

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 5th February, 2026 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

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

Apologies for Absence

Councillors T. Barras, L. Clark, S. McCormick and PCSO P. Hart.

In attendance

Mr. Alan Gibson, Community Centre representative and Scott Lancaster, Area Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader

60. Police Report

Members were advised that there were ongoing investigations into incidents which had occurred in the village and that there would be a continued Police presence within the village.

Scott Lancaster reported on the activity of the Neighbourhood Wardens in the village. He stated that the Wardens would, whenever possible, like to be actively involved in any community initiatives in the village.

He advised that the following reports had been received on the Neighbourhood Wardens' system which had now been actioned:-

6 reports of abandoned vehicles

1 dog fouling report

1 incident of flytipping

Enquiries were made by Alderman Johnson about the incidences of electric and off road bikes in the village. Mr Lancaster advised that the last reported incident for anti social behaviour caused by a quad/off road bike rider was on the 1st November, 2025.

Councillor Coates reported that he had recently witnessed seven electric bikes on Front Street. Mr Lancaster advised that any incidents should be reported to the Police or via Durham County Council's "Do It Online" system for investigation, by doing this updates and feedback would be given. As Burnhope was covered under the Anti Social Crime and Policing Act as a Section 59 area, bikes used in an anti social manner or illegally driven could be seized.

Councillor D. Metcalf reported that there had been another road traffic accident at the crossroads of Edge Lane and Holmside Lane. This incident to be raised with the Traffic Officer at Durham Constabulary.

County Councillor Gray requested that Malcolm Whittaker, who was the Neighbourhood Warden for Burnhope and Lanchester, be made aware of everyone's appreciation and thanks for the sterling work he is doing in the area.

61. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December, 2025, were approved and signed as a correct record.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a document which confirmed that the Parish Council was not the owner of the Burnhope Banner. The insurance liability for the Banner would be removed from the Parish Council's policy.

62. Finance Report

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

Easyweb – Domain Hosting – January & February	£ 73.92
British Gas – Power Supply to Christmas Tree – January & February	£71.00
Clerks Salary (October-Dec)	£500.00
Clerk's Tax (Oct-Dec)	£125.00
Clerk's Expenses (Oct-Dec)	£ 24.06
Mr P. Raine – Interment of ashes works (ASB5)	£100.00
	£893.98

The following payment had been **received** since last meeting

Ashes Interment – Plot ASB5	£290.00
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63. Planning Matters

Notification of the following application which had been received by Durham County Council since the last meeting :-

DM/25/03543/FPA Broom House Durham Limited, Broom House Farm, Burnhope Durham DH7 6TR. Permanent agricultural worker's dwelling. No objection.

The following applications had been approved by Durham County Council since the last meeting :-

DM/25/02502/VOC North East Autism Society, New Warlands Farm, Holmside Lane, Burnhope Durham DH7 6EX

DM/25/02837/FPA Tony Lister Building Surveyor. Yon Side, Holmside Lane, Burnhope, Durham. DH7 0DP. Porch to side including raised steps and railings

64. Correspondence

Durham County Council	Play area inspection reports – Nov, Dec & Jan
Durham County Council	Acknowledgement of application for Section 106 Funding for creation of footpath to children's play area adjacent to South View.
CDALC	Royal Garden Party. Notification that Burnhope Parish Council's nomination had been successful. Cllr C.Metcalf and guest to attend on the 8 th May, 2026.
CDALC	Data Protection Training for Councillors. Training via Zoom on 3 rd March, 2026. Agreed Councillors who have not already received this training to enrol.
County Cllr Alison Gray	Notification of commencement of works on 2 nd February, to demolish former Burnhope Communal Room, South View.
Lauren Icton, Civic Pride Officer	The Big Spring Clean 2 nd March – 4 th May, 2026 It was agreed that the Parish Councillors would support the event organised in Burnhope. Date to be confirmed.
Secretary of State, Department of Transport	Notification of Stopping Up of highway to enable development at Greenwood Avenue, Burnhope
Durham Hospital Radio	Request for financial support. Agreed £50.00. Clerk to produce a Grant/Funding Request Form for applicants to complete.

65. Village Entrance Fence Repairs

Councillor Smith reported that replacement white PVC fencing had now been sourced to replace the damaged village entrance feature fencing on the approach from Edge Lane. The required materials would cost £270 + VAT. It was **agreed that** an order be placed and works carried out to repair the fence.

66. Parish Council Cemetery

The Clerk reported that a situation had arisen and a complaint had been received about an ashes burial plot which had been purchased in the cemetery in 2018. Unfortunately, due to the encroachment from other plots, the original plot was now smaller. The purchaser agreed to take up the offer of a new plot on the understanding that the original terms and conditions would apply, and that kerb stones could be laid in the new site after their burial had taken place. It was **agreed that** the Parish Council would honour the original agreement, and that a letter supporting this decision be sent to the plot owner.

67. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 5th March, 2026 at 6.00 p.m. in Burnhope Community Centre.

Signed



Date 05/03/26.