

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday
4th September, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor D Coates (Chair)

Councillors S. McCormick, I. McKeag, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf, L. Million, G. Smith,
J. Stewart, County Councillor A. Gray and Alderman O. Johnson.

Apologies for absence

Councillors T. Barras, L. Clarke, H. Wilson and PCSO P. Hart.

In attendance

Mr A. Gibson and Mr D. Brockington

31. Police Report

The following information was circulate to Members :-

- There have been five reports of anti-social behaviour. (Two of these incidents were youth related and two of these were regarding off road bikes.)
- Extra patrols were being carried out in the area.
- Residents to be encouraged to contact the Police direct if there are any issues or they have any queries.
- Information on how to report incidents to be included in The Wheel and logged on Parish Council's website and Facebook Page.
- County Councillor Gray to contact PCC Office to explore the possibility of providing additional CCTV cameras for the village.

32. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July, 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record.

The following matters were raised:-

- Durham County Council had now interviewed those residents who had volunteered to give evidence in support of Mrs Heather Galloway's request for two permissive footpaths in Burnhope to be reinstated as public rights of way. Durham County Council's decision on this request was to be made on the 7th November, 2025.
- The VJ event had been well attended.
- Dangers caused by motorists parking their vehicles too close to the junctions of Holmlea & Meadowfield. Photographs of vehicles causing obstruction to be forwarded to County Councillor Gray.

33. Finance Report

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

Easyweb – Domain Hosting – August 2025	£36.96
British Gas – Power Supply to Christmas Tree – August 2025	£33.00
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British Gas – Power supply to Christmas tree – September 2025	£33.00
Durham County Council – Installation of Christmas Tree Lights	£738.36
Clerk – Burial Records Book	£246.00

Expenditure £1,124.28

Payments **received** since the last meeting

Ashes plot AS1/11 (non-resident)	£1,654
Derwentside Funeral Service Ltd -Interment – Plot GR3 17	£670.00
Income	£2,324

34. **Planning Matters**

Notification of the following planning application to be considered under delegated powers was reported :-

DM/25/01410/FPA - Terry Deary Ltd. Board Inn, Holmside Lane, Burnhope, Durham DH7 0DP
Demolition of 3no. existing stable buildings and construction of stable building - No objections.

Notice of Appeal to the Planning Inspector

DM/22/01769/FPA Lightsource SPV 215 Ltd – Land East of Edge Lane, Maiden Law, Installation and Operation of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar energy generation system, electrical substation and associated infrastructure.

Planning Inquiry to start on 28th October, 2025 in Lanchester Community Centre

35. **Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting :-

Durham County Council	Play area Inspection report – July, 2025. Manufacturer to be contacted regarding the issues highlighted in the report
Mr Galloway	Solar Farm – Public Inquiry Statement of Case. Information circulated along with the request for Councillors’ support in presenting Mr Galloway’s case.
Kevin Telford, PROW	Update on Durham County Council creating a hard surface along PROW No.2 and provision of spur link to play area. Awaiting outcome of DCC’s decision to provide a suitable surface along PROW No.2.

The Parish Council would need to fund the spur link to the play area.

DCC Traffic Assets

Acknowledgement of request for vehicle activated sign along Edge Lane on approach into Burnhope. The Officer assigned to this project has been contacted by the Parish Clerk.

36. Burnhope Cemetery

Discussion took place regarding the regulation of Burnhope Cemetery. To date there had been no regulation of burial plots within the cemetery. A copy of the proposed Rules and Regulations had been circulated to Members. It was hoped that adopting these new regulations would help improve safety in the cemetery, reduce grounds maintenance costs and generate additional income for the future of the cemetery.

After discussion the following was approved :-

1. Exclusive Right of Burial to be reduced to 50 years for future applications. Conditions of previously purchased plots (i.e. 99 years) to be honoured.
2. A grave selection fee be charged if the allocated plot is not accepted.
3. Kerbs – No kerbs allowed from 5th September, 2025.
4. Solar Lights – Solar lights only to be allowed on graves at Christmas time.
5. Interment Fees – burial plots - no change for method of claiming fees.
6. Interment Fees – Ashes plots – re-evaluation of how this fee is currently paid to be discussed with the grave digger before a decision is made.
7. Burial Records – No records are available. A new Register of Burials has been purchased and burial records will be completed using information taken from headstones.
8. Burial Plots – **Agreed** that row GR6, along the east wall of the cemetery, be re-designated as cremated remains plots.
9. Cemetery wall – repairs to the north east corner of the cemetery wall have been carried out.
10. Cemetery extension – Letters had been sent to the adjoining landowners on the 10th July and 23rd August, 2025 expressing the Council's interest in acquiring land for the expansion of the cemetery. To date there has been no response.

Agreed that with the above updates, the Rules and Regulations Handbook be adopted.

37. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 2nd October, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Signed



Date 02/10/25