

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

### **Present**

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

Councillors L. Clarke, S. McCormick, I. McKeag and T. Metcalf.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T. Clarke, B. Henderson, P. Luther, G. Smith, County Councillors M. McGaun, D. Oliver, PCSO P. Hart and PC Thompson and Alderman O. Johnson.

### **In attendance**

M. Gardner, A. Gibson, J. Stewart and H. Wilson.

### **Police Report**

Two new Police Officers for the Burnhope area. They are PC Matthew Thompson and PCSO Paige Hart.

They were unable to attend the meeting, and the following Police report was read out :-

- Since the beginning of January there had been one report of two males riding about on a quad bike in Holmside Lane.
- One report of an abandoned vehicle with keys. The keys were recovered and are currently at Consett Police Station.

### **Partnership Report**

The next edition of the Burnhope Wheel has been finalised and was now being printed.

### **Community Centre Report**

- Mr Gibson informed the meeting that the Community Centre gym was to be named the Jan Box Gym in memory of Cllr Janet Box in honour of the work and service she had given to the village. The naming ceremony was to take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2025.
- He confirmed that all activities in the Centre are well attended and continue to provide a valuable service and support to the community. There are 130 members of The Pantry and the new weight loss programme is attracting new visitors to the Centre.

- A Working Group has been formed to work on the VE Day Celebrations at the Centre.
- The latest £33,000 Home Fund Grant is providing much needed support for the community with both food and heating vouchers being handed out. Thanks to the staff at the Centre a total of £100,000 had been provided to those in need over the last year.

### **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Clarification on the Parish Council's current position on the support for the proposed 2026 Centenary Celebrations of the Forgotten Gala Event was requested. The Chairman explained that more information was needed on the Banner Group's proposals before any decision on funding by the Parish Council could be made. Cllr McCormick reported that she was to be part of the Working Group which was being set up to organise this event.

Cllr Coates noted that works had not yet commenced at the Garden of Remembrance. The Clerk confirmed that the Contractor had been notified that the funding was now available, and works could commence as soon as the weather permitted.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024, be approved as a correct record.

### **Finance Report**

The Clerk reported that the following payments had been made since the last meeting of the Council:

Description	Amount
	£
British Gas (December and January payments)	£70.00
Easy Web – Website Hosting (December & January)	£73.92
Hocks Site Welding Ltd – works to Christmas Tree Fence	£384.00
Clerks Salary (Oct – Dec)	£500.00
Clerks Tax (Oct – Dec)	£125.00
Shred It Ltd (Disposal of old minutes & agenda)	£124.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,277.66</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Durham County Council Small Grant for War Memorial Works	£300.00
Burial Fees – Janet Box	£48.00
	<b>£348.00</b>

## Planning Matters

DM/24/03308/FPA - Land to the south of Whitehouse Farm Cottage, Whitehouse Avenue, Burnhope. DH7 0EB – Erection of stable block with tac room/storage. Delegated decision.

DM/24/03466/FPA Ampyr Solar Europe. Land to the south of Wagtail Lane, Craghead. DH7 0DT – Installation of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar development, electrical substation and associated infrastructure.

Cllr Metcalf declared an interest in the following application and did not take part in the discussion or voting.

DM/24/03213/FPA – DCC Housing Delivery Team. Land at Greenwood Avenue, Burnhope, DH7 0AN. Erection of 32 affordable dwellings with associated infrastructure, landscaping and ancillary works.

Parish Council unanimous in its support for the development.

## Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence:

- Durham County Council - Acknowledgement of 2025/26 Precept submitted by Burnhope Parish Council
- Durham County Council - Notice of Councillor Vacancy
- Cllr Douglas Oliver - Feedback on mobile camera operations on the C10 Fair View (30 mph area).- Information noted
- Durham County Council - Tree planting grants
- Durham County Council - The Big Spring Clean 5<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Burnhope Primary School - Invitation to visit school to advise children on Councillors role and local democracy. **Agreed that** a Councillor will attend.
- CDALC - Purchase of Good Councillors' Guide & Good Councillors' Guide to Finance – **agreed** to purchase six copies of each publication.
- Ian Wilkinson - Burnhope Solar Energy Plant and New Acre Energy Plant –
- Cllr Douglas Oliver - Copy of email to DCC in support of Greenwood Avenue Planning Application – **Agreed that** the Parish Council are fully in support of this development and a letter of support to be sent to DCC Planning Team.
- CDALC - Election Briefings & Information
- Mid Durham AAP – February E Briefing
- Luke Akehurst, MP – Response received on service failure by Go North East due to cancelled/delayed bus services in North Durham. The reasons for the disruption to services and the measures now put in place to deal with any problems were explained. Mr Akehurst agreed to raise this service failure at national and regional level. **Agreed that** any further problems/incidences to be reported to the MPs office.

### Road safety Signs

- The speed visor on Edge Lane was not working. To be reported to Durham County Council.
- A "Slow Down" flashing sign at the above location is also to be requested.

### Councillor Janet Box

In recognition of the many years of work by Cllr Box as a Parish Councillor, it was proposed to plant a tree in the Orchard area at the rear of the Community Centre. The planting to coincide with the dedication of the gym in the Community Centre. It was **agreed that** arrangement be made to plant an ornate miniature cherry blossom tree in her memory.

### Storm Eowyn

The Parish Council wished to place on record their thanks to Jake Prow and Dylan Robinson who were able to safely remount the Pit Tub at the Pit Wheel onto its plinth when it was blown over during storm Eowyn.

### Garden of Remembrance

Volunteers to help with the spring clean up and planting of the Garden of Remembrance area were requested.

### Date of next meeting

**Agreed** that the next monthly meeting of Burnhope Parish Council be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

Signed .....

*D. E. Lister*

Date .....

*06/03/25*