

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

**Present**

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

Councillors L. Clarke, I. McKeag, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf, L. Million, G. Smith, J. Stewart, H. Wilson and Alderman O. Johnson.

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor T. Barras, S. McCormick and County Councillor A. Gray.

**In attendance**

Mr D. Brockington, Burnhope Partnership Heritage Group

**45. Police Report**

There was no Police report.

**46. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record.

The following matters arising were discussed.

- Standing Charge for power supply to Christmas tree – a new, lower tariff, starting October 2026, has been found. It was **agreed that** the Christmas tree lights switched on would be on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2025.
- Public Inquiry into Solar Energy Generation System – Inquiry adjourned until early next year.
- Discussions on provision of cemetery services was still ongoing.
- Memorial Seat Plaque – Information circulated was agreed. The new scheme to be introduced with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.
- Discussion on Durham County Council's Budget consultation – it was agreed to wait for further information on the Council's proposals.

**47. Finance Report**

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

Easyweb – Domain Hosting November, 2025	£36.96
British Gas – Power supply to Christmas tree November 2025	£33.00
Mr P. Raine – Preparation of plot AS1/6 for Interment	£100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£169.96</b>

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

Sale of Ashes Plot AS1/6	£870.00
HMRC - VAT Refund April-Sept 2025	£679.49
Interment of Ashes – Plot AS1/6	£410.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,959.49</b>

#### 48. Planning Matters

One new application has been received :-

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

Variation of Conditions - 2 (Approved Plans) to enable design and layout changes, including reduction of floorspace of buildings; 4 (Landscaping Scheme); 5 (Materials); 7 (Contaminated Land); 9 (Drainage) pursuant of planning permission

DM/22/02955/FPA. **No objection by Parish Council.**

#### 49. Correspondence

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

Durham County Council	Play area inspection report – September 2025	Noted. No problems.
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Invoice for Parish Council Poppy Wreath	<b>Agreed</b> to donate £50.00. This will cover the cost of the wreath and include a donation to the Charity.
Inclusive Connections CIC	Request for donation towards their work supporting Parents and children with special needs.	<b>Agreed</b> £300
British Gas	Energy renewal contract from October 2026.	One year fixed contract agreed from October 2026. New tariff will reduce the standing charge to £16.00 per month.

David Harris – James Etherington Music Awards	Details of Annual Competition for Young Musicians	<b>Agreed</b> to publicise competition on Council's Website and Facebook page.
County Councillor Alison Gray	Information regarding the 21 day extension of the temporary closure of footpath between 31 and 32 Braeside.	Position noted.
David Brockington, Burnhope Heritage Group	Update on Heritage Trail and request for an update on Parish Council's insurance position	The Clerk pointed out that as the Project was still going through due process (i.e. the necessary agreements, planning permission and applications for funding) she was unable to advise the Council on this matter. She offered to attend a meeting of the Burnhope Partnership to explain the Parish Council's current position regarding the Heritage Trail and also so she might better understand the history behind the Burnhope Banner Project.

#### 50. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Signed .....

Date ...04/12/25...