

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

Present Chairman: G M Crute
 Councillors: S Childs, S Deinali, K M Dingle, G Duddin, A Mason, N Thompson,

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

Other PCSO K Hall

mh24-2553 **TO RECEIVE & ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors' R Bowes, A Childs, L Davison, O Deinali, G Morris, A Paterson, H Smiles, D Teasdale

RESOLVED apologies received and accepted

mh24-2554 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor S Deinali declared an Other Registerable Interest in item 15 as she is a member of a Durham County Council planning committee.

RESOLVED the declaration is received and accepted

mh24-2555 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
22nd JULY 2024**

A copy of the minutes had been forwarded with the agenda

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

mh24-2556 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were in attendance

mh24-2557 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO K Hall attended the meeting and introduced herself as the replacement for PCSO Goodwin, the Chairman and Councillors welcomed her to the meeting.

A verbal report, including statistics for July and August were provided, together with details of a recent Community Speed Watch on the Coast Road, Blackhall, proposed Shop Watch.

A discussion took place with regards to the anti-social behaviour in Blackhall Welfare Park over recent months. A small number of youngsters under the age of 10 years who are causing damage, verbally abusing staff and more concerning have been hiding in the park when it is being closed or re-entering by climbing fences or walls, particularly from the dene area.

The Clerk and Estates Manager have been working closely with the local primary school and PCSO to address the issues, but to date this has not been successful.

Additional CCTV cameras and other security measures were discussed, together with the issuing of exclusion notices to the parents/guardians of the youngsters involved.

RESOLVED the report is received and PCSO Hall thanked for her attendance
FURTHER RESOLVED a further 3 CCTV cameras are purchased together with the use of anti-climbing paint on areas of access

mh24-2558 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillor Duddin had attended a Blackhall ATC meeting and gave a full report, which included offers of support for the Remembrance Services

RESOLVED the report is received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk to liaise with the squadron

mh24-2559 **BLACKHALL WELFARE PARK PROJECT** (mh24-2514)

The Chairman gave an overview of a site visit to the park by the Welfare Park Project, the former garden area has been cleared and the area reclaimed will be more the adequate to install a multi-use games arena. The Council has already resolved to refurbish the play area in the park in 2025, using reserves and applications for funding which if successful will provide an overall budget of £250,000.

An application for S106 monies has been submitted to Durham County Council and further applications are to be made to other funders.

Due to the value of the contract the council will be obliged to use the Government Find a Tender Service, quotes have been sought to assist the Clerk with this process. These range from £1575.00 to £9153.00, the Clerk confirmed she is willing to undertake and manage this task and will claim additional hours if needed.

RESOLVED the proposal is approved with a budget of £250,000 subject to securing funding **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk is to undertake the procurement process with the understanding help can be sought if required

mh24-2560 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

The Clerk had distributed the Estates Manager's report for members information and a verbal update was given with regards to additional items:

- In-house renovation of the graveside spoil box used for burials
- Trial of a new method to address the drainage issue at Blackhall Cemetery
- Request to purchase the correct equipment to prune trees in-house as a member of staff has the relevant qualification to undertake this task
- The Council has a seat installed on Middle Street, there is an issue with the foliage and fence behind this area, the intention is to replace the seat with one held in stock and add plant the area. The fence issue needs to be addressed, and an approach has been made to Durham County Council to work in a partnership to resolve this matter.
- The Council has been successful in securing 210 saplings free from the Woodland Trust and when received a number will be offered to local community groups.

RESOLVED the report is received and **FURTHER RESOLVED** approval is given to the purchase of the equipment needed to undertake the tree pruning

mh24-2561 **REVIEW OF COUNCIL IT** (mh24-2547)

The Clerk had distributed a detailed report which included the estimated one-off costs and ongoing costs to provide devices to members.

After much discussion **RESOLVED** to trial the use of 4 tablets and a laptop
FURTHER RESOLVED costs and policies to be prepared and presented and a future meeting.

mh24-2562 **EVENTS**

Annual Fireworks Event

Due to the lack of volunteers, health and safety concerns and the one-off cost to the cricket club under delegated authority the Chairman and Clerk have engaged a qualified company to deliver the 2024 display. This will ensure the event meets the requirements of the Durham Safety Advisory Group and will provide a professional display, the cost can be met from the events budget and funding has been secured from County Councillors Crute & Deinali.

The event cannot be held on the 5th of November due to the late booking, after discussion with the cricket club it will take place on 4th November 2024. If successful, the council may wish to book early for the 5th November 2025.

RESOLVED approval using delegated powers is approved for this event

Annual Remembrance Services

The Clerk confirmed all is in order and booked for these services

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh24-2563 **FINANCIAL**

a) To endorse invoices for payment

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
05.08.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£78.53
07.08.24	Cathedral Leasing	Hygiene	£60.84
08.08.24	Anglian Water	Water - B/Hall cemetery	£113.03
09.08.24	Co-op Bank	Bank charges	£7.68
09.08.24	Rickerby	Clutch cable x 2	£74.75
09.08.24	Standard Security	CCTV DVR	£216.00
09.08.24	Blackhall Comm Assoc	Grant	£300.00
09.08.24	Hesleden Residents Ass	Grant	£400.00
09.08.24	Affordable Landscapes	Grass cutting B/Hall cemetery	£1,248.00
09.08.24	KCS	Cleaning - office/Crooms	£539.76
09.08.24	L Wardle	Re-imbursement flowers	£40.00
09.08.24	Durham CC	Install 2 x noticeboards	£79.20
12.08.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£65.43
12.08.24	Corona Energy	Gas supply	£13.59
13.08.24	EE	Mobile Tel	£113.72
15.08.24	Durham CC	Bus rates Hesleden Cemetery	£52.00
15.08.24	Durham CC	Bus rates Blackhall Cemetery	£236.00
15.08.24	Durham CC	Bus rates office	£323.00
15.08.24	Durham CC	Trade waste W/Park	£108.50
15.08.24	Durham CC	Grass cutting/bins	£768.59
15.08.24	Anglian Water	Water Blackhall Cemetery	£67.71
15.08.24	ITC Service	365/Cloud/Anti virus	£73.98
16.08.24	ICO	Data protection fee	£35.00
18.08.24	BACS	Payroll 3rd party pyts	£5,459.29
19.08.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£134.25
23.08.24	BACS	Payroll August	£11,513.55
26.08.24	GNG waste	2 x skips	£648.00
26.08.24	Standard Security	Alarm maintenance	£803.40
26.08.24	G Robinson	Hardware	£107.50
26.08.24	Durham CC	HR SLA	£300.00
26.08.24	Pear Technology	Map tech support & updates	£180.00
26.08.24	L Wardle	Re-imbursement Amazon	£30.28
27.08.24	EDF	Elec W/Park	£125.97
27.08.24	Babble Cloud Ltd	Tel/Broadband	£53.72
27.08.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£51.50
27.08.24	EDF	Elec Office	£85.55
28.08.24	EDF	Elec C/Rooms	£151.35
30.08.24	Mastercopy	Photocopier	£63.48
SEPT			
02.09.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£58.22
05.09.24	Corona Energy	Gas supply	£93.26

09.09.24	Co-op Bank	Bank charges	£7.68
09.09.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£148.82
09.09.24	Eutrema - debit card	Gypsum	£48.00
13.09.24	EE	Mobiles	£149.47
16.09.24	ITC Service	Anti v mailbox	£73.98
16.09.24	DCC	Business Rates Hes Cem	£52.00
16.09.24	DCC	Business rates Bhall Cem	£236.00
16.09.24	DCC	Business rates council office	£323.00
16.09.24	DCC	Trade waste W/Park	£108.50
16.09.24	DCC	Grass cutting Dog Bins	£768.59
16.09.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£23.10
18.09.24	BACS	Payroll 3rd party pyts	£6,546.55
23.09.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£129.20
24.09.24	BACS	Payroll Sept	£10,739.65
25.09.24	P & P Windows	X2 Doors	£730.00
25.09.24	Amazon	Flask	£47.00
25.09.24	Sedgfield R Course	Staff Xmas	£95.00
25.09.24	EDF	Changing Rooms Elec Supply	£392.99
25.09.24	EDF	Council Office Elec Supply	£115.78
25.09.24	EDF	Bhall Welfare Park	£84.44
26.09.24	Babble Cloud Ltd	Tel/Broadband	£96.83
29.09.24	EDF	Xmas Tree Elec Supply	£3.26
30.09.24	Affordable Landscapes	2x B/Hall cemetery	£1,248.00
30.09.24	Aitkends	Line marking	£804.00
30.09.24	Blackford Nurseries	Spring bulbs & compost	£151.00
30.09.24	G Robinson	Hardware	£203.34
30.09.24	GNG waste	Skip Welfare Park	£324.00
30.09.24	J T Dove	3 x paving flags	£30.92
30.09.24	KCS	Cleaning - office/Crooms	£539.76
30.09.24	L Wardle	Re-imbursement	£58.44
30.09.24	Mazars	External audit	£1,008.00
30.09.24	Spaldings	Bump feed head	£75.72
30.09.24	Turfcare	Loam topdressing seed fert	£3,482.40
30.09.24	Chapmans Plumbing	Repairs	£140.00
30.09.24	Streetscape	Painting Equip	£462.00
30.09.24	NWG	Water Supply	£373.61
30.09.24	Print Factory	Planter Signs	£278.40
30.09.24	Right fuel card	Fuel	£73.03
30.09.24	NWG	Water Supply C Rooms	£576.05

b) To accept bank reconciliation @ 31st July & 31st August 2024

The Clerk had distributed bank reconciliations which as at 31st August 2024 showed combined bank balances of £549,272.49, Councillor S Childs checked and signed the reconciliation.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh24-2564

c) Bank transfers

The following transfers were reported:

£20,000 internal transfer from savings to current account

£70,000 internal transfer from to current account savings

£20,000 internal transfer from savings to current account

£20,000 internal transfer from savings to current account

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

d) Notice of Conclusion of Audit 31st March 2024

The Council's external auditors Mazars LLP have concluded "on the basis of our review of Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

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

e) To consider a quotation for a reinstatement buildings cost assessment

The Parish Council has never undertaken a reinstatement of buildings cost assessment, the Clerk recommended this is considered and a quotation had been provided to members with the agenda.

RESOLVED approval is given to the assessment at a cost of £1450.00

f) Motor vehicle repair

The van has been damaged due to the low hanging branches in Hesleden Cemetery and a repair is required at a cost of £780.00 from the body workshop used by the Council previously. The Clerk declared an interest in this matter as her relative works for the company.

RESOLVED the quotation is accepted and approval given for the repair

TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In the past the Council has purchased two Remembrance Wreaths at a cost of £40.00 and in lieu of the cornet player's fee and a donation a total of £150.00 has been paid.

RESOLVED a total payment of £150.00 be approved, this includes the cost of two wreaths

LGA 1972 S137 British Legion

Durham County Council Planning Applications received

DM/24/02370/LB Mr P Gardner	Hesleden Hall Farm Monk Hesleden Hesleden TS27 4QB	Listed building consent for replacement roof coverings lead flashing, roof lights, rain water goods and general repairs
DM/24/02590/FPA Mr James Willis	19 Glenholme Terrace Blackhall Colliery Hartlepool TS27 4HU	Two storey side extension with single storey rear wraparound including double garage

RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make with regards to the above applications

Durham County Council Planning Applications approved

DM/23/02091/LB Mrs Louise Banks	Crimdon House Farm Coast Road Crimdon TS27 3AA	Proposed alterations and replacement roof
DM/24/01827/PA56 Mr D Summerbell	Crimdon House Farm Coast Road Crimdon TS27 3AA	Prior approval application for erection of agricultural building for storage of farm machinery pursuant to DM/24/00656/PNA
DM/18/02515VOC Mr J Brydon	High Farm High Hesleden TS27 4QD	Variation of condition 2 relating to the approved drawings and the removal of an existing barn prior to the commencement of development pursuant to planning application CE/14/00086/FPA

Durham County Council Planning Applications withdrawn

DM/24/01193/FPA Mr Volodymyr Filiak	11 The Crescent Blackhall Colliery TS27 4LE	Alterations to existing roof including a dormer extension to the rear single storey extension to the front and ground/first floor extensions to the rear.
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mh24-2566 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter of thanks Blackhall Library regarding summer programme funding

E-mail The Hesleden Residents Association thanking the Parish Council for their contribution towards the Family Fun Day

E-mail Blackhall WI thanking the Parish Council for their £500 donation towards poppy display

138th Durham Miners Gala Brochure

Formal complaint Hesleden resident – anti-social behaviour, dog fouling, parking

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh24-2567 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 21st October 2024 at 6pm in the Council Office, 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date