather than them repair the old one". (This refers to Townhead Bridge which was an old timber bridge). The Revd H Buckston, Vicar of Hope, attended this meeting as District Councillor.

By February 1898 the Townhead Bridge now being constructed, was in the opinion of the Parish Council "not sufficiently on the skew, the approach is still dangerous, almost as dangerous as before, and the Council request that the original plans be submitted to them."

Road widening was proposed on the side of the bridge and it is reported that Mr Allott had offered to give land in return for the rebuilding of the bank wall on the east side of his property.

The minutes of the meeting held on March 25th 1902 include a copy of a letter written in full in response to one from Mr Wiseman, Highways Surveyor about work on Killhill Bridge. "The Parish

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

Council wish to say that the wall in question is a wing wall in the support of Mill Bridge and that they respectfully decline to pay any share of the cost of the re-building thereof”.

There is a quite domestic comment in the minute of December 1905 regarding the repair of the footpath on the main road to Hope Station. “Mr Unwin to be asked to cart cinders – kindly given by Col. Moore of Brough – and thoroughly repair footpath”.

There is no further mention of roads until in April 1913 there was a proposal to write to the Chairman of the County Council Highways Committee asking that tar spraying on the road be extended so as to cover the whole distance from Hope Station to the boundary of Hope and Castleton. The Parish Council felt that this "arrangement would confer a great benefit on the large number of visitors which travel from Hope to Castleton and also on the residents living close to the road to whom the dust caused by motors is a nuisance”.

One of the early major items of road improvements was requested by the Parish Council in 1913 when the Chairman was asked to write to the Chairman of the County Council Highways Committee requesting that the County Bridge known as Netherhall Bridge between the village of Hope and the railway station be widened, as owing to the large amount of vehicles and other traffic, especially in summer -it is considered to be dangerous.

In 1915 a letter was sent to the surveyor of County Roads requesting tar spraying from Hope Station to Castleton - reference is made to a large number of soldiers in the village.

An interesting note in the minute of October 1916 requests repairs to the Roman road leading from Fullwood Stile -belonging to the Rural District Council. The minute states that it is in a "bad state" and requests the Highway Committee to have it repaired. A further such request was made in January 1958.

There are many cases where the Parish Council refer to the dangerous state of walls on Edale Road - the first occasion recorded was in February 1920 when the District Council were asked to look into the matter This was to be repeated in May 1930.

In October 1923 there is the first of many references to the state of roads following the laying of a pipeline - this particular one is regarding laying of a gas main in Edale Road.

Two very local locations requesting road repairs are mentioned in the minute of December 1933 when the Clerk was asked to notify the "Authority concerned" regarding the "bad state" of Barker Lane and also water standing in the road "opposite the fish and chip shop" on Edale Road - a location “positive to all” in 1933 but not so obvious today! We presume that the "Authority" referred to regarding Barker Lane would be the railway company! The same meeting referred to a complaint to the County Council saying that the roadside wall near the weir should be raised.

There is a most interesting minute of the meeting held in September 1931 when it was resolved "That the Derbyshire County Council's attention be drawn to the Bridge over the River Styx, the said Bridge being too narrow to carry the heavy traffic travelling to the Pindale Road".

Note The same bridge is still in use in 2003!

April 1938 saw the first reference to the dangerous state of the road between the "Woodroffe Arms and the Blacksmith's Shop" -the District Surveyor be informed that Hope Parish Council consider the lack of a footpath" is dangerous to pedestrians. The County Council replied to say that this could "not be included in this year's budget" and as a result the Hope Parish Council wrote to the local MP looking for assistance.

In October of 1938 the Council agreed to write to the District Surveyor asking for support on the County Roads Advisory sub Committee towards the Hope and Castleton road widening scheme. This was the first time this is mentioned and it was to be some 20 years before this work was done. In March 1950 the Clerk was asked to press the authorities for immediate attention to the road alterations between Woodroffe Arms and the blacksmith's shop on Castleton Road, only to be told that the "Ministry of Transport economics make the work impossible at present”.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

The Parish Council repeated the request for action again in 1951 and in March 1952 and 1953 at the Annual Parish Meeting when the question of the road widening was queried, to be followed by a letter to the County Council in May 1953. Later in the same year the local MP informed the Council that he would urge the matter with the Ministry of Transport - but "money was not available". In 1950 the Parish Council enquired of the Highway Authority regarding the narrowness of Watergate Bridge, on Pindale Road taking into consideration the amount of heavy traffic using this road.

For the second time in a few months there was a complaint, in March 1955, about the state of the road in Sherwood Avenue. It is reported that as there was no "official complaint the Parish Council could take no action". The word "official", we presume, refers to the lack of a letter to the Council. There is an interesting minute of the meeting in October 1956 where it is declared that a "proposition be put re the widening of Watergate Bridge" Comment on this bridge has been made much earlier and now many years on and many "tons over" the bridge has not been widened nor strengthened. This speaks volumes for the person responsible for building it in 1841.

There are many references in minutes of 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959 regarding the need to complain to the Rural District Council regarding the condition of the roads in the village. The only reference to any action is in January 1960 when the minutes refer to a letter from the County Council saying the matter would be attended to, although the context of the letter suggests that this refers only to Castleton Road .

It is clear that in February 1965 the Council had obtained information regarding improvements to Townhead Bridge costing £24,000. The Clerk was asked to write to the DCC pointing out that in the opinion of the Parish Council the amount of money referred to could better be used in improving Kiln Hill corner on Edale Road, which was a blind corner, had no footpath and was extremely dangerous to pedestrians. Note - There have not been any improvements to Townhead Bridge nor the junction referred to!!

Letters were sent to DCC on numerous occasions , the only reference to a reply from the County Council came in 1970 when after re-surfacing of Edale Road about which many residents complained the minute states that "The DCC are not very helpful". There are occasions where it is reported that the DCC say they have repaired "potholes" and various councillors say they have not done so!

Throughout the ten years 1970-80 there are only a few references to road conditions but concern was expressed regarding the slipping on Edale Road -location not given. In 1984 members of Edale Parish Council were present at the January meeting regarding the vehicles which "get stuck" on Townhead Bridge, but a reply to this complaint from Derbyshire County Council was to the effect that it would be too costly to alter the bridge.

During 1989 reference was made to the dangerous narrow road near the river Noe on Edale Road and to damaged walls in this area. The Parish Council were informed that "no funds are available" to which the Clerk was asked to write to the High Peak Borough Council stating that "this wall is dangerous".

Throughout the whole period since 1945 various minor items have been referred to in connection with collapsed walls, uneven surface, holes left where cats eyes have been taken up, and the poor state of roads in Aston.

It is unfortunate that no definite statements are made in Parish Council minutes of the completion of bridge widening works at Netherhall Bridge, the re-building of Townhead Bridge and the widening of Castleton Road.

Items in the minutes regarding road drainage and footpaths are mentioned in other sections including a complete section referring to MamTor, the Winnats and Dirtlow Rake

8 - VILLAGE WATER SUPPLIES

Our recorded history of water supply in the Parish commences with the formal recording of Parish Council Meetings from July 10th 1895. These make interesting reading, not only for the information, but also for the descriptive phrases used by the various Council Members, and the reporting in some detail. In July 1895 the Parish Council elected one of their members Mr. Jesse Wain to “wait on” Revd Buckston Vicar of the Parish, who was the local representative on the District Council, to ask him to “lay the case” re the parish pump before the District Council, for repair of the pump as “the people are very badly supplied with wholesome Water”. As far as we know, “The Village Pump” was the one located on Edale Road opposite the Chapel Yard., although there was also a pump in “Pump Street”, which was situated above the Manor House on what is now part of Pindale Road.

At that time the water supply came from three sources – five pumps, five troughs fed from springs, and four defined access points for collecting water from the Rivers Noe and Styx. Each household had the means whereby water could be carried from these points in various sized containers, the largest being hung from a water carriage, balanced for ease of handling, and slightly smaller containers hooked onto yokes which were a common item in many households as well as on farms.

There is no doubt that the best water used for drinking and all culinary purposes came from the pumps, which through constant use (and misuse) were quite often out of commission. During very dry periods the wells and springs were an insufficient source, and a greater amount had to be “carted” from the various river access points. Water was precious at such times and it is not at all surprising to read that in August 1895 an “instruction” was sent to Mr Ward, the District Council’s Surveyor, to put a stop to all trap washing at the village pump on the highway!

It is obvious that after the summer of 1895 a lot of discussion took place with the District Engineer and others about a “Water Supply Scheme”. By this time the railway had been completed, and the new route of the road to Edale had been defined. At their meeting in September 1895 the Parish Council under the chairman John Tym, agreed “to take no further action in the carrying out of the Water Supply Scheme until the District Engineer hears from Mr Trabshaw – the Railway Company’s Architect”.

There is no mention at this time of the source of any supply, but by October 1896 reference is made in Council Minutes to the agreement of the Parish Council re terms of payment to Messrs Allott and Cottrill for easement under the “Hope Water Scheme”.

The route of the supply pipe is not mentioned in any minute, but in April 1897 there is the first mention of water being brought from Crookstone, when the two Councillors were elected to meet Mrs Greaves – in order to ascertain the terms on which she would be willing to allow “Hope Parish” to obtain water from Crookstone.

From information contained in the Council Minutes of 1898 Messrs Stirling and Swain must have been employed by the Rural District Council to prepare a report on the Crookstone Water Supply Scheme, and in a minute of May 1898 the Hope Parish Council agreed to accept this report – “and hope for as little delay as possible”. By November of the same year however, the Council considered that the terms for water extraction from Crookstone to be unsatisfactory, and agreed to delay any further action with the Scheme for Water Supply – until after the Derby Water Scheme “be put before Parliament”. Within one month the Parish Council state that they are “in favour of assenting” to the Derby Water Scheme as it affected the Parish of Hope.

The Derwent Valley Water Act of 1899 received Royal Assent on 9th August 1899, but following amendments to the scheme two further Acts of Parliament were passed in 1901 and 1904.

It is clear from the minutes of meetings held in Hope that the Parish Council were not prepared to wait for the “Derby Water Scheme” and in February 1899 a Special Meeting was held “attended by all” (whoever that meant!) but they agreed that the District Clerk, Mr Boycott, be asked to “deal with” Mr Greaves through Mr Jenkins – his legal advisor re the Crookstone Water Supply”.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

Plans were prepared by the Rural District Council but there was "Strong objection" to the line of pipes as indicated on the plan submitted to the meeting of August 1899. The note continues thus "Members would be greatly obliged if one of the Engineers could make it convenient, as soon as possible, to meet them and explain the idea of taking pipes into the Township of Edale, instead of taking a nearer and less expensive route".

During the ensuing years there are many references to repairs to the village pump, and the village still had its three sources of water supply, the pumps, the springs and troughs and the Rivers Noe and Styx.

There is no further reference to the Crookstone Water Scheme until November 1907, when following a letter from the Vicar – Revd E Cecil Vincent regarding water supply, the Clerk to the Parish Council was instructed to reply stating that the Hope Parish Council "are satisfied with the efforts being made by the District Councillor, Mr Jos Unwin regarding the above" and that they "could not move further in the matter".

During 1908 there were obvious discussions regarding the scheme and the "price" required by Mr J Greaves for a water right from Crookstone. There must also have been some suggestions at the time by the Rural District Council to obtain water from Castleton. In December 1909 Mr Unwin requested the Parish Council to strengthen its efforts at District Council Meetings and a resolution was passed that "This Parish Council is strongly of the opinion that the scheme for bringing Water from Jagger's Clough is the best – The Losehill Scheme being inadequate" It is interesting to note that whilst the supply spring is above Jagger's Clough this is the only time it is referred to as such in any Parish Council minute.

There is a contract drawing dated 1910 showing the location spring at a level of 1518.0ft AOD and the route of the four inch diameter cast iron pipe along the side of Crookstone Hill, just below Crookstone Barn, to the roadway at Hope Cross, and so down the route of the track to the Brinks Road and to a reservoir above Fullwood Stile Farm. Thus the Parish Council with the help of Mr Unwin as District Council representative were able to implement the Crookstone Water Supply Scheme which had first been mentioned in the Council Minute as far back as April 1897

There is no reference to the supply piping from the reservoir into the village, nor is there any reference as to whether all households and landlords availed themselves of the supply from the water main in Edale Road and beyond. In 1914 however the Parish Council met representatives from Aston, Brough and Shatton to discuss the best means of supplying Brough with water. A committee of ratepayers from Hope, Aston, Brough and Shatton met the Rural District Council to arrange a "Satisfactory Scheme".

The Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council appear to have control of the entire water supply scheme, as in 1929 a letter was sent from Hope Parish Council stating that in their opinion the man in charge of the water supply should reside in the village, and suggested that in any future appointment of Waterman the Parish Council should be consulted.

Following the completion of the construction of the Derwent and Howden Dams during the period 1912 to 1915 it seems that the Derwent Valley Water Board were looking to supply the Hope Valley. In March 1934 the Chairman of the Parish Council was asked if he had any knowledge of the proposed new water scheme – "reply in negative" is the curt reference in the minutes.

It is interesting to note that at no time since the supply commenced were any complaints made regarding the cleanliness of the water supply from Crookstone, but a number of complaints were made regarding the lack of notice to householders when the water supply was turned off for repairs etc.

In 1933 however the Rural District Council's attention was drawn to the state of the spring supplying the village with water. By June 1936 there must have been talk of alternative water supplies and there is a resolution in the minutes of the 15th June of the Annual Parish Meeting attended by many ratepayers, stating, "That this Annual Parish Meeting is satisfied with its present water supply and does not wish to be included in any other expensive Scheme".

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

They were perhaps trying to forestall the Rural District Council who were preparing schemes to link Hope's water supply with that of Castleton. The Clerk to the Parish Council was asked to write for information regarding this, and to ask for details of the costs involved. Hope Parish Council were concerned about the valuation of the existing Hope and Castleton schemes, particularly with reference to the apportionment of costs – "Castleton's summer usage must be considerable due to the number of people catered for. The only benefit to Hope would be in regard to storage – the major portion of the cost should be borne by Castleton". By August 1937 the resolution was passed that "The Hope Parish Council are of the opinion that it would be advantageous to the Parish of Hope to have our own storage".

In June 1940 there was the first set of complaints about water supply in Hope and a further representation was made to the Rural District Council regarding a local Waterman, owing to the numerous complaints from rate payers, not about water quality but about notice of closure of supply.

It should be noted that this was an era of conversion from earth closets and after the war there was an increase in the use of water. In October of 1951 the Chairman of the Parish Council gave a report on the water supply. There is no mention of the detail of the report, but this was most likely to be the introduction of a water supply from the Derwent Valley Water Board.

At first this supply was unsatisfactory in many ways and in June 1954 the Clerk was asked to write to the authorities regarding "dirty tap water". The reply to the complaint was that the problem was due to the change over from the Hope reservoir to the Derwent Valley Water Board supply, and "will rectify itself with usage"!

Although there is no record in the Parish Council minutes we do know that for some considerable time a non-return valve was in use at the southern end of Edale Road, prohibiting the Hope reservoir supply from entering a system carrying water from Derwent.

From 1954 – until 1958 there were numerous complaints from the residents including "low pressure" on Castleton Road and "filthy water" at Westend Villas such that at times the water supply in some parts of Castleton Road was described as being un-useable. The Parish Council complained often and vociferously about the conditions only to be told that the problem was "due to operation of valves", this in marked contrast to the lack of complaints of the standard of water from Crookstone.

The council minutes do not appear to have any further reference to water supply as supplied by the Derwent Valley Water Board which in 1974 became the Derwent Valley Water Supply Division of Severn Trent Water Authority. The name was changed one year later to become known as the Derwent Division.

The main reference to water during the later part of the century relates to the making good of roads following work by Severn Trent Water Authority, and complaints from residents regarding over-chlorination of the water supply and low water pressure, particularly on Castleton Road.

There must have been further complaints of highly chlorinated water supplies, because in 1991 the Severn Trent Water Authority advise the Council that the chlorine content in local water had been increased subsequent to the Water Act prior to the privatisation of the water industry! They informed the Parish Council that the variation in chlorine level is due to distance and that the "anomaly has been corrected".

9 - LOCAL AMENITIES

The first mention of a postal service in the village was in May 1906 when the Clerk was instructed to write to the postal authorities in Sheffield asking that a noon dispatch of letters may be granted for Hope. There is no record of any reply to this request but in 1909 the Clerk was again asked to write to the postal authority for a letter box at the extremity of the village as this would be "a great boon" to the village.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

In June 1912 a letter was read from the Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council regarding a telephone service.

The members considered that "this might be a boon to the district and was looked on "with favour". It was decided that a public meeting should be held. At this meeting attended "by a fair number of people" including two members of the Bradwell Parish Council, it was agreed that a further meeting be held with an official from the telephone company. The following month the minutes include a record of the statement made by the official. He explained that owing to the distance from Hathersage, where there will probably be a telephone exchange – the extension to Hope would be prohibitively expensive. However if the required number of subscribers could be got an exchange might be placed at Hope. There is no further mention of this for many years.

Following through the minutes there is a surprising note in March 1920 when a resolution was prepared to send to the Clerk of the Sanitary Committee at Chapel-en-le-Frith stating "This Parish Council strongly object to the proposed Sewage Scheme for the Village of Hope as being inopportune and quite unnecessary". The Council at the same time wishes to point out that the drainage of houses on Castleton Road was of necessity neglected during the War, but since the War there should be no difficulty in repairing the drains and cleaning the sumps as labour is now available. The Council wishes to emphasise the fact that owing to the recent expensive Water Scheme, and the building of the new Council School the ratepayers of Hope are sufficiently burdened by rates and look upon the proposed Sewage Scheme with alarm."

In 1920 there was a request for the Parish Council to meet a deputation of ratepayers re the provision of a sports field for the village. (This was ultimately achieved some 27 years later not by the Parish Council but by the Hope Sports Club).

The question of some sort of village fire fighting equipment was first recorded in 1922 when it was agreed that the members should visit Bamford and look at cost and working of the Bamford apparatus. This was followed within one month by a letter from Glossop Town Clerk suggesting that the Hope Parish Council retain the services of the Glossop Fire Brigade at an annual cost of £13 in addition to costs incurred in case of fire – the Council rejected this offer! Fire hoses were a constant item in the minutes and a catalogue was produced and discussed before the Clerk was instructed to ask for quotations from a few firms for a similar appliance to Bamford. Messrs Dixon (Leeds) tender was accepted and a precept of £45 issued to cover the cost of the fire apparatus. At a public meeting in October 1923 regarding a Fire Brigade and the storing of the apparatus in the Hearse House – (subject to the approval of the Trustees) - twenty-four men volunteered under the Captain and Vice Captain nominated. A carriage was suggested and constructed by the local joiner – Messrs C A and B Hadfield, and later the windows of the Hearse House were repaired and bars provided to protect the fire appliance. This matter was taken very seriously and the Chairman of the Council and an Overseer volunteered to go round the village and clear all fire hydrants.

There is an interesting note in the winter of May 1929 when a letter was read from the Wycliffe Crusade Fire Brigade offering services to the village – the cost being borne by the owner of the premises. This offer was accepted "at no cost to the Hope Parish Council". There are many references to fire hydrant tops being "obliterated with Tar" and a request was made to the Rural District Council to "put this right". There were then the 16 hydrants in the village which were noted on the front page of the first Minute Book and copied in subsequent volumes.

The question of the sewage scheme came up again in 1929 when a letter was to be sent to Rural District Council "This Parish Council is in favour of the Scheme outlined by Messrs Brady and Partington for the sewerage of Hope Village, but is of the opinion that Section I only should be carried out at present owing to the enormous cost of the whole Scheme".

Following the deputation in 1920 regarding a sports field, the matter was raised again by two members of Toc H. It was agreed that the matter be referred to at the Annual Parish Meeting but there is no mention of this in the Minutes.

By 1933 the Fire Brigade must have been disbanded, as in May 1933 there is reference to a decision to have a meeting to re-form the village Fire Brigade. Supt. Stansfield of the Peak District Fire Brigade

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

volunteered to train a new brigade in Hope, and the Parish Council to look for volunteers. By December it is reported that the volunteer Fire Brigade under the tuition of Supt. Stansfield was making satisfactory progress.

The first mention of a village car park was in December 1937 when it was agreed that a request be made for a car park in the Market Place, but within one month the Council agreed that no further steps should be taken at present.

By 1939 the Minutes were full of the A.R.P., the Fire Brigade and the fitting of gas masks. It was noted that Derbyshire County Council insisted that expenditure under the ARP must be approved by the County Executive Committee. There is also reference to a letter from the Rural District Council saying that despite the Council's request a fire trailer and pump could not be located to the village. Further notes about the Fire Brigade and the ARP together with information about other voluntary organizations is included in a chapter on the War Years.

After the War, Council Meetings referred to such items as the cost of electricity, extension of the sewage scheme to Veinbutt Villas, Glenholme and Marston Farm. Better postal facilities were reported as now being available through the efforts of the combined Parish Councils, and the Rural District Council submitted three possible sites for a public convenience in the village.

Offers were made by several people to provide seats for the village but it was to be quite a long time before the Parish Council co-ordinated these offers – permission had to be obtained from the Rural District Council and landowners!

There are many references to bus services, including lateness of buses from Castleton to Hope Station, extension of bus service Castleton – Hope – Bradwell – Tideswell and Bakewell. In March 1949 there is a minute to the effect that in the event of the North Western Road Car Co. discontinuing the service – Castleton to Hope Station, the Rural District Council be asked to appoint an Advocate to watch the interests of the Castleton and Hope Parish Councils.

Discussions took place at Hope Parish Council and at joint meetings of local Councils in 1949 regarding the possibility of a mortuary for the Hope Valley, and it was agreed that the joint Parish Councils should ask the Rural District Council to supply one – even going as far as suggesting the Hearse House at Hope as a possible location. This location was considered by the Rural District Council as being unsuitable and referred the matter back to the Parish Council.

At about the same time there are a few references to a suggested maternity home at Bradwell. Following representations to the Rural District Council a letter was sent to them agreeing that the cost of the provision of a maternity home for the Hope Valley is prohibitive and unreasonable, and should not be proceeded with at this time. They did however say to the Rural District Council that a resident midwife was urgently needed!

Complaints were constantly put to the Parish Council regarding low pressure in the gas supply.

10 - VILLAGE TIP

It was not until 1909, when a complaint about tipping on private land was made, that it was mentioned in the minutes that the Parish Council “wish the Clerk to state that a Parish Tip is very desirable”. Whilst there is no report regarding the allocation of land for a tip, in the next year there is a statement that “Considering the untidy state of the Hope Tip a letter be written by the Clerk to the Rural District Council requesting that a notice board be placed on or near the Tip stating that refuse must be placed only on the Tip and not indiscriminately” and it was suggested that the Rural District Council be requested “to employ occasionally a man to keep the Tip tidy”. Within three months a person was employed for this purpose at a salary of one shilling per week. There is a complaint minuted to the effect that unsuitable material was being placed on the tip. There is no indication as to the nature of this material.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

There are several references after this appointment about the untidy state of the village tip and in 1924 a complaint was made to the Rural District Council regarding the tip, which should be enlarged, and suggesting that this could be done by cutting down adjoining trees and brushwood. Soon after this the Parish Council had further complaints from the public and a request was made to the Rural District Council that the tip be enlarged, because the ground at the back of the council houses was being used as a tip. (It should be noted that in 1924 the only council houses in Hope were on Sherwood Avenue – a long way from the village tip off Castleton Road).

Dissatisfaction was expressed about the location of the village tip in close proximity to several houses on Castleton Road. The Clerk was asked to write to the Rural District Council pointing out the nuisance and danger to health that might result if refuse be deposited on the site proposed. (It seems, from later entries that the original tip was probably off Pindale Road.) The Rural District Council soon replied to the complaint about the “proposed” location and stated that the site had been decided and could not be altered.

Later in 1929 there is a minute regarding the discussion about the tip and the Chairman was asked to write to the Rural District Council informing them that the tip on Pindale Road was closed and the new tip close to the allotments off Castleton Road should be opened at once, as there was no where for residents to dispose of refuse. The following year there is a minute confirming that the Rural District Council would lay some rough stone on the road to the tip. There followed numerous occasions when complaints were made regarding the condition of this road.

The Council prepared a motion at their meeting of July 1934 “The Rural District Council’s attention be drawn to the rubbish that is being thrown into the river between Kiln Hill and Town Head on Edale Road and also near the bridge by the Vicarage”

The first reference made regarding a Village Scavenger was in July 1936 when the Rural District Council suggested that the Parish should have one. The Parish Council did not consider “the time opportune for a Public Scavenger” – the main nuisance was “Rats with which the Tip is infested”. However by 1941 the Council asked the Rural District Council for improved scavenging. Towards the end of the war in 1945 the need for new tips was reported by the Rural District Council who stated that enquiries were being made in the Hope Valley (March 1945). During late summer of 1945 following a complaint the Clerk was asked to write to the Rural District Council regarding the burning of rubbish at the village tip – there had been many reports of excessive heat generated at parts of the tip.

There had been many complaints about the work of the scavenger in the village. In 1949 the “Scavenging Authority” were asked to supply and maintain waste paper baskets in the village. By October of 1952 the Parish Council were requesting more and larger litter bins, and asking for the bins to be emptied more frequently, to which the Rural District Council replied that the bins would be emptied each Monday.

Scavenging was still required but mostly the complaints were regarding street cleaning and general tidiness of the village, including the sweeping of grit from the roads after the winter. There are many complaints to the Rural District Council and Derbyshire County Council regarding the state of the pavements and un-swept roads. Dissatisfaction with street cleaning was expressed at several Annual Parish Meetings and by 1973 the Parish Council were considering organising its own street cleaning scheme. The Council discussed the matter, but expressed concern over the disposal of rubbish and it was resolved to refer the matter to the Rural District Council. The request by the Parish Council for larger and increased numbers of litter bins resulted in a letter from the Rural District Council saying that their supply “was exhausted”.

In September 1970 the Rural District Council informed the Parish Council that the Clayfields Tip at Thornhill would be open for receipt of household refuse on 4th Saturday of each month, 9am to 11am for an experimental period of six months. There is no further reference to the Clayfields tip until 1979 when the Parish Council received a complaint regarding locking of the gate to the tip, which they considered should be open at all times. There is a reference to a change in policy regarding the refuse tip but no statement as to what that policy was! At the very next Council Meeting disgust was expressed to the Derbyshire County Council regarding payment demanded for tipping refuse on the tip by local people. The Parish Council also informed the Derbyshire County Council that the tip should

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

be open at all times, and that no levy should be made on refuse skips which should be emptied regularly. This is followed by a complaint by parishioners of the dumping of rubbish in various parts of the village. "Wheelie bins" must have been introduced before the summer of 1992 as there is a formal request to the High Peak Borough Council to the effect that "Wheelie bins to be put back in the positions they are found"!

11 - HOPE MARKET

The first mention of the Market was in the minutes of a special Parish Council Meeting convened in November 1911 to discuss the Government Order "Closing the Fortnightly Cattle Market unless the Market Grounds be pitched". A Committee was appointed "to see to the matter". There is no report of the findings of this Committee nor of any action taken. There was a request in 1915 to the Council for tar spraying on roads but no mention of the market ground.

Residents of Sherwood Avenue made a formal complaint to the Parish Council in January 1963 objecting to the "nuisance of the Cattle Markets". In particular they strongly objected to the fact that cattle were being left overnight following market day. The Parish Council agreed that there was cause for concern and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Minister of Agriculture, the Rural District Council and the auctioneer regarding the matter. Replies were received from all parties but there is no comment in the minutes as to the content of these replies! Even though the Ministry of Agriculture say that "everything is in order at the Market". Further complaints were made to the Council in February 1967.

The next occasion when the market is mentioned appears in the minutes of the meeting of 30th May 1967 when it is reported that strong complaints have *again* been made regarding filth left behind after market day. It was agreed that a protest be sent to the Public Health Department at the Rural District Council. Within a month the Rural District Council informed the Parish Council that cleaning arrangements would be made regarding the cattle market. These complaints come after a period of some 50 years after notification of closure under a government order.

There is an interesting minute in the meeting of November 1970 where a note was made of "obnoxious weeds at the Market Place". There follows a remarkable list – Spear Thistle, Field Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock and Ragwort. It states that the Ministry of Agriculture *could* serve notice on the occupier to prevent the weeds spreading. It is also stated that the Rural District Council has no jurisdiction in the matter – and this must have been a statement by the Chairman in his capacity as a Borough Councillor.

In September 1971 there is a reference to a letter from the Parish Council to the Rural District Council asking if the auctioneer, on licence, could be compelled by the Rural District Council to clear litter and rubbish, weeds etc from the market place. The minute states that the Parish Council had written to the auctioneer with little success.

The Council expressed strong objections to the cover which had been erected in the "Market Place" and in a letter to the Peak Park Planning Board stated that "it was not in keeping with local amenities" and would have received objections from the Parish Council if plans and more information had been submitted.

Parking of cars, cattle wagons and trailers had become quite a serious problem by the 1980's and in November 1982 the Derbyshire Constabulary representative met the Parish Council to discuss the problem. This was described to him as "congested and dangerous parking on Edale Road and in the vicinity of the Market Place". Illegal parking should be reported to the police at Buxton who would deal with the matter.

In 1991 the market place had been included in "the Village Scheme" as an item in the list of areas of the village to be considered.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

Apparently complaints continued regarding parking and there are several references to mud on the road at the entrance, the last reference being in February 1993 when it was stated that the entrance should be "defined from the A625 with alternative surface material".

12 - HOUSING

The first mention of any item relating to council housing was at the Annual Parish Meeting in 1919 when a minute states that after discussion it was decided "that the District Council be asked to allot six houses in Hope". Prompt action was taken by the District Council and in April Hope Parish Council were asked to submit a site for the new houses to be erected in Hope. It was proposed that the market field belonging to Truswell's Brewery Company be submitted as a suitable site.

By June of 1919 the Parish Council amended their request from six to sixteen houses, and that the market ground was preferable to Rye Croft as a suitable site. By December of 1920 there must have been much more discussion regarding the need for houses, and a special Parish Meeting was called to inform the public that the Rural District Council proposed to erect 16 new houses at Hope. A petition was drawn up opposing this as the ratepayers felt that only eight houses were sufficient for the needs of the village. The following is the petition:-

"We the undersigned ratepayers of Hope respectfully petition the Chapel-en-le-Frith the Rural District Council not to erect more than eight houses at present. We consider that eight houses are quite sufficient for the needs of the Village and that the time is not opportune for the building of more".

A letter accompanying this resolution explained that since June 1919 six of the twelve applicants have obtained houses in the village vacated by families who have left the District.

There is no direct reference at that time as to how many it was agreed should be built, or when, but by September 1921 some of the applicants were asking the Parish Council when the houses would be complete. Trouble came in January 1922 when the Parish Council learned that the allotting of houses had been carried out without reference to them. (These houses are on the Sherwood Avenue site).

There is no mention of housing being discussed by the Parish Council from January 1922 until a Meeting on the 12th August 1946 when the Chairman of the Rural District Council Housing Committee submitted plans for the erection of pre-fabricated houses on the Castleton Road as the first instalment for the housing programme for Hope - work to start September/October. Work was stopped in December 1946; Derbyshire County Council Highways having informed the Rural District Council that work could not proceed unless a service road was constructed. The Parish Council agreed to this and asked for a re-start in the immediate future. The meeting was informed by Mr Winston, the local Borough Councillor that the Derbyshire County Council had received the plans seven and a half weeks before the complaint to the Rural District Council. This was the time for a resolution from Hope Parish Council!

"Hope Parish Council whole heartedly supports the efforts of the Rural District Council to build houses, and deplore the fact of the Derbyshire County Council's "red tape" in holding up construction and increasing costs unnecessarily".

The Parish Council made several request to the Rural District Council asking for the provision of more council houses in Hope. They in turn proposed a field on the Castleton Road behind "Idle Hour" - then the property of G and T Earle - as a suitable site. Within two months the Rural District Council forwarded a plan to the Parish Council showing the proposed site and access - the Council approved with a comment regarding the west entrance which should be altered owing to the wet nature of the ground. By January 1950 the Parish Council queried what was happening and again in March 1951 a letter was sent to the Rural District Council deploring the apparent "laxity" of not providing the Parish with much needed additional housing and urged the Rural District Council to take immediate steps to ease the The Parish Council were informed in February 1952 that land had been purchased and a contract let for housing situation in Hope.

The Parish Council were informed in February 1952 that land had been purchased and a contract let for

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

23 Houses to be built in Hope. (There is no mention of the location which we now know as Marsh Avenue). There were strong protests by the Parish Council regarding the system of letting being invested in the hands of the Rural District Council local Councillor and protested that this was too great a responsibility for one person - this was no reflection on the integrity of the Rural District Council representative. The Rural District Council were asked to consult the Parish Council regarding the selection of tenants for council houses. This received support from the Derbyshire Association of Parish Council's who were asked if they would consider a complaint to the National Council. More trouble came in February 1953 when the Ministry of Housing had been "in touch" with the Rural District Council over the protest about the letting of council houses, saying that providing letting was finally decided by the Council as a whole, the system was satisfactory. Hope Parish Council were dismayed as in fact the letting was in the hands of the local representative of the Rural District Council.

At the Annual Parish Meeting of 1957, after Marsh Avenue had been completed, the Chairman expressed his very strong views on the type of house built in Hope compared with other villages. He felt that "any old thing is not good enough" and asked the Clerk to write to the Rural District Council asking for better designed houses - at no more cost!

In November of 1959 the Council received a letter from the Rural District Council regarding further housing plans in Hope saying that the article in the Derbyshire Times should not mean that housing would proceed forthwith - this would be governed by the financial situation. The Council were surprised at this as they had been informed that finance was not the only impediment.

In September 1960 the Parish Council were made aware of an item in the Rural District Council Meeting minutes concerning the selling of land in Hope previously purchased by the Rural District Council. Hope Parish Council "views with apprehension the suggestion of selling land to the Private Developer" and a letter was to be sent to the Rural District Council expressing this. This matter was followed early in 1961 when the Parish Council received a letter from Wimpey saying "that they were in negotiation with the Rural District Council for the purchase of land between Marsh Avenue and Edale Road for development of a small housing estate, and requesting the Parish Council, as the lighting authority to submit arrangements regarding lighting on a new estate. This produced a short reply saying that the Parish Council had no direct data about the sale of this land and could not advise! and also a letter to the Rural District Council asking in a few words "what is going on?" This produced a letter from the Rural District Council saying that the selling of land, so bitterly opposed by the Parish Council, would now be developed by the Rural District Council.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in 1962 the Chairman demonstrated plans for "old folks bungalows to be built on land that is now Eccles Close. Concern was expressed that, whilst this was in order, land should also be made available to local people for private house building and the Rural District Council was to be asked if a portion of the land could be sold for this purpose. In March 1963 the Chairman was able to report that 14 applications had been made by local people for house plots, and at the Annual Parish Meeting the Chairman reported that 33 applications had been made for old peoples' bungalows and allocation should be made in a months time. He stated that many would be disappointed and that four bungalows are to be allocated to persons living outside Hope! It was proposed that the Chairman represent Hope at the Rural District Council Meeting considering the allocation of bungalows.

The Parish Council received a curt reply from the Rural District Council saying that the Chairman could not be co-opted on to the Rural District Council committee responsible for allocation as Mr Lewis was already on the committee. The reply to this was that, having been intimately connected with the scheme, they had sent the offer "in a spirit of co-operation" and had hoped and anticipated that it would be similarly received.

The land on Eccles Close had become the subject of an argument between the builder, the Rural District Council and the Peak Park Planning Board, and buyers were now being asked for £500 as against £400 due to price increase of developed land. The Clerk was asked to write to the Minister of Housing for help and guidance.

Having settled the matter regarding tenants in the first of the old folks' bungalows it was not until April 1973 that the Parish Council wrote to the Rural District Council urging action regarding seven

more bungalows. In June of that year there is a minute stating that the Rural District Council was in touch with a Housing Association about the land at the end of Marsh Avenue "where it would be

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

possible to build 30 units". At the same time concern was expressed about grants being given and then properties sold for profit with no gain to the local authority. The question of land at the end of Marsh Avenue was not raised again until May 1981.

In 1983 the Chairman was asked "to raise the question" of the need for further housing in Hope – in his capacity as Borough Councillor. In August 1984 the Director of Housing for the High Peak Borough Council met the Parish Council to hear about local concerns over housing for young people and the elderly. There had been 24 applicants from Hope. Mr Harrison spoke of the investigations being made into the rebuilding of the Airey Houses.

At the October meeting of 1984 the Clerk reported that the Northern Counties Housing Association had indicated its willingness to consider providing a housing scheme in Hope, subject to there being adequate demand, and suitable land being made available for this purpose. A questionnaire was organised to be sent to every household within the parish of Hope with Aston. Taking this matter one stage further, the Vice Chairman was asked to approach Mr H Eyre to ascertain the availability of suitable land for development by the Northern Counties Housing Association – Mr Eyre was not prepared to sell and it was proposed that contact be made with the Peak Park Planning Board to establish which of the following areas might be acceptable for the type of development envisaged. There followed a series of field numbers presumably taken from a Parish Plan. Within the space of two months the Peak Park Planning Board had identified two sites in the village which might be suitable for "well designed" limited scale development. The sites are not named, but it was agreed that the owners of the favoured sites be contacted. The Peak Park Planning Board informed the Council that it would not be possible to restrict planning permission on any area of land to joint ownership development only. This exercise was again closed as the owner refused to sell the land. The possibility of the Trustees of Pinder Meadow Charity selling to a Housing Association was then considered. The minute on housing in July 1985 concluded with a statement that the matter should be left as there are a number of low priced houses on the market at present – proving difficult to sell. Several years later the Peak District Rural Housing Association indicated their interest in a housing scheme in Hope!

The matter of the need for local housing was raised again in 1991 following the results of a recent survey. It was agreed that further investigation should be undertaken regarding the suitability of Pinder Meadow and the best access to the site to be established. Consideration of the Pinder Meadow site was withdrawn in March 1992 following much discussion of alternative routes for access.

In July 1993 there is reference to housing on Eccles Close which the Hope Parish Council would support. Concern was expressed regarding such houses eventually being placed on the open market. The Housing Association reported to the Council about the site on Eccles Close being suitable for three houses, to which many local residents objected. In November, at a meeting with High Peak Borough Council attended by 45 Parishioners, it was explained that if the scheme for three houses was refused – local housing would be lost to Hope "for ever". There was still much opposition to the use of "Amenity Land". After much discussion it was resolved that "Whilst the Parish Council are supportive of the provision of housing to fulfil the local need for low cost rented housing they find the application unsuited to the surrounding bungalow style environment".

There is no minute agreeing to the two houses built on the "Amenity Land" in Eccles Close, which concluded a period of continuous action by the Parish Council regarding housing for local people.

13 - THE CEMENT WORKS

There is no reference in Council Minutes regarding the development of the cement works by Messrs G & T Earle in the mid 1920's. The first reference is found in November 1928 in connection with "Earle's light railway crossing footpaths", and in January 1929 regarding concern over the excavation for the "cutting" across Emma Crofts. This was considered to be a danger to "passengers" especially at night and the Chairman was requested to meet the contractor to ask that "this danger be obviated by creating a Temporary Footbridge over the Cutting". There followed the lengthy discussions regarding the Twitchill footpath diversion and the objections to the proposals put forward by Messrs G & T Earle.

Pollution from the cement works was first referred to in March 1930 when the Parish Council passed a resolution "That letters should be sent to the Ministry of Health and the local Medical Officers of Health requesting an analysis of the fumes and water from Messrs Earle's Cement Works".

There are quite a few references to the condition of the fences and stiles associated with the works track and sidings as well as the condition and size of the river bridge leading to the works. The problems of extensions to the works with particular reference to clay fields was discussed in March 1948 when a letter from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England was read stating their objections to the proposed extensions. This was raised at an Annual Parish Meeting at which 19 persons were present. The matter was thoroughly discussed and all wished for an assurance to be given by Messrs Earle that excavations for clay at Marsh Farm should not be started until absolutely necessary, if ever! During the next month a meeting was held at which two representatives of Messrs Earle stated the case of the company for the extensions of their Hope works. After the two gentlemen had retired a resolution was passed that "no objection be raised against the proposed construction of a 400ft Chimney" and "That this Council approves the scheme in principle, but request a re-assurance that more tangible efforts shall be made to heal present and future fears, particularly in regard to the clay fields". The assurance re Marsh Farm excavations was also re-iterated.

At the Annual Parish Meeting of 1953 the meeting called for a query to be sent to Messrs Earle asking when and where tree planting would commence? In October of the same year the Clerk was instructed to write to Earles asking about progress with planting, to which they replied the following month simply to say – they are planting. The works were expanding, and there is a rather curt minute asking the Derbyshire County Council when this would take place.

It was not until 1969 that any further mention was made in Council Minutes regarding the cement works, when a report was issued on the proposed extensions to the sidings by "Associated Portland Cement" (formerly G&T Earle) suggesting that the Twitchill footpath should be diverted.

At about the same time there were some complaints about blasting at the work's quarry and the noise from the new sidings – these were reported at the Annual Parish Meetings of March 1971 and it was requested that these complaints be sent to APCM.

A new item appeared in the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of March 1974. Complaints were received from residents local to the site of the new bridge over the River Noe being built by APCM. It was pointed out by the Chairman that the Parish Council had received no plans prior to the works being commenced and complaints should be sent direct to APCM – It is interesting to note that during the erection of the original bridge in 1926/27 there are no references to this at all in any minute of Council meetings of the period.

When it came to the matter of demolishing the existing bridge the Council received notification "requiring APCM to remove the existing Bridge within four years unless before that time the Board (Peak Park Planning Board) and the Company agree that it should remain in position". Whilst the members of the Parish Council were requested to view the efforts being made by APCM to reduce problems of emission from the works there are several references to complaints from the public.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

Once the Mam Tor road was closed there are several references to the problem of traffic through the village and to the Pindale – Dirtlow Rake road. In minutes regarding this matter there is a note that it was agreed “to suggest to the County Highways Committee that the most suitable route should be the Batham Gate route via Smalldale (Bradwell)”. This must have come to the notice of the Bradwell Parish Council who wrote to the Chairman in April 1981 enquiring if it was a policy of Hope with Aston Parish Council that the construction of the proposed Pindale – Dirtlow Rake relief road be rejected in favour of the new road through Bradwell? The Clerk was asked to reply stating that this was not the case and to point out that Hope with Aston Parish Council had originally suggested the adoption of the Pindale – Dirtlow Rake route. (This does not agree with the previous suggestion to the County Highways Committee!).

Additional traffic to and from the works due to accidents and the rail strike resulted in parishioners complaining about the problems of the “large eight wheel lorries” through the village. In August of 1989 there is a detailed reference to a meeting with Blue Circle Industries (successors to APCM) by members of the Council. The Chairman reported that every effort was being made to alleviate the problems of both chimney pollution and lorry traffic. He reported that the “clinker traffic” should decrease over two years and that the new depot at Flitborough will increase the use of the rail links. The Chairman in answering questions stated that the increase in traffic through the village is a result of the increased demand for cement. In referring to the dust pollution he reported that more work would be done on the precipitators. These were direct answers to queries at the previous meeting. It was resolved that the Clerk should post a notice in the village informing the public that the Council has been taking action with regard to the condition of the roads and Blue Circle Industries traffic, and has also been in liaison with the police.

The culmination of efforts to reduce works traffic through the village came in May 1994, when, at the Annual Parish Meeting a request was made by Blue Circle Industries for planning approval to increase traffic from the works for a six month period. The Parish Council resolved to support the application, but asked that the Planning Board be requested to encourage Blue Circle Industries to construct a new access road to the factory from the B6049 to take some of the traffic pressure from Hope village centre. In July 1994 there was an application for an extension to the pallet-making building which was fully supported by the Council. The minute further states that the Parish Council would like to propose the development of a road from the cement works out on to the B6049. It is further stated that it is hoped to arrange discussions with Bradwell and Brough Parish Council on this subject. This suggestion also to be put to Blue Circle Industries. Blue Circle Industries response was that the scheme is too expensive in the present market conditions!

14 - DRAINAGE

The first reference to any item about drainage does not appear in the minutes of Parish Council Meetings until January 1928 when a letter was read from consulting engineers to the Borough Council requesting to meet members of the Parish Council regarding drainage of houses on Castleton Road. In the minute of the March Parish Council meeting a resolution was passed “That this Council after due consideration suggest to the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council that the question of drainage of the houses in the Castleton Road be confined to the eleven houses under the agency of Mr Jenkinson of Sheffield”. The exact location or reason for the resolution is not clear but could be related to the matter discussed at a special Parish Meeting held on 25th June 1928. This meeting had been convened to discuss drainage on Castleton Road, and after considerable discussion a resolution was formed - “That the Chairman of the Parish Council be instructed to convey the feelings of this meeting to the official of the Ministry of Health on Thursday next. This meeting is in favour of the proposed drainage scheme if later it form part of a permanent scheme for the Village, if not, the scheme should be confined to the defective area”. There was an amendment put forward but the resolution was agreed 16 to 14 in favour. Unfortunately there is insufficient data to relate this matter to the “eleven houses” referred to in January. The discussion at the meeting is not recorded in any way, and no further mention is made until May 1930 when the Council’s attention was drawn to the alteration of the sewerage plan behind the houses in Castleton Road when the complainant was advised to notify the Rural District Council of the matter. There was no further comment!

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

There are many reports in the Minutes regarding drainage in Green Drive. The first of these was in August 1937 when stagnant water was required to be reported to the Sanitary Inspector and there was also a problem regarding the drainage on Castleton Road. Road drainage problems became an item regularly referred to in the Minutes, e.g. at Blacksmith's Cottages, on Station Road, at the bottom of Edale Road and particularly on Castleton Road. The first recorded promise from the authorities was to repair the culvert at Brookstone's Corner.

In 1954 the Rural District Council traced a faulty drain in Castleton Road to a ditch "which needs cleaning out" and promised "to keep it under observation".

Following several complaints re the drainage at the bottom of Edale Road the Rural District Council informed the Parish Council that this was due to "insufficient drains" and the matter will be put in the hands of the Highway Authority. The Parish Council was assured in November 1954 that the matter would be put right "providing there are no complications".

Following many complaints to the Borough Council regarding blocked gullies and water standing due to temporary works on Station Road in 1960 and 1961, the Parish Council decided, in November 1961, to ask the Borough Council to visit Hope to discuss the problem of drainage following the overflowing of drains after heavy rainfall.

It became clear to the Parish Council that all was not well with the general drainage system in Castleton Road. Complaints were passed to the County Council when first of all water flowed from the flooded road into the gardens of West End Villas and positive requests were made for the gullies to be cleaned out. By 1963 the problems in Castleton Road with flooding and blocked ditches became more intense, despite the Council having received an assurance in May that *all* gullies had received attention. The issue of Castleton Road flooding became even more of a problem when in March 1966 manholes were lifted in the flood and sewage was reported at the eastern end of Castleton Road and Councillors requested urgent action to be taken by the Medical Officer of Health at the Borough Council.

Reference was made to the clearing of ditches in the village with particular reference to the west end of Eccles Close at the Annual Parish Meeting in March. The Borough Engineer, Mr Colston, had been requested to meet the Council regarding this matter as early as October the previous year. There is a note in the payments made by the Council for cleaning ditches at this time of £18.6.8d. Strong protests had been made by "Ratepayers" regarding flooding in Castleton Road.

These references to flooding followed some work having been done by the Borough Council. Further work was indicated which referred to a length traversing Pinner Meadow and the Borough Council had "suggested" that 50% of the cost of this should be borne by the Parish Council. This was discussed at some length at the Council Meeting of November 1965 and agreed to, with the proviso that an estimate of the cost should be given. Reference was made to a Borough Council suggestion to investigate the possibility of piping the watercourses. The Borough Engineers had come to the conclusion that the flooding was chiefly due to "outlet pipes not being large enough to take excess water" and at a meeting at Hope in October 1966 they stated that the County Council had agreed to replace these. It was clear that Hope Parish Council were anxious regarding this matter as in November the Clerk was asked to write to the Derbyshire County Council enquiring as to what *they* were doing – some work had been done on cleaning ditches by the Borough Council!

At the Annual Meeting in March 1967 the Chairman reported that a major scheme was in hand to alleviate flooding in Castleton Road. It must have come as a surprise to Councillors when in November 1967 a letter from the Rural District Council stated that they were unable to give any information as to when the piping was to commence, as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had "declined to give a quote" and the matter was again to be considered by the Rural District Council. The Parish Council agreed to forward a petition to the Ministry, explaining fully the need for piping the streams, and asking that further consideration be given to granting financial aid to the Rural District Council to resolve this very serious problem.

The Chief Public Health Inspector indicated later that Hope Parish Council should carry out their responsibility of clearing the ditch at the rear of Eccles Close. The Council considered that this action on its own would only increase the flooding on Castleton Road.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

Throughout 1968 there are reports in the Minutes of letters to the Member of Parliament, disagreements regarding responsibility, and meetings with the Derbyshire County Council and Rural District Council, during which Derbyshire County Council agreed to accept *some* responsibility towards solving the problem of flooding on Castleton Road. Reference was also made to the Charity Commissioners regarding the responsibility regarding drainage of Pinner Meadow.

By September of 1969 the Parish Council were informed by the Derbyshire County Council that the Derbyshire County Council and the Rural District Council would pay 50% of the £750 cost but the Rural District Council say that they will only pay 25% whereas Derbyshire County Council says they *should* pay 50%!! The entire matter was reported on by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 1968 when he referred to a modified scheme which the Parish Council considered to be unsatisfactory. A long and heated discussion followed complaining forcefully about the "flooding which frequently occurred" on Castleton Road. Mr Lewis, the Borough Councillor outlined further modifications to improve the scheme, but it was the general feeling of the meeting that this would not be adequate, and called for a petition to be sent to the local MP and to the Ministry of Health regarding the problem and asking for assistance to get something done.

Flooding is quite often referred to as a problem in "Bowden's Lane", "Fullwood Lane" and "Fawcett's Lane". In January 1970 there was still confusion over the name of this road. Flooding in Green Drive near to the railway bridge is constantly referred to both in relation to British Railways and the Borough Council. After many repeated complaints, members of Hope Parish Council met British Railways in Green Drive when they accepted responsibility for the flooding. At about this time there are several minutes about the problems of waterlogged ground in the cemetery in Green Drive, and a complaint was sent to the Rural District Council about water in recently excavated graves, and asking what drainage work had been carried out since the cemetery was consecrated. In reply the Rural District Council said that "it is almost impossible to provide a drainage system to drain graves" and suggested that graves should be further apart, they also suggested that more higher ground should be consecrated!! (Not really an answer to the flooding problem).

In November 1975 the Borough Council forwarded a plan illustrating ditches on the north side of Eccles Close and outlining responsibilities, and it was agreed they should be asked to attend a site meeting.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in April 1976 the question of drainage in Castleton Road was introduced by one of the 45 ratepayers present at the meeting. The Parish Council were criticized for their lack of success in getting things done. This was "hotly defended" by two Councillors saying that throughout the year letters have been sent to the County Council and the Borough Council, meetings had taken place. It was pointed out that the Parish Council were frustrated about the matter but that they would persist in their efforts to get some action.

At a Special Meeting with representatives from the County Council, Hope Councillors stated that since the development of Marsh Avenue and Eccles Close frequent flooding occurred – they had held meetings, written letters but without any result, and had now received a letter from the Borough Council saying that "Hope drainage was very low on the list of work to be done".

It was resolved that the Clerk write to the Secretary of the County Council asking if, under the Land Drainage Act of 1961, the Borough Council could be legally enforced to provide adequate drainage.

There is a note of indignation in the Minutes at this time as there is a statement that no replies or acknowledgement of letters sent to the Borough Council have been received and the Council agreed that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive drawing his attention to this matter. At the meeting in April 1977 it is reported that letters were received from the County and Borough Councils stating again that they could not "hold out" very much hope of immediate progress regarding drainage improvement works in Hope. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Derbyshire County Council stating that "as agreed with Mr Fawcett", the Derbyshire County Council are partly responsible, and making a request that this part of the work be put in hand, a measure which the Parish Council hoped would improve the situation. In the latter part of 1977 some work was carried out at Brookstone's Corner which was not considered to be entirely satisfactory.

In December of 1977 it is reported that Mrs Hobson gave a detailed report of an interview with the Severn Trent Water Authority, in which she put forward the urgent need for a drainage scheme in

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

Castleton Road. It was resolved that a letter be sent to the Severn Trent Water Authority requesting "their finding from this interview". This is one of the few occasions when a Parish Councillor meets any authority without the prior knowledge of the Council, and therefore one can only assume that it happened more by accident than arrangement when a person from the Severn Trent Water Authority was asking questions in the area.

The reply received was considered by the Council (January 1978) and was not considered helpful, and it was resolved that a letter be sent to Mr Fawcett at the Derbyshire County Council, stating that the Hope Parish Council were convinced that an enlarged culvert and catch pit would go a long way to solve the problem and a meeting at the Castleton Road culvert site was suggested.

In his capacity as Borough Councillor the Chairman of the Parish Council told the meeting of May 1978 that the Hope drainage scheme was placed in the "lowest category of urgency" and it was resolved that the Clerk write to the Derbyshire County Council regarding this with a copy to the local MP.

At the Annual Parish Meeting of the 19th March attended by many ratepayers complaints were made regarding the lack of any action regarding drainage works in the village with particular reference to Castleton Road. A suggestion was made that a drain could be formed along the north side of Eccles Close and the Primary School across the road to the river. (This of course was the original route for drainage before the Education Authorities blocked the drain at the south west corner of the playing field).

It was not until March 1980 that the Parish Council were informed that the first stage of the drainage scheme for Castleton Road would be carried out during 1980 – the second stage in 1981 – the content of each stage is not given! There was then a delay in the commencement of the work caused by "delivery problems of pre-cast concrete culvert units".

Over the next 15 years there are many complaints registered in the Minutes but fewer references to letters to the Derbyshire County Council or High Peak Borough Council. Flooding was a constant problem on Fullwood Lane causing silt build-up at blocked gullies, drainage of Green Lane and continuing problems at Brookstone's Corner. Reference is made to flooding problems caused by the severe storms of December 1991/January 1992 when much damage was caused at the bottom of Edale Road and at the Post Office in particular, drains were blocked and those that did work could not cope with the amount of excess water.

There are many references to blocked gullies in the village generally and to flooding at Aston Lane and on the A625 to the south.

Having developed the village and roads over 100 years it is clear from the many complaints that the drainage system struggled to cater for the amount of surface water collected on the non-porous areas of the "developed village".

15 - WAR MEMORIAL

Following the Armistice in 1918 it was not long before the Parish Council unanimously agreed that a public meeting be called for January 25th 1919 in the Loxley Hall to make arrangements regarding "some form of Memorial to the Soldiers and Sailors who had joined H M Forces from this district". The Parish Council made the suggestion of a Monument of some kind, on which the names of the men could be placed, being erected in some "Conspicuous Place" in Hope, preferably in or near the Market Place if a small portion of land could be obtained from the Truswell's Brewery Company. The Chairman was asked to write to the brewery to ascertain if a small portion of their land opposite the bank could be obtained either as a gift or by purchase.

At another Special Meeting it was agreed that a Public Thanksgiving Service be held on Sunday August 3rd (if peace had been signed) in the open air (or in Loxley Hall if wet) and that all

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

arrangements to be left in the hands of the Chairman and two Councillors. It was also unanimously agreed that a dinner followed by a public concert be given to all the demobilised men, and that all arrangements for this be carried out by the Comforts Committee who have done so much for the men during the war.

There is no reference in the Minutes as to when the war memorial was erected but we know that a dedication ceremony took place.

The first indication in the Minutes concerning the war memorial was in February 1927 when the Chairman was asked to write to Mr Jagger of the Rural District Council, regarding the possible transference of the care of the Hope Memorial, and asking his advice on the matter.

In December 1929 a deputation of ex-service men of Hope Parish attended the Parish Council Meeting to ask if something could be done to improve the appearance of the war memorial. It was agreed that "under the auspices of the Parish Council a parochial concert be arranged for Shrove Tuesday and that the Ex-Service men's Association be invited to assist. The proceeds to be devoted towards the improvement of the war memorial. Repairs and maintenance has been a constant item in the Parish Minutes commencing with an arrangement to open a special account "Hope Parochial Fund". Mr Hancock of Thornhill was asked to do some work on the surrounding wall, which he did free of charge, but declined "to give a price for cleaning the monument". The Chairman was asked to write to the Post Master asking if overhead wires crossing the monument could be moved as these caused a deposit of verdigris on to the monument. The Post Master could not agree to this. Quotations were obtained for cleaning down and a meeting was held with ex-Service men and the Parish Council to consider this.

By March of 1933 the British Legion asked the Parish Council to let them clean and maintain the war memorial to which the Council agreed - (the memorial was vested in the Chairman from whom agreement must be obtained). A letter was sent to the British Legion from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Parish Meeting etc. giving formal approval for them to keep the memorial clean and tidy.

The next time there is any reference to the war memorial was in September 1945 when a Public Meeting agreed that there should be some form of memorial to the "fallen" e.g. a District Hospital, an Ambulance, Memorial Hall, or Playing Fields, and that the names of the "fallen" put on the existing memorial.

At a Public Meeting in December of 1948 the Chairman informed those present that the "Present Trustees were desirous of handing the War Memorial over to the Parish Council". After discussion a unanimous decision was taken "that the War Memorial be taken over by the Hope Parish Council in perpetuity". Following this the Council agreed to write to the Rural District Council to enquire the position regarding the use of funds from the General Account for the maintenance of the war memorial. At a later meeting it is reported that Mr G Baker, "whilst accepting the position of caretaker to the war memorial would not take any payment for the same" and the Parish Council agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr Baker for his offer. From the 1945 Public Meeting at which suggestions were made regarding some form of memorial it was not until 1950 that a further meeting was held at which meeting it was unanimously agreed that " the names of the fallen should be placed on a plaque on the existing Memorial and that two vases to hold flowers be purchased to be fixed at the Memorial Base". The Hope War Memorial Fund 1939 - 1945 collected £93.0.6d and a balance of £57.12.5d was handed to the Parish Council to form a maintenance fund.

Special cleaning of the memorial was discussed at several meetings and quotations obtained, concern was expressed regarding severe treatment which could damage the surface of the stone.

When the "Village Scheme" was introduced in 1991 the war memorial was included in the overall plan and also in proposals put to the High Peak Borough Council and the Derbyshire County Council.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

16 - FOOTPATHS

The first mention of footpaths in the village was in a complaint to the Parish Council regarding the condition of the path between Aston and Hope Station and Mr Unwin was instructed to "put it in a proper state of Repair". It is interesting to note that this path was not mentioned again until 1948, but thereafter many times in Council Minutes.

The wording of requests at this time are worth noting as in the same meeting as above "Mr Furness to be deputed to acquaint Thos. Eyre of the danger of the Public caused by the stone covering of the culvert in his field being loose". (This is now known as Footpath No. 1).

In 1903 the Clerk was requested to write to Mr Bamford at Marsh Farm asking him "to kindly clear the footpath leading from the Marsh to Hope through his land as the footpath is almost impassable owing to cattle fouling it".

It is not often, in those early days of the Council that a complaint is received from a neighbouring Parish, the first one came in 1909 when Bradwell Parish Council stated in a letter their concern at the state of the footpath from Pindale to Bradwell. There is no report of any reply or any instruction to take any action!

In May 1922 the Parish Council received a letter from the RDC regarding the existence of a footpath from Thornhill on the east side of Win Hill to the Hope Brinks. The Clerk was requested to inform the RDC that the footpath in question is not a public footpath but an occupational road – the minute describes this to be a "formal reply".

It is interesting to note on two occasions items referring to a footpath which no longer exists. In 1924 the Council complained about the footpath leading to the stepping stones to the Mill which "is in a very bad state and should be seen to". Again in 1931 the Council considered that the condition of the stepping stones themselves, crossing the River Noe to Hope Mill, be brought to the notice of the County Council.

In 1929 problems arose over the light railway from Pindale to the main line crossing the footpath in Mr D Hobson's field south of the River Styx and also the footpath through the Emma Crofts near Mr Baldwin's bungalow.

The Clerk was asked to write to the RDC asking what steps the Council proposed taking with regard to the crossings. (The first one is fairly well defined by location but the second one could be difficult for anyone new to the Parish – it has now been replaced with a pre-stressed "flexible bridge"). Soon after this the RDC must have let the Council see the proposed layout and immediately they sent this resolution to the RDC. "That this Parish Council, having considered the plan submitted by Messrs Earle to Chapel en le Frith RDC regarding the crossing of footpaths in field Nos 552 and 673 suggest that footbridges be constructed instead of level crossing as indicated on the plan. The Parish Council consider that level crossings would be a danger to passengers (presumably meaning pedestrians) especially children. Within little more than a year whilst there is no mention of level crossings or footbridges the Council were complaining to the RDC about the condition of the paths interfered with by G & T Earle and ask them "to do what is possible to make the paths safe".

A Special Meeting was called in January 1953 to consider rights of way throughout the Parish of Hope. Twenty nine paths were considered, and from the minute it is clear that by now the paths have been numbered for reference. It was made clear that No 15 Green Lane, Aston Lane to the cemetery is a footpath only and not a bridle way. Nos 20 and 20a Hope Station to Aston is not a public pathway, and also No 29 joining 18 and 20 is not a public footpath but a bridle path.

A map showing all footpaths was received in December 1954 and at the following Council Meeting a letter was read from RDC stating that it was proposed to ask DCC to make byelaws prohibiting cycling on public footpaths through fields etc, and asking if there were any footpaths in the Hope Parish to be included. The Parish Council stated that all should be included except the footpath from Pindale Cottages to the quarry works which was used by work people. The Council also considered that access on cycles should be allowed for residents on or near the public footpaths.

HOPE WITH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1895-1995

There are quite a few references to complaints regarding footpaths in various parts of the village where either the County or Borough Council have been asked to take action and there are some references "Action has been taken". One of the many problems has been the ploughing over of footpaths by the farmers. The paths to Losehill, and from Aston to Hope Station are regularly referred to as having problems, sometimes with particular reference to stiles.

In January 1961 a letter was placed before the Council reporting on a meeting (attended by Mr Lewis) of the Survey and Rights of Way Sub-Committee of the DCC, when it had been agreed that the following paths had been agreed as public rights of way:- Mary Lane to Marsh Farm, Winhill Ridge to Wooler, Winhill to Ashop Farm.

Footpath No 1 and its steps from the main road up to Eccles Close has been the subject of much discussion since 1963 when the Parish Council asked that DCC should make a hardcore footpath across the field, and was given formal approval by DCC in September 1964 that a path be formed with steps and gates, (as we see them today). Trouble soon came when the RDC refused to erect the gates. The Parish Council considered that whoever made the footpath (RDC or DCC) should be responsible for fixing the access gates. At this time there is the first reference to the handrail to the steps.

In December 1969 the question of the diversion of footpath No 21, the Twitchill and Winhill path over the level crossing, arose. A notice was received from the RDC which gave notice of the new creation of a public footpath which would "extinguish" the public right of way across the railway line commencing from the stone steps on Mill Lane. This is another time when the name of this road is confusing and the RDC were notified of this. There does not seem to have had any objectors and the Twitchill path was formally closed at the "Twitchill Steps" on August 20th 1970.

1972 saw the first of quite a few complaints to the Parish Council about the use of footpaths by ponies and cyclists – as the Council were asked to inform the police about infringements it might very well be that this refers to "pavements" not footpaths as minuted.

The change of use and ownership of Hope Mill brought difficulties with footpath No 17, when many complaints were made by walkers being refused access past the Mill. The DCC were asked to place signs at both ends of the path and an *immediate* response to this request came from DCC. It is not often in the minutes that residents are named but in August 1973 following the obstructing of the stile on footpath No. 17, the landowner "was to be asked to remove the obstacle". Following this a letter was received from the County Surveyor stating that signs would be erected.

In July 1974 a map showing all footpaths in the Parish was made available to the Council for a period of 28 days. Mr Green informed the meeting that he had checked all paths relevant to the Parish, as shown on the map and found all to be correct: Mr Green pointed out that there was a query regarding the footpath No 2 over APCM railway leading from Mary Lane. He had met with an official from the County Council, and had pointed out that many of the footpaths are in need of attention and with signs missing, and had been assured that these would be attended to. After discussion it was resolved that DCC be asked to define the standard to be maintained on public rights of way. The vote 3 to 1 in favour is an unusual occurrence on such matters, as there is usually an unanimous vote. Mr Green asked that the Borough Council to be asked to replace handrail of the step on footpath No 1 as soon as possible and suggested that the Council ask Mewks Contractors to replace the stile at the railway. Mr Green had been a member of the Parish Council for many years and was now taking a personal interest in the village paths on behalf of the Council.

It is worth noting that in March 1975, nine months after the above meeting the Council received notice of a fall on the step on footpath No 1, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Chief Executive & Borough Engineer with copies of the letter, urging action regarding the handrail. As soon as work commenced the following month it was found that a power cable was in the way and the steps had to be demolished. The note in the Minute of April 1975 says "further plans are awaited". By March 1976 the steps are reported as being complete but are too steep for the old aged persons (who would use it as a path from the bungalows on Eccles Close) and there was no handrail! By July the Council had to complain again that there was still no handrail. The saga of the steps continued, until in September the Borough Council informed the Parish Council that they had asked the owners of the land if it was his intention to re-erect the original handrail, or would permission be given for the Borough Council to carry out the re-erection. It was pointed out that gates fixed were not satisfactory and the farmer was