

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 6th March, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)
Councillors I. McKeag, T. Metcalf and G. Smith.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L. Clarke, T. Clarke, B. Henderson, P. Luther, S. McCormick, County Councillors M. McGaun, D. Oliver and PCSO P. Hart.

In attendance

Alderman O. Johnson, Alan Gibson (Community Centre representative) and Helen Wilson (resident).

Police Report

The following Police report was read out :-

- Cannabis plants recovered from a building in Consett
- One incident of anti social behaviour reported since last meeting of off road bikes in the area. A number of Section 59 warning signs have now been placed in Burnhope area. These warnings cover the Traffic 183 warning notice which are issued to those who are using vehicles in an anti social manner. If caught by the Police in these areas riding anti socially, the bikes can be seized.

The question was raised about the operation and monitoring of the CCTV cameras in the village. Enquiries to be made about their coverage.

Partnership Report

The Burnhope Wheel had been printed and distributed throughout the village. Funding was available to continue to produce three, yearly issues.

Community Centre Report

- Mr Gibson informed the meeting that the Memorial Day for the late Cllr Janet Box was well attended.
- The Parish Council **agreed** to pay for the fitting of two seats which had been donated to the Centre and were to be located next to the Cherry Blossom tree which had been planted in Cllr Box's memory.

- The Mid Durham AAP were to hold their last meeting at the Centre on 19th March.
- The National Lottery Team is to visit the Centre week commencing 10th March, 2025.
- Arrangements for the VE Day event planned for the 7th May were well under way.
- Alderman Johnson praised Mr Gibson for the enormous amount of work he had carried out for the community.

Minutes and Matters Arising

The road safety signs were still not working. An update from Durham County Council to be requested.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th February 2025, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Finance Report

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

Description	Amount
	£
British Gas (February and March payments)	£70.00
Easy Web – Website Hosting (February and March)	£73.92
Total	£143.92

Planning Matters

Installation and operation of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar energy generation system – Land east of Edge Lane, Maiden Law

A large contingent from the village attended Durham County Council's Planning Committee on 5th March to hear the deliberations. Five villagers spoke to oppose the development. The planning committee rejected the application.

Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence:

- Ian Galloway – Copy of letter to Chairman & Chief Executive of BP plc re proposed solar energy development
- Ian Wilkinson - Solar developments around Burnhope

- Chris Shields, Planning Officer, Durham County Council – Notice of County Planning Committee meeting
- Liam Weatherill, Wheels2Work – Information about their services
- County Durham Association of Local Councils – New Parish Groupings for Local Networks and information on the process to recruitment Panel Members
- Mid Durham AAP – 1st March bulletin. Information about transition into Local Networks from April 2025. - Praise was given to the AAP staff who had always been so professional and friendly. Their work had been of great benefit to the Parish Council and the community over the years.

Any Other Business

- Update given on the meeting with Lanchester Parish Council regarding the VE & VJ Day Beacon Events on 8th May and 15th August respectively.
- A request for a footpath to be laid to the new play area. This idea to be explored.
- Damaged street sign for Edwards Walk to be reported to Durham County Council.
- Request to be made for a waste bin on PROW 24/25 opposite Tait's House.
- White village entrance feature upvc fence near Edge Lane damaged. To be replaced asap.
- Picnic site barrier broken – to be reported to Lanchester Parish Council.

Date of next meeting

Agreed that the next monthly meeting of Burnhope Parish Council to be held on Thursday 3rd April, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

Signed  **Date** 03/04/25
 (Note: The handwritten date '03/04/25' is written over the dotted line for the date field.)