

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THE 24th MARCH 2025**

Present Chairman: G M Crute
 Councillors: S Childs, O Deinali, S Deinali, G Duddin, A Mason, G Morris,
 A Paterson, N Thompson, M Wells

Officers L Wardle (Parish Clerk)

mh24-25134 **TO RECEIVE & ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs' R Bowes & L Davison & Estates Manager

mh24-25135 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None received

mh24-25136 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
3rd MARCH 2025**

A copy of the minutes had been forwarded with the agenda

RESOLVED the above minutes be confirmed and approved as a true record

mh24-25137 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were in attendance

mh24-25138 **POLICE REPORT**

No report received

mh24-25139 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllrs G Crute & G Duddin had attended the Blackhall Welfare Park User Group meeting

Cllrs S Childs & G Duddin represented the Parish Council at the recent Community Action Team walkabout

Cllrs G Crute, S Childs, G Duddin, O Deinali, S Deinali & A Mason visited Blackhall Welfare Park to meet with pupils from Blackhall Primary School to unveil the design of the new play area.

RESOLVED members are thanked for their attendance at these meetings/events

ESTATES MANAGER'S REPORT

The Clerk had distributed the Estates Manager's report prior to the meeting and was pleased to confirm the machinery repair had been successfully carried out in-house. However, due to the age of the equipment, this repair will not last indefinitely and it is recommended £10,000 is allocated to ear-marked reserves to purchase a replacement back-hoe when needed.

RESOLVED the information is received and **FURTHER RESOLVED** a budget virement of £10,000 from general reserves to ear marked reserves is approved to purchase a backhoe when required in the future

BLACKHALL WELFARE PARK PROJECT (min ref mh24-25110)

The Clerk provided a update and confirmed the play area refurbishment is scheduled to be complete in time for the school summer holidays in July 2025.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

RECEIVE & APPROVE STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECCOMENDATIONS

A copy of the staffing committee report had been forwarded with the agenda for and approval was requested for the following –

1. Proposed staff increments as detailed in the report effective from 1st April 2025
2. To employ an apprentice

RESOLVED the report is received and recommendations approved

CLERK'S REPORTHartlepool United FC Youth Academy

A request had been received from the club to install advertising boards around the football pitch at Blackhall Welfare Park.

RESOLVED the request is declined due to the additional work involved for the team in maintaining the area around the boards.

Request from Hetton Lyons Cricket Club

A request had been received from this club to hire the cricket field in Blackhall Welfare Park as an overflow venue for their games. The Estates Manager confirmed games will be limited and will not incur any additional maintenance; this issue has also been discussed with Blackhall Cricket Club who are happy to support the request.

RESOLVED approval is granted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** a fee of £100 will be charged for each game played

Area Middle Street Blackhall Colliery

The Parish Council has maintained a small piece of land near to 8 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery for over 20 years and has worked with Durham County Council for a number of years to have the fence adjacent to this land to be repaired by the owner. This has not been successful and the fence is now a danger to the safety of members of the public who may sit in the council seat which is located on this land. The Clerk has recommended the Parish Council installs a new fence on the land it maintains, installs a new bench, litter bin and planting scheme.

RESOLVED delegated authority is given to the Clerk to instruct these works within approved permissions

mh24-25144

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillors' G M Crute and O Deinali declared a registerable interest in the following item, they did not leave the meeting but took no part in the vote

Blackhall Banner Group

A request seeking a donation towards a raffle which will be held at a fund raising event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Banner Group and 40 years since the end of the miners' strike.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50.00 granted to Blackhall Banner Group

Blackhall Banner Group
LGA 1972 S145 £50.00

Durham Miners Gala Brochure 2025

RESOLVED approval is given to quarter page advert at a cost of £200.00

Durham Miners Gala Brochure
LGA S137 £200.00

mh24-25145

FINANCIAL

- a) To endorse the following invoices for payment, including agreed direct debits and payroll.

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
06.02.2025	Amazon	Fire Blankets	£25.98
12.02.2025	Amazon	HDMI Cable	£15.29
28.02.2025	Corona Energy	Gas Supply	£465.30
03.03.2025	Mastercopy	Photocopies	£72.37
03.03.2025	First Aid 4 Less	Refill Supplies	£91.44
03.03.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£71.56
10.03.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£6.00
10.03.2025	Coop	BACS Fees	£7.68
11.03.2025	Amazon	Tyre Sealant	£59.60
13.03.2025	EE	Mobile Phones	£105.64
13.03.2025	EDF	Elec Council Office	£346.29
13.03.2025	EDF	Elec Council Office	£124.68

13.03.2025	EDF	Elec Council Office	£52.32
14.03.2025	Document Solutions	IT Support	£359.99
14.03.2025	Document Solutions	Laptop Tablets	£1,452.00
14.03.2025	EDF	Elec Changing Rooms	£607.88
14.03.2025	EDF	Elec Changing Rooms	£52.32
15.03.2025	DCC	Grass Cut Dog Bin SLA	£768.59
15.03.2025	DCC	Business Rates	£126.46
17.03.2025	Zurich	Buildings Valuation Reinstatement	£1,740.00
17.03.2025	Charles Dickens	Extension Cable/ Laces	£53.66
17.03.2025	EDF	Elec S/C Pit wheel	£397.21
17.03.2025	DCC	Play Inspections	£934.08
17.03.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£118.68
17.03.2025	Corona Energy	Elec Xmas Tree	£143.05
17.03.2025	Corona Energy	Pit Wheel Elec	£25.72
17.03.2025	Corona Energy	Council Office Elec	£99.69
17.03.2025	Corona Energy	Colliery Pavillion Elec	£338.43
17.03.2025	Corona Energy	Welfare Park Elec	£115.90
18.03.2025	DCC	HMRC LGPS	£6,006.09
24.03.2025	DCC	Monthly Salaries	£10,963.59
24.03.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£46.49
25.03.2025	Babble	Telephone Broadband	£106.20
25.03.2025	Aitkens	Fertiliser	£1,635.84
25.03.2025	D Scott	Tree Felling	£650.00
25.03.2025	G Robinson	Hardware	£72.01
25.03.2025	GNG Waste	Skip Hire	£648.00
25.03.2025	J T Dove	Macadam	£71.88
25.03.2025	NWG	Water Supply Council Office	£138.53
		Total	£29,116.44

b) To accept bank reconciliation @ 28TH February 2025 & bank transfer information

The Clerk had distributed bank reconciliation, which as of 28th February 2025, showed combined bank balances of £610942.44, Councillor A Paterson checked and signed the reconciliation

Co-op Bank inter account transfer £30,000

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) Hesleden Restoration Community Fund (mh24-2591)

The Clerk confirmed no further payments will be made to the Council with regards to the outstanding grant award and requested approval is given to the sum of £3524.00 to be written off in this current financial year.

RESOLVED approval is given to the sum of £3524.00 to be written off from general Reserves

d) Review of asset register

A copy of the updated asset register was distributed with the agenda for information and approval.

RESOLVED the asset register is received and approved

e) Approve Durham County Council Service Level Agreements

Trade waste contracts for Blackhall Cemetery & Blackhall Welfare Park

£1025.39 pa each, increase 5%.

Grass cutting £3011.35 increase 5%.

Servicing of sixteen dog bins £5058.79 increase 5%

Business rates -

Office £3243.50

Hesleden cemetery £469.06

Blackhall cemetery £2894.20

HR SLA £265.00

RESOLVED Service Level Agreements are approved

mh24-25146 **PLANNING**

None received

mh24-25147 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None received

mh24-25148 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 28th April 2025 at 6pm in the Council Office, 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date,