

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2025**

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

Officer L Wardle (Parish Clerk)
A Peace (Estates Manager)

mh25-2622 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillors' R Bowes, S Childs, L Davison & G Morris

mh25-2623 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations were received

mh25-2624 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE
19th MAY 2025**

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

mh25-2625 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

mh25-2626 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Hall had forwarded a report 1st May 2025 to 31st May 2025, a copy of which had been emailed to members.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-2627 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Members had not attended any meetings or events on behalf of the Parish Council

mh25-2628 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

The Estates Manager's report had been circulated to members for information.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

Hartlepool Old Boys Bowls Club

A recent email received from the club expressing concerns at the Parish Council's decision to allow Blackhall Junior Cricket Team to have access to the tea pavilion in the Welfare Park was discussed.

RESOLVED the Clerk, together with the Chairman, prepare a written response

mh25-2629

WELFARE PARK PROJECT

Work has commenced.

The Clerk requested members consider a quote from HAGS to relocate two pieces of play equipment from Blackhall Welfare Park to Scheme Houses & Chickens Green play areas.

- 1) Grass matting £5264.71
- 2) Wet pour £12485.29

After discussion it was agreed option two would be the preferred option as this would fit with the existing flooring, it would be easier to maintain, there is a budget to meet this expenditure

RESOLVED approval is given to quote two

mh25-2630

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had distributed the report with the agenda

Damage to basket swing Chicken's Green play area

Reported rope appeared to have been cut, whilst no immediate risk due to the inner steel rope, new ropes have been ordered at a cost of £340.00 plus VAT

Seat opposite Hesleden Cemetery entrance

This is a Durham County Parish Council seat and is in a very poor state of repair, Durham County Council agreed to replace, and planter has been ordered to be installed at this location.

Seating area at bottom of Mickle Hill Road

The fence at this location has now been repaired by Durham County Council, and the team has now installed the 3-tier planter purchased for this scheme.

Bedding schemes

The Clerk advised there is no further capacity in the council budget and staffing to install any further schemes.

Blackhall Cemetery – electric supply

The five-year electrical inspection report is due for this building. As electricity is not needed or use it would be cost effective to disconnect the supply rather than instruct the report. The meter will remain, the standing charge will continue to be paid as the Parish Council has yet to decide on the future of the building.

Parish Council records

The county record office for County Durham, are the appointed repository for local government archives, including Parish Councils. They take the material in, catalogue it and store it in perpetuity in their temperature and humidity-controlled strongrooms. There is no charge for this service, the material is then available for public viewing.

The following items have been deposited –
 Parish Council Minutes - 23rd January 1995 to 29th April 2019
 Committee Minutes May 2007 - March 2019
 Parish Gazettes 2008 – 2023
 Hesleden Cemetery - Purchase of Graves/Register of burials/Purchase of Graves
 1887- 1990 - re-deposited
 Blackhall Cemetery - parchment cemetery plans

Public Spaces Protection Order - Dog Control

Durham County Parish Council did not include the Parish Council's 7 play areas in their last PSPO, a request has been made to be included all in the new order.

Residents' comments

Several calls and face to face contacts have been received praising the Parish Council's bedding schemes.

RESOLVED the report is received and noted

mh25-2631

FINANCIAL

a) To endorse invoices for payment

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
02.06.2025	Mastercopy	Photocopier	£72.37
02.06.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£68.03
09.06.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£72.68
09.06.2025	Co-op Bank	Bacs Fees	£7.68
13.06.2025	EE	Mobile telephones	£113.05
15.06.2025	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Hesleden Cemetery	£52.00
15.06.2025	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Council Office	£324.00
15.06.2025	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Blackhall Cemetery	£289.00
15.06.2025	Durham County Council	Trade Waste Blackhall Cem	£113.93
15.06.2025	Durham County Council	Trade Waste Welfare Park	£113.93
16.06.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£65.70
18.06.2025	HMRC LGPS	HMRC LGPS	£6,727.13
23.06.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£66.40
24.06.2025	A1 Trophies	Signs	£72.00
24.06.2025	Affordable Landscapes	Fencing/Grass Cut	£3,470.40
24.06.2025	Aitkens	Wetting Agent	£522.60
24.06.2025	Blackford's Nurseries	Topsoil/ Compost	£187.00
24.06.2025	DCC	Payroll SLA	£1,036.13
24.06.2025	Krystal Cleaning	Cleaning Services	£729.60
24.06.2025	Spaldings	Strimmer Heads	£81.60

24.06.2025	Standard Security	Alarm Maintenance	£826.56
24.06.2025	Vision ICT	Website Hosting	£270.00
24.06.2025	Blackford's Nurseries	Topsoil	£47.00
24.06.2025	DCC	Monthly Salaries	£11,035.16
26.06.2025	Babble	Telephones	£100.22
30.06.2025	Document Solutions	IT Support SLA	£197.64
		Total	£26,661.81
Income			
Date	Payee	Description	Amount
02.06.2025	Nationwide	Bank Interest	£2,385.01
02.06.2025	Barclays	Bank Interest	£626.10
05.06.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fee	£40.00
12.06.2025	Milgreen Memorials	Memorial Fee	£220.00
18.06.2025	R G Bennetts	Burial Fees	£1,330.00
23.06.2025	Blackhall C Club	Water Charge	£76.26
25.06.2025	Graveside Memorials	Memorial Fees	£170.00
27.06.2025	Blackhall C Club	Annual Fees	£380.00
30.06.2025	Memorial bench	Mem Bench purchase	£630.00
30.06.2025	Dog bags	Dog Bags	£95.00
		Total	£5,952.37

b) To receive bank reconciliation @ 31st May 2025

The Clerk had distributed a bank reconciliation as of 31st May 2025 which showed combined bank balances of £712,393.90, Parish Councillor A Paterson checked and signed the reconciliation.

Co-op Bank inter account transfer £30,000

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) Replacement Cemetery PC

The operating system for this computer will no longer be supported with effect from 14th October 2025. The Clerk recommended it is not replaced and that the Estates Manager's laptop is upgraded to allow office and remote working. A quotation has been received for this purchase and set up of £550.00

RESOLVED this request is approved

d) HUFC 2025-26 season fees

The Club has enquired as to the cost of using the football field and changing rooms on a game-to-game basis, instead of the upfront fee.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** the request is denied as all sporting agreements require full payment in advance to help offset the costs of maintenance and operations. Offering alternative payment arrangements would also incur additional administrative costs, which as a small Parish Council we are unable to offer.

e) Durham County Parish Council SLA
Annual renewal of payroll services £863.44 a rise of 6%

RESOLVED accepted and approved

mh25-2632 **REVIEW OF POLICIES**

The following policies were presented for consideration and comment –

- a) Abusive, persistent of Vexatious Complaints
- b) Comments & Complaints Procedure
- c) Data Protection
- d) Publication scheme
- e) Public Participation Policy
- f) Removable data

RESOLVED the above policies are accepted and adopted

mh25-2633 **Durham County Parish Council Parking & Waiting Restrictions Order No 1 2025**

Members had been sent details of this order prior to the meeting

RESOLVED no comments to make

mh25-2634 **PLANNING**

Jones DM/25/01401/FPA	40 Ocean View Blackhall Rocks TS27 4DE	Single storey extension
--------------------------	--	-------------------------

RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make

mh25-2635 **CORRESPONDENCE**

E-mail – St Andrews Neighbourhood Outreach Group thanking the Parish Council for their grant of £500.00 towards their Tea N Chat project.

mh25-2636 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 21st July 2025 at 6pm in the Tea Pavilion, Blackhall Welfare Park.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date