

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 3rd September, 2026 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor D Coates (Chair)

Councillors I. McKeag, G. Smith, T. Barras, J. Stewart and H. Wilson, Alderman O. Johnson and County Councillor A. Gray

Apologies for Absence

Councillors L. Clarke, S. McCormick, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf, and L. Million

26. Police Report

There was no Police Report.

County Councillor Gray updated the meeting on a walkabout she had attended with Durham County Council's Highways Officer and Maxine Stubbs, Durham Constabulary's Highways Safety Officer with a view to improving highway safety at the Edge Lane/Holmside Lane crossroads. Whilst no decrease in the speed restrictions were permissible it was agreed that yellow rumble strips would be painted on the approach roads to the crossroads, and that missing safety bollards would be replaced, and any missing reflective tape on existing bollards would be renewed. A request had also been made to have the vegetation at the side of the highway cut back.

27. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July, 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

28. Finance Report

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

Easyweb – Domain Hosting (August and September)	£ 73.92
British Gas – Power supply for Christmas tree (August & September)	£ 64.00
Burnhope Partnership – Donation toward Heritage Trail	<u>£200.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>£337.92</u>

No income had been received by the Parish Council.

29. Planning Matters

The following notifications from Durham County Council had been received :-

DM/26/00213/AD Burnhope Partnership - Locations across Burnhope and Holmside Lane Burnhope Display of 17 No. plaques and 3 No. display boards associated with the installation of Burnhope Heritage Trail. **Approved** on 4th June 2026. Application noted.

DM/26/01755/PA56 Mr Mark Braines. Land to the east of Holmside Hall Road, Burnhope DH7 0DT
Prior Approval application pursuant to DM/26/01474/PNA for the erection of 1 No. agricultural
building for general agricultural storage (including fodder) with hardcore apron. **Delegated
application. Application noted.**

30. Correspondence

Cllr Emma Hunt, Chair, DCC Standards Cttee	National Association of Local Councils Civility and Respect Campaign and Pledge	Agreed that the Parish Council sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.
Janice Ross, Burnhope Partnership	Thank you letter for Parish Council donation towards Heritage Trail costs	Noted
County Durham Local Network	Invitation to apply for funding for community led projects	This information has been circulated to the Burnhope Community Centre, Burnhope Partnership and Burnhope Primary School by the Clerk. The closing dated for applications was 30 th September, 2026.
Co-operative Bank	Merger with Coventry Building Society and transfer of Bank's business to the Society on 1 st January, 2027.	There would be no change to the Parish Council's current banking arrangements. Position noted.
NALC	2026-27 National Salary Award – new pay scales.	Noted. Pay scales to be discussed at the next budget meeting.
MAX Associates	Survey re Durham County Council's development of new indoor sports and leisure facilities	Noted. The Parish Council do not have any outdoor sporting facilities to include in the survey.
Burnhope Primary School	Invitation to join Class 2 Geography group	Cllr D. Coates to attend the School on 13 th October to hear the children's ideas for village improvements.
CDALC Smaller Councils Forum – 16 th July	DBS Checks for Local Councillors.	The Clerk reported on the discussion and voting which took place at the Small Council's Forum meeting regarding mandatory DBS checks for Town and Parish Councillors.

		This matter was to be raised at the CDALC Executive Cttee meeting on 16 th September. Further discussion on this matter deferred pending the advice of the Executive Committee.
Community Payback Team	Request for jobs	It was agreed that a list of potential jobs be submitted.
Burnhope Community Centre	Update	The following update was provided:- • There had been some staff departures from the Centre. Hopefully replacements would be appointed soon. • The Holiday Club had successfully held six weeks of activities throughout the summer break. • £35,000 funding had been awarded to deliver the Crisis and Resilience Fund. The crisis element of the fund is a one off payment to people facing difficult circumstances. The resilience part will be delivered by two Citizens Advice trained workers who will support people to get help as needed to prevent further crises. • A new provider for the "Garage Lunch" is to be found. • The Lunch Socials will continue as normal. • The After School Club will be held on Wednesday only. • The Toddler Group will continue to meet on a Tuesday morning.
Karen Appleton, Woodlands & Forestry Officer, Durham County Council	Suggested names for newly planted woodland in Burnhope.	It was agreed that the name "The Old Vicarage Wood" be put forward for consideration by the Woodlands & Forestry Officer

31. Parish Council Cemetery

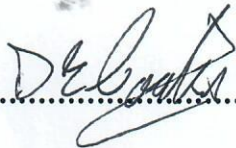
The Clerk reported on the Memorial Safety Policy and Procedures document which had been prepared and circulated for approval, and adoption, by the Council.

It was **agreed that** the Memorial Safety Policy and Procedures document be approved and adopted by the Council, and that notice of the Parish Council cemetery inspection be publicised.

32. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was **agreed that** the next meeting of Burnhope Parish Council be held on Thursday, 1st October, 2026 commencing at 6.00 p.m. in Burnhope Community Centre.

Signed



Date 01/10/26