

**THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS FOR
THE PARISH OF MONK HESLEDEN HELD ON
MONDAY 19th MAY 2025**

Present: Councillor G Crute (Chairman)
Councillors' R Bowes, S Childs, G M Crute, L Davison, O Deinali, G Duddin, A Mason, G Morris, A Paterson, N Thompson

aa25-2601 **TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS HELD ON 20th MAY 2024**

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

RESOLVED the minutes of the Annual Assembly of Electors, held on the 20th May 2024, be received.

aa25-2602 **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

“One of the first events of the last civic year was the establishment of the Welfare Park Committee in the summer of 2024 to identify areas for improvement within the Welfare Park. One of the first priorities identified was the refurbishment of the play area. I'm pleased to report that funding was secured thanks to generous contributions from County Councillors Crute and Deinali, totaling £8,124, along with £20,000 from the National Lottery.

Pupils from our local primary schools were involved in the design phase, meeting with the Estates Manager and the Parish Clerk to give their input. A contractor was appointed in April, with work scheduled to begin shortly and completion expected before the school summer holidays.

In addition, a new flagpole has been installed near the war memorial in the Welfare Park, proudly displaying the Union flag all year-round.

This year the Council undertook a review of its staffing structure to ensure we are well-equipped to meet the constantly evolving demands of local government. Staff received training in fire safety and first aid, and several also achieved qualifications in areas such as pesticide spraying and playground inspection.

In October, I had the honour of attending the East Durham Bowling Club presentations, held at Blackhall Navy Club, and I was privileged to present one of the trophies. This well-attended annual event is always a highlight, and it's heartening to hear continued praise for the quality of the greens at our Welfare Park.

Our Fireworks Display was once again held at the Blackhall Welfare Park Cricket Field, organised by the Parish Council working alongside a professional display company. It was a fantastic event, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Blackhall Cricket Club for their partnership and to Blackhall ATC for providing essential marshaling support.

Remembrance Day was beautifully marked throughout the village, with outstanding displays by Brian Drummond, Blackhall WI, and St Andrew's Church. The events in both Blackhall and Hesleden were very well attended, and I extend sincere thanks to all who helped organise and take part in them. I was especially touched to receive a stunning knitted poppy wreath from Blackhall WI, which was proudly displayed in the Parish Offices in November.

In January, representatives from the Community Action Team met with the Parish Council to outline their forthcoming work. Their efforts in the following months made a noticeable difference in the areas they targeted.

Another well-received project this year was the installation of a new seating area in Middle Street, which included fencing and a planting scheme. My thanks go to our Ground staff for their excellent work in bringing this to life. Comments received by many of our residents show that these works have been a huge success, bringing much needed improvement to a prominent location in our village.

This year has seen continued and significant improvements to the Welfare Park grounds, playing fields, cemeteries, and play areas. Much of this progress is due to the dedication and initiative of our Estates Manager, Anthony Peace. Anthony continues to grow into his role and has built a strong and capable team. My heartfelt thanks go to Anthony and his team for all their hard work throughout the year.

I would also like to express my appreciation to our highly capable and dedicated administrative officer, Katherine Alderson, who works tirelessly to assist residents and help direct them to the support they need.

My personal thanks go to our Parish Clerk, Lynda Wardle, whose leadership ensures the Council is run smoothly, efficiently, and always with an eye toward improvement. Lynda's guidance keeps us at the forefront of grassroots governance.

Finally, thank you to my fellow Parish Councillors for your continued support and collaboration over the past year. We are fortunate to have a strong team that works together in the best interests of our community."

aa25-2603

TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2025

The Clerk had forwarded copies of the Parish Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2025.

RESOLVED the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 be accepted and approved.

aa25-2604

**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.

aa25-2605

**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