

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 28th November, 2024 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 pm.

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

Councillors L. Clarke, I. McKeag, T. Metcalf and G. Smith.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Box, T. Clarke, B. Henderson, P. Luther, S.J. McCormick, County Councillors M. McGaun, D. Oliver, PCSO Milner and Alderman O. Johnson.

Police Report

The following Police issues were reported :-

- Anti social behaviour by youths kicking doors on Meadowfield Estate.
- Missing 18 year old girl located. She was fit and well.
- Attendance at a road traffic accident on Holmside Lane. Both parties uninjured.
- Report of a house fire on Front Street – Police attended the scene. All services stood down as it was someone burning rubbish in their garden.

Partnership Report

There was no report.

Community Centre Report

The Community Centre continues to thrive and four people are now employed. All activities are well attended and provide a valuable service and support to the community. There are 130 members of The Pantry and 46 people are registered for the Christmas Lunch.

The £50,000 Home Fund Grant is providing much needed support for the community with both food and heating vouchers being handed out.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th 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
	£
Derwentside Tree & Garden Services – Grounds Maintenance works March – November, 2024	6,327.38
Little Treasures - Funding	300.00
Total	6,627.38

Parish Precept 2025/26

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council providing details of the Parish Tax base, together with a request for the Parish Precept for the financial year 2025/26. The Local Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2025/26 is £538.00.

The Clerk then provided details of the Parish Council's overall financial position, including future expenditure.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees to a precept in the sum of £8,700 for the financial year 2025/26.

Planning Matters

Mr Ian Galloway updated the Parish Council on the resubmitted planning application for a solar farm in Burnhope and the case he was currently building to oppose this development. This latest application was likely to be presented to the Planning Committee on the 10th January, 2025. He invited the Parish Council to take part in the hearing. Cllrs Sarah McCormick and Derek Coates to attend the Action Group meetings and also the Planning Committee meeting.

Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence:

- CDALC – Royal Garden Party – Opportunity to enter a ballot for two people to attend the Royal Garden Party in 2025.
- CDALC – Electoral costs May 2025
- DCC Town & Parish Precepts Team – Precept Request Form
- Little Treasures Autism Charity – request for funding for sessions held in Burnhope Community Centre – **agreed** £300.
- Cindy Brockington, Banner Group – The Forgotten Gala : Burnhope 1926

- Mid Durham AAP - Small Grant Application for works to improve access to the Garden of Remembrance for wreath laying. County Councillors McGaun & Oliver **agreed** to provide £300 from their Small Grants Fund.
- Resignation of Cnllr Caroline McCulloch – Notice of vacancy to be placed on the Parish Noticeboard.

The Forgotten Gala - Centenary of 1926 Durham Miners Gala

Cindy Brockington informed the Parish Council of the "Your Neighbourhood" Project which the Banner Group were carrying out, in conjunction with Durham County Council's archivist (The Story), regarding Burnhope's heritage.

The Banner Group was currently looking for ways to mark the centenary in 2026, of the Durham Miners Gala which had been held in Burnhope. It was hoped that with £2,000 funding from The Story's "Your Neighbourhood" National Heritage Fund Grant a patchwork banner to commemorate the centenary of the forgotten Gala could be created by Burnhope Sewing Group. Burnhope Primary School children and other local community groups would also be invited to help with the design.

It was suggested that the Banner Group should form a Committee to take forward this Project. The potential to link an event with the Streets of Brass Festival could also be explored.

Resignation of Parish Clerk

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman passed on everyone's best wishes and thanked Mr Hughes for his 30 years service to the Parish Council.

Date of next meeting

Agreed that the next monthly meeting of Burnhope Parish Council be held on Thursday 6th February, 2025 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 pm.