

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 p.m.

**Present**

Councillor D Coates (Chair)

Councillors T. Barras, S. McCormick, I. McKeag, C. Metcalf, D. Metcalf and L. Million,

**In attendance**

Rachael Gardner, Anne Stewart and Tom Metcalf,

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillors G. Smith, J. Stewart and H. Wilson, PCSO P. Hart and County Councillor A. Gray.

**Chairs Parish Remarks**

The Chairman opened his remarks with thanks to the following :-

- Peter Hughes who was a tireless and very knowledgeable Parish clerk to this Council for a considerable number of years; however, he resigned his role last September to leave England and move to warmer climates and a complete change in lifestyle.
- Susan Gettings for taking up the role and who has “hit the floor running” bringing in a new Website and is moving forward modernising our structure,
- Thank you to all members who have been Parish Councillors over the past four years.
- Janet Box who as we all know passed away in December of last year. Janet was a force to be reckoned with and worked tirelessly to bring new ventures into this Parish.
- Barry Henderson who due to ill health has had to retire as a Councillor.
- Tom Metcalf who has retired due to health issues, although I’m sure we will still see Tom at our meetings as an observer and to give advice if needed especially his advice and help on any issue we have with the land around the parish.
- Alan Gibson, who although not a Councillor, for his help /advise and the general upkeep of Burnhope War Memorial, something I hope new councillors will get involved with.
- Alderman Ossie Johnson, Ossie attends virtually all our meetings as an “Overseer and advisor on all thing’s local government and local area.
- Vice Chair Sarah McCormack. Sarah is a huge help giving advice on certain legalities /village /parish issues and helps us with social media through the Partnership Web Page.
- Cllr Gordon Smith for all the technical advice and input on things we wouldn’t have a clue about.
- County Councillors Mike McGuan and Doug Oliver for their support over the past four years
- I am sure that I speak for everyone when I welcome Alison Gray our newly elected County Councillor who I’m sure, along with this Parish Council, will work, help and support our Parish and Village.

This past year we have had a dark cloud hanging over the Village due to BP Lightsource wanting to create a huge Solar Farm, this proposed development was rejected by villagers, yet this company was determined to push it through. Residents of the village and Parish plus this Council have fought and

objected throughout these worrying times however we don't know whether the plans will be resubmitted again on appeal ... time will tell!

Over this coming year I hope Burnhope Parish Council will continue to support.

- Burnhope War Memorial
- Our new playpark
- Pursue the addition of a suitable footpath to the playpark
- Flower planters
- Village roadside furniture
- The upkeep of our Parish Cemetery (thank you again to BJ Henderson and his team at Derwentside Tree and Garden Services for maintaining that area)
- To attempt to extend the Cemetery by purchasing extra land
- The village Christmas Tree
- To continue our support for residential development
- Try to improve the service of Public Transport
- Keep lobbying DCC Highways and the Police to reduce speeding throughout the area

I won't apologise for my remarks and report being slightly lengthy, however as we have new Councillors, I think everyone should realise they have a part to play in continuing to move Burnhope Parish forward as we have done over the past 38 yrs.

Thank you all.

Signed



Date

5/6/25