

THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS FOR
THE PARISH OF MONK HESLEDEN HELD ON
MONDAY 21st MAY 2018

Present: Councillor G Crute (Chair)
Councillors' R Bowes Mrs. L Davison, Mrs. A Mason, O Deinali, N Thompson & P G Ward

aa18-1901 **TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS HELD ON**
16th MAY 2016

Copies of the minutes were circulated to each Member before the meeting.

RESOLVED the minutes of the Annual Assembly of Electors, held on the 22nd May 2017, be received.

aa18-1902 **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman, Gaynor Crute gave the following report.

"It has once again been an extremely busy year for Monk Hesleden Parish Council with the authority extending its role into other areas in the community. The staff and Councillors have risen to the challenges and activities to improve the community which we serve.

One of the new major activities the Parish Council undertook was a summer activities programme for children within the Parish. This involved a 6 weeks programme of events spread across different parts of the Parish and comprised of arts and crafts, kite making, football school and ending with a seaside event. The Parish Clerk co-ordinated the scheme which was funded by the Parish Council and East Durham Area Action Partnership. Partnership working with Blackhall Community Centre, Blackhall Library, Durham Heritage Coast and Hesleden Methodist Church meant that an exciting programme was put together. It is hoped that this will become a regular event, and thanks go to all concerned for their hard work in putting this programme together.

In the summer the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show was again a huge success and had competitors from all over the north east submitting entries. The event is organised by John and Alyson Peace and the Parish Council provide funding and administrative support to the event. My Vice-Chairman Councillor Rob Bowes and I played a small part on the day. I took the entries for the baking competition and Rob undertook the judging. This event was also supported by local businesses and County Councillors Rob Crute and Lynn Pounder.

In October the Hesleden Memorial was unveiled at a fantastic event that was organised by The Blackhalls Local History Group. The Memorial was constructed by the Parish Council's ground staff and funding of £4,800 was provided by County Councillors Rob Crute and Lynn Pounder from their Neighbourhood Budget, with a contribution of £2,000 from the Parish Council. It was an honour to be at this event which truly showed what community spirit and partnership working can produce.

The Remembrance Day Services at both Blackhall and Hesleden were well attended again this year. We were lucky to secure the services of Rev Davies to oversee the service at Blackhall Welfare Park with readings undertaken by Mr Settrey, representing St Andrews Church and Noah Dixon and Mary Laidlaw representing Blackhall Primary School and Emma Crute and Aaron Gray representing Wellfield School. Blackhall Community Youth Group also attended to hand out the orders of service. The Service at Hesleden was presided over by Rev Susan Richardson with Christopher McDonald playing the "Last Post". Thank you to all those who helped make these important events run so smoothly.

The Parish Council had the opportunity to support Durham Music Service with a grant of £500 which offered children from Blackhall Primary School, St Joseph's RC Primary School and Hesleden Primary School the opportunity to work with musical instruments and perform at a Community Christmas Concert. The event was held at Blackhall Community Centre on 12th December and musical performances were provided by the school children, Blackhall Youth Band, East Durham Wind Band and Easington Colliery Brass Band. The event was extremely well attended and it is hoped that this may become a regular event.

Blackhall Monks Youth FC continue to go from strength to strength and the Parish Council were able to help the club with a grant of £950. The Parish Council's ground staff continue to provide a fully marked up pitch at Attlee Avenue, Blackhall Rocks and Station Road, Hesleden for the team to play on and also at the Welfare Park for training purposes. Well done to all those involved.

Blackhall Community Youth Group together with Hesleden Guides were given the opportunity of working on the Kaleidoscope Art Project. This involved the young people experimenting with lots of different art forms, from paint to print, felting to video projection, all inspired by the colourful theme of 'kaleidoscope'. The groups were guided by artists from Creative Youth Opportunities and BloomIn' Art, who shared their artistic skills with the young people to help them realise their ideas. This resulted in a community event in April at Blackhall Community Centre where the art work was on display. The event was extremely well attended by parents and children who all had a fantastic time. I'd like to offer my congratulations and a big thank you to the young people for coming along and giving their time to produce outstanding artwork, and to the Parish Council's partners who helped to make this project a great success.

This year saw another fantastic Easter event in the Welfare Park which included a decorative paste egg competition, arts and craft workshop and an Easter Egg hunt. This Parish Council funded event once again saw a large number of children taking part in the activities. Thanks go to Durham Heritage Coast, the Parish Council Staff and particularly Emma Crute, Katy Moore, Harvey Jolly, Hannah Bunny, Natalia McStravick and Nikita McStravick from the Blackhall Community Youth Group who stepped in to ensure that the event was able to go ahead.

Our communities continue to face numerous challenges caused by central government cuts to local authority budgets as part of its austerity agenda, but through this adversity it is important to remember that there are a lot of positive things that happen in our villages. The Parish Council endeavours to support local groups and clubs with their aims in providing something more for the people of Blackhall and the Hesledens. At every opportunity I feel proud to tell people that I live in Blackhall and tell them about the strong community spirit that still exists here and about those people who put time and effort into the area and its residents.

I have had the opportunity to work with local sporting clubs and teams and alongside people who give their time freely to provide the area with community events, coffee mornings and charity fund raising events. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and dedication. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow parish Councillors for their continued support over the last 12 months and special thanks go to the Parish Council's ground staff, led by John Peace, who provide excellent playing facilities at the Welfare Park year after year, built the new Memorial at Hesleden, take care of Blackhall and Hesleden Cemeteries and the many other things that they do to make our villages more attractive places to live. Thanks as always to Lynda Wardle and Katherine Alderson for their continued hard work."

RESOLVED the Chairman's report be received

aa18-1903

TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2018

The Clerk made available copies of the Parish Council Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2018.

RESOLVED the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 be accepted and approved.

aa18-1904

TO CONSIDER ANY RESOLUTION OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE AS BEEN GIVEN TO THE CHAIRMAN OR CLERK

The Clerk confirmed that no resolutions had been received.

aa18-1905

TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS OR MATTER RAISED BY THE ELECTORATE

The Clerk confirmed that no matters had been received or raised by the Electorate.

The Annual Assembly was drawn to a close.

Certified as a True Record

CHAIRMAN.....

Dated