

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

**Present**

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

Councillors T. Barras, L. Clarke, S. McCormick, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf, L. Million, J. Stewart and Alderman O. Johnson.

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillors I. McKeag, G. Smith, H. Wilson, County Councillor A. Gray and PCSO P. Hart.

**In Attendance**

Mr. A. Gibson and Mr. I. Galloway.

**9. Police Report**

The Police report was circulated. Since the last report there had been two reports of vehicles used in an anti social manner in the car park opposite the Burnhope Wheel. Investigation is ongoing. There was also a report of the theft of a campervan which had now been recovered by the owner.

Discussion then took place regarding a road traffic accident which had occurred that afternoon at the crossroads. It was noted that, in an attempt to improve road safety, the rumble strips on the approach to the junction required repainting, and that the mud, which was being deposited on the road at the junction due to earthmoving works in a nearby field, required cleaning. The flashing "SLOW" sign which was requested some time ago, was still not installed. The Clerk agreed to report these issues.

Councillor Stewart also agreed to contact Darren Ryan to try to obtain a copy of his Highway Safety report which was drawn-up for the recent Centenary Miners Gala event.

**10. Minutes**

**Resolved that** the minutes of the following meetings be approved and signed as a correct record:-

Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

Annual Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

**11. Matters Arising**

**Burnhope Centenary Miners Gala**

- Due to the meticulous planning of the event, everything had gone well.
- Commemorative coins were available for purchase via the Burnhope Partnership Facebook page.
- Cllr Sarah McCormick was now the Council's representative on the Burnhope Banner Group.
- The two religious services held in St John's Church had been well attended and an Afternoon Tea had been held in the Community Centre after the Sunday afternoon service.
- Visitors to the village had commented on the planting throughout the village. Cllrs Caroline and Danielle Metcalf were thanked for providing such a colourful display.

## 12. Finance Report

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

Easyweb – Domain Hosting (June)	£36.96
British Gas – Power Supply to Christmas Tree – June	£38.00
Zurich Insurance – Annual Insurance Cover	£2,903.60
Mrs C Butterfield – Internal Audit Fee	£100.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£3,078.56</b>

There had been no receipts.

## 13. Planning Applications

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

## 14. Correspondence

Durham County Council	Christmas Tree Lighting Dec 2026	Notification of Durham County Council's charges for this service.
L & C Groundcare	Quote for Christmas tree light installation	Quotation for dressing and undressing of the village Christmas tree accepted and works agreed. Arrangements to be made for PAT Testing of the lights and connection by an approved Electrical contractor.
Phonely	UK Landline switch off – Checklist on what to do now	Information posted on website and Facebook page.
County Councillor A. Gray	Temporary Footpath Closure – Holmlea, Burnhope	Revised information posted on website
Stanley Town Council	Notification of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026-27	Communication noted.
Councillor S. McCormick	Durham Miners' Gala 2026	The Burnhope Banner Group would be parading the Banner at the Durham Miners Gala on the 11 <sup>th</sup> July. Seats were available on the bus for anyone wishing to attend the Durham Miners Gala.
Mr D. Brockington	Update on Heritage Trail Project	The new planning decision date was now 5 <sup>th</sup> June. Plans were now being made for the expected opening of the trail for the second weekend in September.

DCC – Local Network	Invite to Drop-In Session 11.6.26 (circulated)	Invitation noted.
Burnhope Community Centre	Update Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £112.000 grant funding has been received providing long-term stability for the Centre and its services.</li> <li>• Recently established Life After Loss Group is providing valuable support for bereaved families.</li> <li>• Preparations underway to launch a new Men’s Pie Club. This will provide an informal, welcoming space where men can meet, build friendships, share experiences and access support if needed.</li> <li>• Six weeks Summer holiday programme which will be delivered in partnership with St John’s Church is well underway.</li> <li>• The Centre continues to deliver its regular programme of youth activities, wellbeing groups, community events, volunteering opportunities and practical support through the Community Pantry.</li> </ul>

**15. Parish Council Cemetery**

The rubble in the cemetery had been cleared.

**16. Any Other Business**

Mr Ian Galloway attended the meeting to report that he was currently trying to gather local knowledge to correct a perceived error on the definitive map. Evidence forms in support of a public right of way over the route referred to as SP3 which runs behind the Garage Bar & Grille are required to enable a Definitive Map Modification Order to be made to formally recognise its status. It was suggested that anyone with local knowledge of the use of this footpath should submit their recollections to Durham County Council’s Public Rights of Way Section.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of Burnhope Parish Council be held on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2026, commencing at 6.00 p.m. in Burnhope Community Centre.

Signed .....  .....

Dated ... 02/07/26 .....