



..  
..  
..  
..  
..

Our ref: PDH/SG  
Ask for: Peter Hughes  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

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 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Yours faithfully,

**PETER HUGHES**  
**Clerk**

## **A G E N D A**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **POLICE REPORT**
3. **PARTNERSHIP REPORT**
4. **COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT**
5. **MINUTES**  
To consider the minutes of the meetings held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2022
6. **FINANCE REPORT**
7. **PLANNING MATTERS**
8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes of a meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6:00 pm.

Present:

Councillor D. Coates - Chair  
Councillors J. Box, L. Clarke, S. J. McCormick, C. J. McCulloch, I. McKeag, T. Metcalf.  
and G. Smith.

In Attendance

County Councillor D. Oliver, Alderman O. Johnson and PCSO A. Tonge.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T. Clarke, B. Henderson, P. Luther, and County Councillor M. McGaun.

Police Report

The Clerk read out the following Police Report:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Incidents</u>
Transport	4
Public Safety	13
Anti-Social Behaviour	8
Alcohol Related	7
Domestic Incidents	4
Vulnerable Adults / Child	14
Mental Health	5
Drug Related	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

Partnership Report

Councillor S. McCormick reported that a meeting of the Partnership had recently been held. The AGM is to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The next issue of the "Burnhope Wheel" is currently being prepared.

Community Centre Report

Councillor Box advised that:

- All Groups using the Centre were doing well.
- The Lunch Club is going to continue with funding being sought. Thirty-six people attended the last lunch.
- Activities were being organised for the imminent school holidays.

## Minutes

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Burnhope Parish Council held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 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 - Standing Charge for electricity for Christmas Tree Lights	12.25
HMRC – Clerk, Tax	90.00
P.D. Hughes - salary	360.00
A. Gibson – Hosepipe / watering can for Community Garden	18.50
T. Kernahan – Web Duties	92.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>572.95</b>

## Planning Matters

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

Planning Application 22/1769 - Land East of Edge Lane, Maiden Law – installation and operation of a ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation system (Solar Farm), battery storage facility , electrical substation and associated infrastructure.

The Clerk advised that the applicants had offered to attend the Parish meeting to answer questions etc that Members may wish to submit. Members felt that with information previously circulated and the public presentation and the detail planning application this would not be necessary.

Considerable discussion took place on this application, particularly with regard to the scale of the development and its likely impact on Burnhope village.

Members of the public who attended the meeting outlined their objections to the proposal.

A vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed to object to the proposed development on the following grounds:

- The overall scale of the development is considered totally excessive. It is almost two and a half times the size of Burnhope village.
- It will have a seriously detrimental impact on local residents, particularly those living to the north of the village.
- It will have a detrimental impact on wildlife given its proximity to a local nature reserve.
- A possible loss of public footpaths in the area as a result of the erection of security fencing around the proposed development. It should be noted that the footpaths in this area are regularly walked by local residents. The network of footpaths means that the area, which is relatively flat, is easy to get around.
- Loss of agricultural land.
- Despite such a large-scale development there is no evidence to suggest that any local jobs will be created i.e. during the construction period or ongoing maintenance should the scheme become operational.

- Loss of connectivity (established Nature Corridors) for wildlife between the various woodlands and ponds in the area in question.
- The Parish Council is of the opinion that the Planning Gain to local residents is derisory. The fact that the site is scheduled to be in use for forty years means that the annual "Gain" is only £1,000.

Whilst the Parish Council was unanimous about these objections to the proposed development, it asks, that if, the Planning Committee is minded to approve the application, it should look to secure larger financial Planning Gain for the residents of Burnhope.

In conclusion, Burnhope Parish Council asks that the application is refused on the grounds detailed above.

### Correspondence

The Clerk reported upon the following items of correspondence:

- Durham County council – re footpath access to Chapman's Well Local Nature Reserve. The landowner has been asked to remove the boulders. Enquiries being made to identify alternative methods of access control which should prevent the unlawful use of Quad Bikes in the locality.
- County Councillor Oliver – re fire damage to woodland north of the village. The issue has been flagged up with both the local PCSO and the "Fire Brigade."

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons event

The Chair reported the receipt of a "Certificate of Grateful Recognition" in respect of the Parish Council's participation in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons event held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.

### Outstanding Issues

The County Councillors were asked to provide updates to the September meeting of the Parish Council regarding:

- Advisory 30 mph signage
- Proposed housing development at Greenwood Avenue

### Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Burnhope Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 in Burnhope Community Centre at 6:00 pm.