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Our ref: PDH/SG
Ask for: Peter Hughes
Date: 23rd May 2023

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 1st June, 2023** 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 4th May, 2023:-

Annual Parish Meeting
Annual Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council
Ordinary Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 4th May 2023 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6:00 pm

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

Councillors S.J. McCormack, C.J. McCulloch, B. Henderson and T. Metcalf.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Box, L. Clarke, T. Clarke, P. Luther, I. McKeag and G. Smith, County Councillors D. Oliver and M. McGaun and Alderman O. Johnson.

Chair's Remarks regarding 2022/2023

Councillor Coates began his Remarks with some thanks:

- Thank you, Peter Hughes, our Parish Clerk, for the work he carries out with Parish Council business and keeping a rein on me.
- Thank you to Jan Box, Vice-Chair and all Members of Burnhope Parish Council for their trust and help in allowing me to lead Burnhope Parish Council and a huge thank you to Alderman Ossie Johnson and Councillor Gordon Smith. Ossie for his guidance and wealth of expertise and experience and Gordon for his technical input whether in relation to electrical work or engineering - his help is truly appreciated. Thank you also to Alan Gibson who volunteers to help with our flower tubs, War Memorial and who is a massive asset and help to me during the organising and presentation of our Remembrance Sunday Ceremony.
- Thank you also to County Councillors Mike McGaun and Douglas Oliver for their input and attendance at our meetings.
- Thank you also to Andrew Tonge who has recently left our Police Beat Team. Andrew was a huge help within our village during his time here – and welcome to PCSO Paige Hart who has taken over from Andrew.

Councillor Coates said that, whilst during the last ten years, (since he was elected as Chair), the Parish Council has had its ups and downs, his Remarks submitted to Annual Meetings had always been upbeat and positive until those submitted to this meeting held on 4th May 2023.

The Chair felt that 2022/2023 began in the usual manner, then towards the end of 2022 the Council was hit with the Planning Application from BP Solar for permission to install a Solar Farm twice the size of Burnhope village. Objections numbering more than four hundred were submitted for various valid reasons only to be dismissed by Durham County Council with the result that this monstrous development has been approved.

Councillor Coates said that he could only shake his head and ask what Burnhope Parish has done for Durham County Council to allow this development to happen.

The Brownfield Land Release Fund promise whereby Durham County Council was to build Social and Private Housing on the Greenwood Avenue site has, it would appear, stalled. We are told that money is the issue yet building development is happening throughout the local area. Councillor Coates' mind boggles. However, he suggests, people have good memories.

Councillor Coates continued by reminding everyone that, as Burnhope Parish Council always has done, it will continue to serve the Parish and Village, for example:

- Supply the lighting for the village Christmas Tree.
- Keep flower planters bright and colourful.
- Maintain the roadside seating and Gateway fencing.
- Maintain the upkeep of the Parish Cemetery. (Thank you to Derwentside Tree and Garden Services for their attention to detail in this area)
- Continue lobbying with regards to amendments to speed limits on Edge Lane / Langley Lane and junctions, this on top of the "Dangerous Junction Sign " which was sited last year after a long delay.
- Attempt to educate a minority of dog owners to pick up their dog's waste and "Bin it" and not to leave it on footpaths for Villagers to tread in.
- Try to support as much Parish activity as possible.
- Support the Woodland Creation / Living Woods venture.
- Support the Heritage Walks 100 scheme which was presented to us by Kieran Young.
- Develop the play area adjacent to Burnhope Cricket Club with new equipment.

Councillor Coates concluded by asking everyone to keep smiling and be positive through these difficult times.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 4th May 2023 in Burnhope Community Centre at the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

Councillors S.J. McCormack, C.J. McCulloch, B. Henderson and T. Metcalf.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Box, L. Clarke, T. Clarke, P. Luther, I. McKeag and G. Smith, County Councillors D. Oliver and M. McGaun and Alderman O. Johnson.

Appointment of Chair

The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chair.

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

Appointment of Vice-Chair

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

Parish Precept

The Clerk reported that the Parish Precept for 2023/2024 was £7,800 plus £662 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 the 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: -

Organisation	Parish Council Representative
Burnhope Partnership	Councillor B. Henderson
Burnhope Community Centre	Mr. A. Gibson
Smaller Councils' Committee	No nominations
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 Monthly Meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 4th May 2023 in Burnhope Community Centre at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Present

Councillor D. Coates (Chair)

Councillors S.J. McCormack, C.J. McCulloch, B. Henderson and T. Metcalf.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J. Box, L. Clarke, T. Clarke, P. Luther, I. McKeag and G. Smith, County Councillors D. Oliver and M. McGaun and Alderman O. Johnson.

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 31st March 2023, 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.

Police Report

There was no Police Report.

Partnership Report

The AGM will be held on 24th May 2023. Arrangements are in hand for the Summer Fayre to be held on the 2023 August Bank Holiday.

All allotments are occupied.

Community Centre Report

The Clerk submitted the following report:

- Kids Klub for primary school children restarted in March 2023. There are thirty members, so the Klub is full. A waiting list is to be started.
- Easter school holiday events in partnership with Karbon Homes were a real success. Around twenty-five children attended each day and some new people.
- Easter Funday – approximately two hundred people through the door raising £731 for a range of charities including about £500 for Burnhope Community Centre.
- Wednesday Lunch Time Social is continuing with around fifteen people attending each week.
- Supper Club in partnership with Burnhope Primary School, St. John's Church, St. Nicholas' Church, Durham, and Feeding Families – family cooking.

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3-30 until 5-30 p.m. Started on 25th April 2023 and is going really well.

- Heritage Day, Saturday 20th May 2023 from 10-00 until 5-00 pm, all welcome.
- Planning May 2023 school holiday activities – Water Fun Day and Teddy Bears’ Picnic
- Working with Burnhope Partnership members to plan the Summer Fayre (Monday 28th August 2023).
- Hall nearly fully used by community groups and activities. No users pay room hire charges due to grants received to ensure that local people can afford the activities.

Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 6th April 2023 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 - Electricity for Christmas Tree Lights	12.25
T. Cartmel – Internal Audit	80.00
T. Kernahan – Web Duties	46.10
County Durham Association of Local Councils – Annual Subs.	214.29
Zurich Municipal – Insurance	1980.45
Burnhope School – Donation re Burnhope Heritage Week	500.00
Total	2833.09

Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following items of correspondence:

- Burnhope School – request for donation. For school activities in connection with Burnhope Heritage Week. **Agreed** to donate £500.
- Durham County Council – and Lottery Community Fund – Approval of all funding for replacement play equipment. Members welcomed the award of all funding. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Councillor Box to thank her for all the hard work she had undertaken to secure the funding along with officers from the Area Action Partnership. Also, to thank her for her work as Vice-Chair in recent years.
- County Durham Association of District Councils – Draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in County Durham. The number of County Councillors to be reduced from 126 to 98.

The current Lanchester Division, of which Burnhope is part, will become a one Member ward with Healeyfield Ward removed from the current Division.

The Boundary Commission is to retain the Division name of Lanchester but will welcome comments as to whether the inclusion of Burnhope in the name would be appropriate. Following consideration of the proposals it was **Resolved** that:

- i. The Parish Council agrees to support the Draft Recommendations in respect of the Lanchester Division.
 - ii. The Parish Council recommend that it would be wholly appropriate to include "Burnhope" in the name of the Electoral Division. It is felt that the inclusion of the name of the village would give Burnhope and its residents a sense of identity.
- Lightsource BP – The Clerk reported the receipt of an e-mail, by the Chair, from Lightsource BP. Attached to the e-mail was a Community Benefit Offer in relation to the Burnhope Solar Farm at Edge Lane, Burnhope which was recently granted Planning Permission. Such payment to be applied towards a project or projects to benefit the local community at the discretion of Burnhope Parish Council.

To offer the following Benefit Payment to the Parish Council:

A single payment of £1,000 per Megawatt of installed capacity, subject to the approved final design, to be paid after construction and connection of the development.

Resolved that Burnhope Parish Council formally accepts the offer of the Benefit Payment as detailed above.

Parish Garden Competition

Councillor Metcalf invited Members to consider organising Parish Garden Competition. He appreciated that it was not possible to do this for 2023.

Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of Burnhope Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1st June 2023 in Burnhope Community Centre commencing at 6:00 p.m.