

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 2nd July, 2026 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor D Coates (Chair)

Councillors I. McKeag, G. Smith, L. Million, J. Stewart and H. Wilson, Alderman O. Johnson

Apologies for Absence

Councillors T. Barras, L. Clarke, S. McCormick, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf and County Councillor A. Gray.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman congratulated Cllr Wilson on her recent marriage.

18. Police Report

There was no Police Report.

19. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June, 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

20. Matters arising

Highway Safety – Crossroads at Burnhope Pit Wheel

Cllr Stewart reported that he had tried to obtain statistics through insurance claims of road traffic accidents at the crossroads. Unfortunately this information was not available.

Cllr Coates updated the meeting on a recent Zoom meeting which he and County Councillor A. Gray had attended with representatives of Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary's Highway Safety Officer regarding highway issues at the crossroads. After much discussion, it was **agreed that** this serious situation of highway safety at this location would be investigated.

Christmas Tree Lights

The Clerk reported that she had received a quotation for the PAT testing and connection of the Christmas tree lights. It was **agreed that** the quotation be accepted.

Local Network Drop In Session

The Chairman reported that he had attend the Drop In Session at Meadowfield Leisure Centre. He welcomed the opportunity of meeting the staff. The Clerk reported that there was currently little information about the operation and funding available through the Local Network.

21. Finance Report

The Clerk reported that the following payments had been made since the last meeting.

Easyweb – Domain Hosting (July)	£36.96
British Gas – Power Supply to Christmas tree – July	£38.00
HMRC – Clerk's Tax	£125.00

Clerk's Salary (April-June)	£500.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£26.40	
Playsafety Limited – Play area Annual Inspection Charge	<u>£109.20</u>	Total £835.56

No payments had been received by the Parish Council.

22. Planning Matters

There had been no notifications from Durham County Council of planning applications for Burnhope.

23. Correspondence

CDALC	AGM October 2026 – Request for Motions, Nominations etc	Request noted. Nothing to submit.
Mr D. Brockington	Burnhope Heritage Trail – Request for financial support.	Agreed to make a donation of £200 to the Heritage Trail Project
ROSPA	The Avenue Play Area - Annual Inspection Report	Report circulated. The issues highlighted were noted and where possible action would be taken. Report to be discussed with Durham County Council.
Durham County Council	Local Plan (Planning Development) Consultation	Consultation information noted. Feedback from this initial consultation to be available in March 2027. Links to the consultation platform to be placed on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page for residents' information and comment.
Burnhope Wheel	Request for news items	Agreed that a letter of thanks for organising a very successful Gala Event and the Parish Council's appreciation of the work undertaken by the Burnhope Partnership be submitted for inclusion in the publication.
Burnhope Community Centre	Cash for Kids NE Community Challenge Monthly Report	Information publicising the Challenge and a request for support be placed on the Parish Council website and Facebook page The report again demonstrated that the schemes operating out of the

		Centre continued to be successful and well attended.
British Gas	Notice of increase in energy costs from 3 rd August 2026	A levy and an additional network cost will be added to the Parish Council's Bill. The Government and Ofgem have introduced these additional charges to support the energy transition. The cost of this to be shown on future bills.

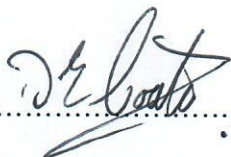
24. Parish Council Cemetery

The Clerk reported that an inspection of headstones and kerbs in the Cemetery is soon to take place. A Risk Assessment of headstones and kerbs will be carried out to make sure the Cemetery is a safe place for visitors and also for anyone working there. A Memorial Regulations Policy will also be put forward for consideration, and hopefully adoption by the Parish Council, at its September 2026 meeting. This Policy will explain the inspection process and how any issues arising from the inspection, including unauthorised memorials, will be dealt with.

25. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was **agreed that** the next meeting of Burnhope Parish Council be held on Thursday, 3rd September, 2026 commencing at 6.00 p.m. in Burnhope Community Centre.

Signed



Date

03/09/26