

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

**Present**

Councillor D Coates (Chair)

Councillors T. Barrass, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf, L. Million, J. Stewart, H. Wilson, County Councillor A. Gray and Alderman O. Johnson

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillors L. Clarke, S. McCormick, I. McKeag, G. Smith and PCSO P. Hart.

**In attendance**

Mr D. Brockington (resident)

**22. Police Report**

The following information was circulated to Members.

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July Officers from Consett and Stanley Neighbourhood Teams and Neighbourhood Wardens conducted Operation Drive. The updates from this exercise have been put on Consett Police's Facebook page.
- Two reports of quad bikes being used in the area. An operation to target the off road bikes that are being used illegally in the area is being pulled together.
- One report of anti social behaviour involving youths in the Meadowfield area of Burnhope. Police patrols had been set up to deter any anti social behaviour.
- A quad bike which had been stolen from a farm in Langley Park had now been found. Anyone with information about the theft to contact the Police.

**23. Partnership Report**

The Wheel was currently at the printers and would be available soon for delivery.

**24. Community Centre Report**

Alderman Johnson informed the meeting that he was retiring from his position as Trustee of the Community Centre. He hoped that younger people would be recruited to ensure that activities continue to be run and supported for the people and village of Burnhope.

It was noted that all activities are well supported in the Centre. Over 60 meals were provided at the luncheon club.

**25. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 were approved as a correct record.

## 26. Finance Report

The following payments had been made since the last meeting :-

Easyweb – Domain Hosting - July	£36.96
British Gas – Power Supply to Christmas Tree - July	£33.00
Durham County Council – Annual Play Area Inspection costs	£840
Zurich Municipal Insurance Renewal	£2,986
Mr D Reed - War Memorial works	£300
Clerk's Salary	£500
HMRC – Clerk's Tax	£125
Clerk's Expenses	£197.21
Cllr Derek Coates – Plants for flower tubs	£64.80
Mrs C Butterfield – Internal Audit costs	£100
	<b>£5,182.97</b>

The following payment had been received :-

Durham County Council – Small Grant for coal tub repairs	£825
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A quarterly update on the Council's current finances was given by the Clerk.

## 27. Planning Matters

Notification of the following planning application to be considered under delegated powers was reported :-

DM/25/01440/FPA Mr David Rogers, Chad House, Holmside Lane, Holmside, DH7 6EP Retention of detached tree house, extension of existing staircase to form balcony on the detached garage annexe. Application noted and no objections.

## 28. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting :

- Durham County Council – Play area Inspection report – June. Noted. Cllr Wilson and the Parish Clerk to request to attend the next inspection to more fully understand the inspection process and its findings.
- British Gas – Notification of Payment Plan reduction – Noted.
- Durham County Council – Small Grant payment towards work to restore and reinstate the pit tubs recently damaged in a road traffic accident at the Pit Wheel.
- Durham County Council – Consultation on the proposed modification to the Definitive Map and Statement of PROW by adding a Public Restricted Byway, Foxcover Wood, Lanchester. Proposal noted and no objection by Burnhope Parish Council.
- Co-op Bank – Notification of registration and authorisation of new cheque signatories.
- Durham County Council – Estimate of £615.30 + VAT for dressing/undressing with lights of the village Christmas Tree for 2025. – Approved.

- CDALC – Recruitment of Parish/Town Councillors for DCC's Standards Committee. Information circulated.
- Durham County Council – Estimates for the surfacing of a link footpath to the play area from PROW No.2 Burnhope. Information noted. This is to be reconsidered if the works to provide a surface along PROW No.2 are agreed by Durham County Council.
- Heather Galloway – Copy of letter to DCC's PROW Team regarding delays with interviews and evidence gathering regarding the reinstatement of two footpaths in Burnhope.
- Mr & Mrs Brockington, Heritage Group – Request for Parish Council to take on the insurance liability for the Heritage Trail plaques. The Clerk to contact Zurich municipal Insurance to ascertain the additional cost to the Council so that this matter might be considered more fully. If agreed, Councillor Barras volunteered to work with the Heritage Trail members to carry out regular inspections of the plaques and identify any maintenance problems.

**29 Any Other Business**

- VJ Event (Victory in Japan) -An update was given on the recent meeting with Lanchester Parish Council to discuss the joint event to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day. An event would be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> August at the picnic site, Burnhope, at which the beacon would be lit.
- Sale of ashes plot AS1/11 – Mr & Mrs Sullivan. Approval was granted.

**30. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Signed .....  ..... Date 04/09/2025 .....