

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF**  
**MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

Councillors Present: Cllr G M Crute, Mrs L Davison, Mr W H Johnson, Mrs A Marley Lawson, Mrs A Mason, K Stanley, N Thompson, P G Ward.

mh18-1942      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors' O Deinali and R Bowes.

**RESOLVED** apologies be received and accepted.

mh18-1943      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest where received.

mh18-1944      **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2018**

A draft copy of the minutes for the above meeting had been issued with the agenda.

**RESOLVED** the minutes be approved, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

mh18-1945      **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Ian Goodwin, provided a written report for the meeting which was read to members by the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted

mh18-1946      **COUNCILLORS REPORTS OF THEIR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillors' Crute, Mason and Davison volunteered at Council's seaside event held at the Blackhall Welfare Park and the Chairman thanked them for their assistance. Councillor Crute spoke of the huge success of not only this event but also the summer programme and recognition was given to employees for going above and beyond during the busy six-week period.

Councillors' Crute and Mason attended the East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils.

Councillor N Thompson attended the Hesledens Residents Association meeting and provided a verbal report.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and **FURTHER RESOLVED** members be thanked for their attendance at these meetings.

mh18-1947

### **EVENTS**

The Clerk provided an update on the summer programme and advised the programme had engaged over 350 children and 150 adults.

The Flower and Vegetable show had received record entries and thanks was given to the Parks & Facilities Manager for organising the event. All flowers not taken by the growers were donated to St Andrews Church, Blackhall.

Remembrance Sunday falls on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and to commemorate the 100 years anniversary of WW1. It was suggested 100 wooden poppy crosses be placed at both Blackhall and Hesleden memorials, with the local primary schools being involved in this project. The purchase of the crosses would require a donation to the British Legion to a maximum of £500.00

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Blackhall Bowls bus crash falls in in August 2019 and this will be celebrated at the Welfare Park, the Parish Council are to work with the Blackhall Bowls Club who are organising the event.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council was formed on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1894 and will be celebrating 125 years as a local authority, the events committee are currently working on an event to celebrate this milestone, further information will be provided at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted **FURTHER RESOLVED** to commemorate this special anniversary 200 wooden poppy crosses be purchased using S137 spending power.

mh18-1948

### **ENVIRONMENT**

The Clerk provided members with a current progress report and gave a verbal update, this included a complaint from a resident regarding dogs being allowed in the Welfare Park. It was confirmed dogs are allowed in all council facilities provided they are on a lead and owners pick up after their dogs. The only exception to this is the inside of the fenced off play areas, where no dogs are allowed.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** no change to the policy with regards to dogs accessing council facilities.

mh18-1949

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **Schedule of Payments**

A list of payments for the period 24th July to the 18th September was issued with the agenda for information and approval.

**RESOLVED** that the payments be received and approved.

#### Notice of Conclusion of Audit 31st March 2018

The external audit concluded that there are no issues arising other than a minor comment re the box 11 (disclosure note re Trust Funds) section 2 of the Annual Return being left blank. The comment being "although the answer could be inferred from other answers on the AGAR the Council should ensure all boxes are filled in, marking nil or not applicable where appropriate."

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** members recognition be given to the Clerk for another unqualified audit.

#### Neighbourhood Budget Application

The Clerk confirmed a funding application of £2000 to help fund community events which was submitted to County Councillors' Crute & Pounder had been successful.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted

#### Business Rates – Blackhall Cemetery (min ref mh18-1912)

The Clerk advised the matters challenged re the rating of Blackhall cemetery had been successful, however due to the improvements to the paths an additional charge has been added to the rating valuation. The rating value for the cemetery has increased from £1325 to £4300 pa.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted

#### Water Invoices – Blackhall Welfare Park

The Clerk informed members that billing had now been corrected and invoices had now been received from Northumbrian Water: -

Period 3/1/17 to 12/7/18 - meter 1 £2024.38

Period 3/1/17 to 12/7/18 - meter 2 £1691.38

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted

#### Review of monopole rent (mh18-1914)

The Clerk had received a final offer for the increase in annual rent from £3800 to £5000 and requested members approval to accept.

**RESOLVED** the Council accepts the offer of £5000 per annum until the next review in 2023.

mh18-1950

#### **COUNCIL PROJECTS (mh18-1938)**

##### Pedestrian safety issues at the front of shops on Middle Street

A site meeting is to be organised with Durham County Council Highways Officer and County Councillors Rob Crute & Lynn Pounder.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted

##### Lighting of Pit Wheel

Installation of the electricity is scheduled to take place Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted

Proposed multi-games unit at Hesleden

The Clerk confirmed the lease for this proposed installation has been agreed and further quotes are being sought from contractors as residents have requested a change to the design. Members were requested to allocate a budget towards this project, it is anticipated funding will be secured from the community fund which has been put in place in relation to the Hesleden pit heap restoration.

**RESOLVED** a budget of £25,000 be allocated to this project from the play area budget

mh18-1951

**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

Durham Count Council Lease Approval

Members were requested to approve the following leases between the Parish Council and Durham County Council:

Football field at Station Road Hesleden, 30-year lease, annual rent £100 to be reviewed every 5 years, legal costs payable to Durham County Council £625.00.

Land south west of Hesleden Workingmen’s Club, Hillcrest 30-year lease, annual rent £100 to be reviewed every 5 years, legal costs payable to Durham County Council £625.00.

**RESOLVED** both leases be approved and signed.

Allotment Consultation

The Clerk had distributed correspondence from Durham County Council regarding the possible transfer of allotment sites from themselves to the Parish Council.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council does not have the capacity or resources to take on additional responsibilities.

**RESOLVED** the information be received and noted

mh18-1952

**PLANNING & CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

Durham County Council Applications Received

DM/18/01800/FPA	Mr B Sullivan 8 Milton Avenue Blackhall TS27 4NW	First floor rear extension.
-----------------	---	-----------------------------

**RESOLVED** the Parish Council has no comments to make re the above application.

mh18-1953

**CORRESPONDENCE & BULLETINS**

Letter of thanks from resident praising ground staff from allowing family to shelter from a downpour when visiting Blackhall Welfare Park.

E-mail received from the chairman of a visiting cricket team complimenting the Parish Council on its facilities at Blackhall Welfare Park.

East Durham Area Action Partnership consultation re future priorities

County Durham Citizens Advice – details of DMS Pilot Scheme

Durham Miners Gala brochure 2018

CDALC- Nominations to NALC Larger Councils Committee

**RESOLVED** that the information be received and noted **FURTHER RESOLVED**  
Cllr David Fleming - Bishop Auckland Town Council, Cllr Peter Quinn – Shildon Town Council  
Cllr Isobel Roberts- Horden Parish Council be nominated for NALC larger councils committee.

mh18-1954

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** the next meeting will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 6pm at the Resource Centre, Blackhall.

**CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIRMAN**.....

**DATE**.....