

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 in Burnhope Community Centre at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Council.

### **Present**

Councillor D Coates (Chair)

Councillors T. Barras, L. Clarke, S. McCormick, I. McKeag, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf, L. Million, J. Stewart, H. Wilson, County Councillor A. Gray and Alderman O. Johnson.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors G. Smith and PCSO P. Hart.

### **1. Police Report**

The Clerk read out the following report :-

- There had been no reports of anti-social behaviour within the village.
- There had been an increase in thefts of vehicles across the County and motorists were being advised to make sure their vehicles are locked and valuable items removed.

### **2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

**Resolved that** the minutes of the meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, be approved and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

### **3. Annual Accountancy and Governance Statement**

The Clerk presented a detailed report on the Statement of Account and the Council's Internal Audit controls for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, together with the Accountancy Statement for the same period.

It was **RESOLVED that** the Parish Council approves the Annual Governance Statement as detailed by the Clerk, together with the Accountancy Statement. The Statement to be forwarded to the Council's external auditor, MAZARS, for approval. The notice for public inspection of the accounts between 5th June and 16th July be placed on the Council's website.

### **4. Finance Report**

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

Easyweb – Domain Hosting (May)	£36.96
British Gas – Standing charge for power Supply to Christmas Tree – May	£38.00
Durham County Council – Play Area Inspection Charge 26/27	£1,059.84
T.P. Jones & Co LLP – Payroll preparation	£84.48
CDALC – Subscription 2026/27	£288.00
Cllr G. Smith – screws for repair of village entrance fencing	£18.37
Mr N. Kearton – Play area footpath works	£780.00
Parish Clerk – replacement printer cartridge	£144.49
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£2,450.14</b>

The following amounts have been received since the last meeting :-

Durham County Council – Precept Payment	£12,000
Durham County Council – Section 106 Monies towards play area footpath	£152.00
HMRC – VAT Refund	£192.25
<b>Income</b>	<b>12,344.25</b>

#### 5. Planning Matters

Durham County Council had advised that the following planning application had been approved :-

DM/24/03308/FPA Mr David Parsons. Land to the South of Whitehouse Farm Cottage, Whitehouse Avenue, Burnhope DH7 0EB. Erection of stable block with Tack room/storage.

#### 6. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

David Brockington	Request for donation to Heritage Trail Project	It was <b>agreed that</b> further consideration be given to this request once Planning Permission had been approved
County Councillor A. Gray	Highway Improvements - Painting of road markings along Whitehouse Avenue	Line painting works had been carried out at junctions along Whitehouse Avenue to deter parking and to help improve visibility for road users.
County Councillor A Gray	Highway Adoption request – Co-operative Terrace	Durham County Council confirmed that they were unable to adopt the unmade road at Co-operative Terrace.
Revd Sutherland	Invitation extended to Councillors to attend St John’s Church Centenary Gala Services on the 15 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> May, 2026	Invitation noted. Cllr Coates agreed to deliver a reading in the Service on 17 <sup>th</sup> May.
Durham County Council	Play Area Inspection Report  RoSPA Play Safety Annual Inspection	It was noted that this report would now be accessed online by the Clerk. If problems with the play equipment arise they will be brought to Members’ attention. <b>Agreed that</b> the annual safety inspection of the play area be carried out by RoSPA.

Burnhope Community Centre	Update Report	<p>The Centre continues to thrive. Plans underway to hold the following events:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six weeks Summer Holiday Programme for children and families. Theme to be "Under the Sea" and include a trip to the Sea Life Centre in Tynemouth.</li> <li>• The Life of Coal Exhibition to be held in July.</li> </ul>
---------------------------	---------------	---

7. **Parish Council Cemetery**

The Clerk reported that one of the families contacted regarding the removal of the kerbs from around their late Mother's headstone had kindly carried out the works. Their co-operation was much appreciated. It was hoped that the other families contacted would also remove kerbs and tributes in an attempt to make maintenance easier and reduce potential tripping hazards for visitors to the Cemetery.

8. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was **agreed that** the next meeting of Burnhope Parish Council be held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, commencing at 6.00 p.m. in Burnhope Community Centre.

Signed .....  ..... Date 04/06/26 .....