

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THE 18th NOVEMBER 2024**

Present Chairman: G M Crute
Councillors: R Bowes, S Childs, L Davison, O Deinali, S Deinali, G Duddin,
A Paterson, N Thompson

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

mh24-2580 **TO RECEIVE & ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors' A Mason, G Morris & H Smiles

RESOLVED apologies received and accepted

The Chairman read out resignation correspondence from Councillors' A H Childs, K M Dingle & D Teasdale

RESOLVED all resignations are accepted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk is requested to advise Electoral Services at Durham County Council

mh24-2581 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor S Deinali declared an Other Registerable Interest in item 13 as she is a member of a Durham County Council planning committee.

RESOLVED the declaration is received and accepted

mh24-2582 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
21st OCTOBER 2024**

A copy of the minutes had been forwarded with the agenda

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

mh24-2583 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were in attendance

mh24-2584 **POLICE REPORT**

No report had been received

mh24-2585 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman attended the annual fireworks event and Remembrance Service at Blackhall Welfare Park and commented on how well organised and attended they were. Councillor Crute also visited Blackhall WI where she was presented a beautiful hand knitted Remembrance wreath as thanks to the Parish Council for their donation

of £500.00 towards the materials to allow the decoration of St. Andrew's Church for Remembrance events.

The Clerk took the opportunity to thank Cllr G Duddin for his assistance at the fireworks event.

Councillors' who attended the Hesleden Remembrance Service commented attendance was higher again and the cornet player was outstanding.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh24-2586 **ESTATES MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Clerk had forwarded the Estates Manager's report to members for information, a brief verbal update was provided. This included confirmation a member of the team has successfully passed their City & Guilds Level 2 safe handling and application of pesticides qualifications.

RESOLVED the report is accepted and noted **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Estates Manager passes on the Council's congratulations to the team member in achieving their qualifications.

mh24-2587 **HESLEDEN CEMETERY TREES**

The Clerk had distributed a complaint received from a resident at White Crescent, Hesleden with regards to the cemetery trees which border their property.

RESOLVED the Council's tree policy is to be followed and a report is presented to members at a future meeting

mh24-2588 **EVENT'S REVIEW**

Fireworks event

All agreed this had been an excellent display and it was recommended the company is booked again for 5th November 2025, with the request the display is different to the 2024 display.

RESOLVED the Clerk is requested to re-book this event for 5th November 2025

Remembrance Services – Blackhall & Hesleden

A few minor improvements were suggested with regards to the Blackhall service, all agreed both were very well attended.

RESOLVED the information is received and staff thanked for their work in delivering both successful events

mh24-2589 **TO AGREE & REVIEW**

a) Blackhall Cricket Social Club lease

The lease is due expire in December 2024 and the Club have opted to renew on a annual basis as they do not wish to change any of the agreed terms.

RESOLVED the lease is renewed for a further 12 months **FURTHER RESOLVED** annual rent is set at £595.00

b) Sporting clubs' terms & conditions

The Clerk confirmed no changes are required to the existing terms and conditions.

RESOLVED sport clubs' terms and conditions for 2025 are approved

c) Cemetery rules & regulations

A new memorial section has been mapped out in Blackhall Cemetery and it is intended this will be strictly monitored to ensure all memorials are of a standard size. This information will be updated in the cemetery rules and regulations, application form and memorial masons advised in advance.

RESOLVED the amendments are approved and adopted

d) Council fees & charges

The Clerk had distributed a report detailing the estimated cost to the council for providing the current sporting facilities, together with a comparison to neighbouring councils.

After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** the following fees and charges are agreed for 2025

Sporting Clubs

Bowls £120.00 - £900.00
Cricket £930.00
Football £380.00 & £1400.00

Room hire

Full room £18.00 per hour Half room £10.00 per hour

Cemetery fees

Exclusive Rights of Burial	Resident	Non-Resident
Single Plot	£275.00	£1100.00
Cremated Remains	£165.00	£880.00
Burials		
Adult	£275.00	£900.00
Cremated Remains	£115.00	£240.00
1 month - 18 Years	0	0
Memorials		
Headstones	£110.00	£165.00
Plaques/Vases	£90.00	£130.00

Added Inscription	£40.00	£55.00
Replacement Headstone	0	0
Transfer of ownership	£35.00	£35.00
Cemetery search	£15.00	£15.00
Copy of deed	£15.00	£15.00

The Estates Manager left the meeting

mh24-2590

TO RESPOND TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE & PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

A discussion took place with regards to this consultation with the main concern being the cost to the Council and who would fund the technology needed to deliver hybrid meetings.

RESOLVED the Clerk responds to the consultation with these views

mh24-2591

FINANCIAL

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
04.11.2024	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£91.30
06.11.2024	Corona	Gas Supply	£171.56
06.11.2024	RBL	Donation	£150.00
07.11.2024	Cathedral Hygiene	Hygiene Services	£70.20
11.11.2024	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£88.04
13.11.2024	EE	Mobile phones	£113.72
15.11.2024	EON	Blackhall Cemetery	£135.64
15.11.2024	DCC	Play Area Rent	£100.00
15.11.2024	NWG	Water Supply	£71.34
15.11.2024	DCC	Trade Waste Blackhall Cem	£126.62
15.11.2024	DCC	Dog Bins Grass Cuts	£768.59
15.11.2024	DCC	Trade Waste Welfare Park	£108.50
15.11.2024	DCC	Business Rates Hes Cem	£52.00
15.11.2024	DCC	Business Rates Council Off	£323.00
15.11.2024	DCC	Business Rates Bhall Cem	£236.00
15.11.2024	ITC Service	Anti-Virus Mailbox	£73.98
18.11.2024	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£39.40
19.11.2024	Affordable Landscapes	Grass Cut	£624.00
19.11.2024	1932 ATC	Donation	£140.00
19.11.2024	Chapmans Heating	Boiler Services	£220.00
19.11.2024	DCC	Bedding Plants	£3,955.10
19.11.2024	IOS	Stationery	£152.86
19.11.2024	JT Dove	Dumpy bags	£43.13
19.11.2024	Standard Security	Cameras DVR System	£1,216.90
26.11.2024	G Robinson	Hardware	£184.09
26.11.2024	Charles Dickens	Hardware	£31.06

26.11.2024	Krystal Cleaning	Cleaning	£539.76
26.11.2024	Print Factory	Christmas Sign	£326.40
26.11.2024	Speedy Hire	Barriers	£426.60
26.11.2024	Reaction Fireworks	Fireworks	£3,000.00
26.11.2024	Premier Traffic Mngmt	Road Signs	£234.00
		Total	£13,813.79

Dogwood Productions (mh24-2518)

The Parish Council had previously agreed to fund free tickets up to the value of £240.00, only 4 tickets were sold and invoice of £32.00 has been paid.

Dogwood Productions Ltd
LGA1972 s145 £32.00

b) To accept bank reconciliation @ 31st October 2024 & bank transfer information

The Clerk had distributed bank reconciliations which as of 31st October 2024 showed combined bank balances of £689,996.91, Councillor S Childs checked and signed the reconciliation.

The following transfers were reported:
£30,000 to Barclays

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) Interim internal audit @ 30th September 2024

The report had been circulated with the agenda for information

RESOLVED the interim internal audit report is received and noted

d) Pay agreement 2024-25

The Clerk provided details of the pay agreement and revised pay scales for 2024-25, Increases will be back dated and paid in November payroll.

RESOLVED the information is received and approved

e) Hesleden Restoration Community Fund

The fund currently owes £3524.00 it is unlikely this will be paid due to the enforcement noticed issued by Durham County Council to cease work at the site. The Clerk recommended the Council writes of this debt at the end of the current financial year.

RESOLVED the information is received and the matter be discussed again before the end of the current financial year.

mh24-2592

PLANNING

Durham County Council Planning Applications received

DM/24/02995/FPA	Mr Gary Metcalfe 11 Leaholme Terrace Blackhall TS27 4JD	Single storey front, side and rear extensions.
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DM/24/02997/FPA	Mr Pattinson 31 Attlee Avenue Blackhall Rocks TS27 4BY	Two storey extension to side.
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RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make with regards to the above applications

mh24-2593 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None received

mh24-2594 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd December 2024 at 6pm in the Council Office, 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date,