

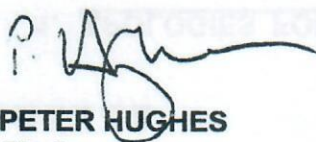


Our ref: PDH/SG  
Ask for: Peter Hughes  
Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is invited at the meeting of **BURNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL** for consideration of the undernoted agenda. The meeting will be held in Burnhope Community Centre on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2024** at 6.00 p.m.

Yours faithfully,



**PETER HUGHES**  
**Clerk**

## **AGENDA**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **POLICE REPORT**
3. **PARTNERSHIP REPORT**
4. **COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT**
5. **MINUTES**

To consider the minutes of the following meetings held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2024:-

Annual Parish Meeting  
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council  
Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

6. **FINANCE REPORT**
7. **PLANNING MATTERS**
8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Burnhope Community Centre on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.

**Present**

Councillor D Coates, Chair

Councillors J. Box, B. Henderson and T. Metcalfe

**In attendance**

County Councillor D Oliver, Alderman O Johnson and PCSO C Milner.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Clarke, T. Clarke, P. Luther. S.J. McCormick, C. McCulloch, I. McKeag, G. Smith and County Councillor M. McGaun

**Chair's Parish Remarks**

I would like to begin my report by thanking the following.

Peter Hughes our Parish Clerk for the work and advice he generates towards the legalities and work input within our Parish.

Thank you to Sarah McCormick Vice Chair who was elected as Vice Chair at last years AGM for her assistance within the Parish Council and taking on Social Media tasks for our Parish Council.

To all Elected Members of Burnhope Parish Council for their help, support and input at meetings ( and away from meetings) and those who often point me in the right direction if, and when, I run off course a little, "thank you".

Thank you to Alan Gibson for his volunteering and help with our flower tubs, Burnhope War Memorial and official gatherings.

Also Councillor Gordon Smith for his technical support.

Thank you to our County Councillors.

I will thank the Police, however with zero attendances over the past year and 5 reports I think we could expect more !

Thank you to Alderman Ossie Johnson for his guidance and experience with matters we often need clarifying, also Ossie is Burnhope Parish Council's link with Lanchester Parish Council who we have been working closely with over the past years.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May last year 2023 , I was once again humbled to be elected as Chair of Burnhope Parish Council for the twelfth year.

The past year has certainly been a difficult year with i.e. Solar Farm, Public Footpaths and Local Government funding cuts.

It was so disappointing and frustrating that Durham County Council Planning Team passed the monstrosity of the Solar Farm after honest objections by our Parish Council and parishioners, yes I've mentioned this previously however the feeling of being let down will be with us forever and won't be forgotten.

The Brown Field Release Fund ( Greenwood Ave site) which appeared to have stalled would appear to have made a resurgence with up to date information incoming.

Unfortunately with current funding cuts we as an elected Council will certainly have to be very prudent with our finances, one of which could happen is that the fencing that will surround the new play area will not now be powder coated due to the £13,000 cost.

Also local donations will have to be reduced or in some cases scrapped ! Let's hope the up and coming boundary changes will make a difference. We will however attempt to provide the following.

- Continue to supply the lighting for the village Christmas tree.
- Keep the flower planters bright and colourful ( starts next week)
- Maintain the village roadside furniture and fencing.
- Maintain the upkeep of our Parish Cemetery with support from Derwentside Tree and Garden Services (thank you BJ once again }
- Continue with our lobbying to cut down speeding on our Parish roads.
- Present the village with the new play area ( thank you Councillor Jan Box with time and effort in this project), this a project we have had to be very patient due to procurement of the funding however it should be handed over by the end of June this year ( probably without the planned colourful fencing though}
- The celebration of 80yrs since VE Day and the Normandy landings a gathering and the lighting of the Beacon (In association with LPC} on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the picnic area will take place .

As I mentioned earlier it looks as though we have a difficult financial year ahead of us, however if we work together and make the correct decisions (which we always have) I'm sure we will get through the issues facing us.

And to conclude.....KEEP SMILING COUNCILLORS!

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
in Burnhope Community Centre at the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)  
Councillors J. Box, B. Henderson and T. Metcalf.

In Attendance

County Councillor D. Oliver, Alderman O. Johnson and PCSO C. Milner

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L. Clarke, T. Clarke, P. Luther, S. J. McCormick, C. McCulloch, I. McKeag, and G. Smith, County Councillor M. McGaun.

Appointment of Chair

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that** Councillor D. Coates be appointed Chair for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Appointment of Vice-Chair

It was **RESOLVED that** Councillor S. J. McCormick be appointed Vice-Chair for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Parish Precept

The Clerk reported that the Parish Precept for 2024/2025 was £8,200 plus £475 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme payment.

Cheque Signatories

**RESOLVED that** all members of the Parish Council be appointed cheque signatories.

Dates of Meetings

**RESOLVED that**, wherever possible, all meetings of Burnhope Parish Council will be held on the first Thursday of each month except for the recess months of August and January

**Appointments to Outside Bodies**

**RESOLVED** that the following appointments be made to outside bodies:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Parish Council Representative</b>
Burnhope Partnership	Councillor B. Henderson
Burnhope Community Centre	Mr. A. Gibson
Smaller Councils' Committee	Councillor J. Box
HAGGRID	Councillor B. Henderson
Mid Durham Area Action Partnership	Councillor J. Box
Friends of Burnhope War Memorial	Councillors J. Box, D. Coates, S. J. McCormick, C. J. McCulloch and G. Smith

Minutes of the meeting held of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in Burnhope Community Centre at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Council

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)  
Councillors J. Box, B. Henderson and T. Metcalf.

In Attendance

County Councillor D. Oliver, Alderman O. Johnson and PCSO C. Milner

Apologies for Absence

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**Annual Accountancy and Governance Statement**

The Clerk presented a detailed report on the Statement of Accounts and the Council's Internal Audit Controls for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, together with the Accountancy Statement for the same period.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council approves the Annual Governance Statement as detailed by the Clerk, together with the Accountancy Statement. The Statement to be forwarded to the Council's External Auditor for approval.

**Greenwood Avenue – Proposed Housing Development**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting, Mr. Graeme Smith, Housing Delivery Officer, Durham County Council.

Mr. Smith confirmed that the Greenwood Avenue site had first been identified as a development opportunity in October 2020.

A recent report presented to Durham County Council's Cabinet considered a delivery programme for three development sites in the County, Greenwood Avenue, and sites in Seaham and Spennymoor.

The Greenwood Avenue site had now been through the procurement process with a contractor appointed. Public consultation would take place as the development progressed through various stages e.g. the planning process. It is anticipated that development will begin, on site, at the "back end" of 2024. This development will not cover the whole of the Greenwood Avenue site.

The remainder of the site will present a disposal opportunity for Durham County Council. Private Developers will be given the opportunity to tender for the area of land for private development.

Finance for the Durham County Council scheme is being provided by Homes England.

Alderman Johnson pointed out that Burnhope School will be able to accommodate the additional pupils resulting from the developments.

The Chair thanked Mr. Smith for the information provided and for undertaking to keep the Parish Council informed as development progresses.

### **Police Report**

PCSO Milner presented the following Police Report:

- Officers have been made aware of “Car Meets” in the Consett area. Vehicles have been seen driving in an anti-social manner and have been issued with Section 183 Traffic Notices. If the persons concerned reoffend their vehicles will be seized. Durham Constabulary’s Road Policing Unit has been made aware of these illegal meetings and is conducting further patrols in “hotspots”
- In the local area there have been reports of youths banging on residents’ doors and, in some cases, causing damage to property. Police patrols have been increased in areas where the problem has occurred regularly. The Police ask Parents / Guardians to talk to their children about the consequences and emotional / financial harm these actions can cause to residents. Police will continue to carry out talks in schools to try and help educate children on the repercussions of those actions.

- **Local Crime Trends**

- Police have received a report of a missing 18-year-old. The youth was located and returned home safely.
- Police have received reports of criminal damage to a vehicle and an incident at Burnhope Cricket Club. CCTV enquiries have been conducted and investigations are ongoing.
- Street Wardens have attended an incident of anti-social behaviour where youths have been knocking on residents’ windows. Youths have dispersed when Wardens have attended.
- Officers have been conducting regular patrols of Burnhope to try and help combat anti-social behaviour and the use of illegal “Off Road Bikes.”
- A pursuit of three quad-bikes by Durham Constabulary’s Road Policing Team ended in Lanchester. The three bikes in question were identified as stolen and suspects are under investigation for theft.
- Officers have attended multiple safeguarding incidents in the Burnhope area and have helped residents with a number of issues. Police intervention has ensured that victims are receiving the right care and referrals to ensure that they are kept safe.
- Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 there have been fourteen incidents reported to Police in the Burnhope area. This included one “dropped” 999 call where checks revealed that it had been a misdial.



### **Partnership Report**

Councillor Henderson reported that everything was going well. Allotment holders were now able to work on their allotments due to the improved weather.

### **Community Centre Report**

Mr. A. Gibson reported that a new Coordinator had been appointed. The Community Centre is to be decorated to commemorate the D Day celebrations on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. All Groups meeting at the Centre are very well attended.

### **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 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
	£
Durham County Council – Procurement for new Play Area, The Avenue, Burnhope.	2,472.00
British Gas - Electricity for Christmas Tree Lights	33.29
T. Cartmell – Internal Audit	90.00
Zurich Municipal - Insurance	2176.58
T. Kernahan – Web Duties	46.10
Burnhope School - Donation	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,117.97</b>

### **Planning Matters**

The Clerk reported upon the following Planning Application received by Durham County Council:

24/1049 Erection of detached double garage to the front – Burnhope Vicarage. No objection.

### **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence:

- British Gas – A Standing Order has been set up.
- Burnhope School – Request for donation – Annual Heritage Picnic – Agreed £300.

- Mr. I. Galloway – re Public Rights of Way Group – No Group at present time. The Parish Council agreed to support any Public Rights of Way Group set up in future.
- Greencroft Parish Council – re future joint working regarding solar farm.
- Wicksteed – re play area. Commencement date 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 9.00 a.m.

### Finance – Play Area

The Clerk reported on cash-flow issues likely to result from the payment of invoices and VAT as work progresses on the new Play Area and associated fencing. Following detailed consideration of the matter it was **Agreed that** the Clerk should seek VAT repayment on a monthly basis rather than on an annual basis.

### Date of next meetings

The next Ordinary meeting of Burnhope Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6.00 pm.