

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 3rd April, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor D Coates (Chair)

Councillors S. McCormick, I. McKeag, T. Metcalf and G. Smith

In attendance

Alderman O. Johnson, County Councillor M. McGaun and Mrs H. Galloway (resident)

Apologies for Absence

Councillors B. Henderson, L. Clarke and T. Clarke.

Police Report

There was no Police report.

Partnership Report

An update was given on the Burnhope Miners Gala Centenary event :-

- The event Planning Group is to work with the Partnership.
- A commemorative issue of the Burnhope Wheel is to be produced
- Local businesses to be approached regarding sponsorship. In return they would receive free advertising in the Burnhope Wheel.

Cllr McCormick reported on assistance given finding an allotment site for a local resident.

Permissive footpaths – Burnhope Morrow Edge and Burnhope Stream Valley

Mrs Galloway updated the meeting on her attempts to have the above permissive footpaths converted to Public Rights of Way by Durham County Council. In November 2023 she submitted information in support of this request. Forty three residents confirmed that for more than twenty years they had walked these particular footpaths. Arrangements were now being made for ten of those residents to be formally interviewed to verify their statements. It was hoped that once this process had been completed, Durham County Council would determine the status of the current permissive footpaths.

Alderman Johnson stated that problems may have occurred due to opencast works, footpaths not being reinstated and being redesignated and not put on the Definitive Map. Preparations for the proposed solar farm may also have contributed to the stopping up of some of the footpaths.

Mrs Galloway was thanked for bringing this matter to the Parish Council's attention and requested to keep the Parish Council updated.

Community Centre

There was no Community Centre report.

The Parish Council were of the opinion that the Centre was a shining example of what could be achieved when the community, in conjunction with the Lottery Fund, Durham County Council and the Durham Foundation, worked together.

Minutes

- It was pointed out that the speed visor was still not working. The Clerk agreed to investigate.
- Feedback on the request to Durham County Council's Public Rights of Way Section regarding the provision of a footpath to the new play area was given by the Clerk.
- Durham County Council's response to the request for a waste bin on PROW 24/25 opposite Tait's House was to be followed up by Cllr McGaun.

Finance Report

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

Easyweb - Domain Hosting - April	£36.96
British Gas – Power supply to the Christmas tree	£35.00
HMRC – Clerk's Tax	£125.00
Clerk's Salary	£500.00
Clerk's Expenses – November 2024 – March 2025	£102.28
Mr D Reed – Supply and planting of Janet Box Memorial Cherry Blossom Tree at the Community Centre and fitting of two bench seats next to the tree	£420.00
	£1,219.24

Planning Matters

Notification of the following planning applications have been received:-

DM/25/00610/VOC Mr John Speight - Land South East Of Jubilee House Whitehouse Avenue Burnhope DH7 0AJ - Variation of planning permission DM/24/01739/VOC condition 2 to allow a new design of house. No objection.

DM/25/00636/FPA Mr Jason Oakes - Coalpark Farm Kaysburn Durham DH7 6TJ - Erection of storage building for garden/site maintenance equipment and machinery (personal use) No objection

DM/25/00780/FPA Mrs Helen Prow 81 Greenwood Avenue Burnhope Durham DH7 0AN - Single-storey rear extension following the demolition of the existing conservatory. Bathroom window to be relocated to side of the property, and the external drain and drainage system will be repositioned along the garden. No objection

Correspondence

- Durham County Council -Notification of Planning Committee meeting to consider the application for the erection of 32 affordable dwellings and associated infrastructure, landscaping and ancillary works on land at Greenwood Avenue.
- Department of Transportation – Proposed Stopping Up of highway at Greenwood Avenue – no objection.
- County Councillor Oliver – Information regarding the removal of trees in Greenwood Avenue.
- County Councillor McGaun – Guidance and Advice for organisation of street parties associated with the VE & VJ 80th Anniversary Celebrations.
- Durham County Council – CCTV cameras in Burnhope – confirmation that they are in operation.
- Durham County Council Public Rights of Way Section – Proposed diversion of public bridleway No.22, Morrow Edge Farm – No objection.

Any Other Business

- Deeds of Grant for burial plots AS1/10 and GR5/15 were agreed by the Parish Council.
- Notice of Persons Nominated for Burnhope Parish Council had been received. Ten people had submitted applications to Durham County Council's Elections Team for the vacancies. There would therefore be no Parish Council Election on the 1st May, 2025.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Thursday 15th May, 2025, at 6.00 p.m.

Signed  Chairman

Date 15/05/25,