

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 21st JULY 2025**

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

Officer L Wardle (Parish Clerk)

mh25-2637 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillors' S Deinali, G Morris & Estates Manager

mh25-2638 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations were received

mh25-2639 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE
21st JULY 2025**

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

mh25-2640 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

mh25-2641 **POLICE REPORT**

No report received

mh25-2642 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON
BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr G Morris attended the Hesleden PACT meeting and had forwarded a written report to the Clerk.

Cllr A Paterson & the Clerk met with the local police inspector to discuss the level of service provided to residents.

Cllr S Deinali & the Clerk attended the County Durham Association of Local Councils meeting.

RESOLVED information is noted and members thanked for their attendance

mh25-2643 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

No report received due to workload and annual leave

mh25-2644 **WELFARE PARK PROJECT**

The play area was officially opened by the Chairman on Friday 18th July 2025, which was the beginning of the school summer holidays. The event was well attended, and the new equipment was well received by everyone. Thanks, was given to the Clerk and Estates Manager for delivering this project on schedule and to the whole team for their support.

The Clerk confirmed the independent post installation inspection report had been received and all small remedial works had been addressed. A specific risk assessment is to be prepared for this site to consider the new pieces of equipment which have been installed.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-2645 **CLERK'S REPORT**

Durham County Council Reduction Scheme Consultation – changes to Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Clerk had distributed this consultation to members for discussion; it was highlighted the consultation period is very short, the survey has been shared on social media.

RESOLVED the Parish Council opposes any scheme that would negatively affect the most vulnerable members of our community.

mh25-2646 **ACCEPT ROSPA ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORTS & REVIEW OF PLAY AREA INSPECTION POLICY**

ROSPA Annual report

The Clerk advised no high risks have been identified, the medium risk findings have been referred to Durham County Council under the current SLA with a view to undertaking recommended repairs.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

Review of play area inspection policy

The Clerk had distributed the policy with the agenda.

RESOLVED the policy is approved and adopted

mh25-2647 **REVIEW OF POLICIES**

The following policies have been reviewed and updated where appropriate –

Annual leave
Anti-fraud & Corruption
Appeals Notification & Procedure
Attendance Management
Bereavement
Capability Policy & Procedure
CCTV
Child Protection & Safeguarding

Community Engagement
 Confidential Reporting
 Dignity at Work
 Disclosure & Barring Service copy attached
 Equality & Diversity copy attached
 No Smoking
 Social Media & Electronic Communication

RESOLVED the policies are received and adopted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** in accordance with the updated Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checking Policy, a Basic DBS check will be undertaken for Cllr Duddin in relation to his role conducting weekly visual play inspections

mh25-2648 **REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Hesleden Residents Association

A request for financial assistance towards the annual family fun day had been received and a copy circulated to members for consideration.

RESOLVED that a donation of £400.00 be granted

LGA 1972 S145 Hesleden Residents Association

mh25-2649 **FINANCIAL**

a) To endorse invoices for payment

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
01.07.2025	Corona Energy	Gas Supply	£139.99
01.07.2025	Grenke	Photo Copier Lease	£123.19
07.07.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£96.95
09.07.2025	Co-operative	BACS Fees	£7.68
13.07.2025	EE	Mobile Phones	£113.05
14.07.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£25.30
14.07.2025	CK Electrical	Metre Disconnection	£160.00
14.07.2025	Durham County Council	Bedding Plants	£2,348.01
14.07.2025	JT Dove	Gravel	£41.16
14.07.2025	Pearths Fencing	Fencing	£4,542.00
14.07.2025	ROSPA	Play Inspection Audit	£686.40
14.07.2025	Streetscape	Replacement Basket Swing	£408.00
14.07.2025	NWG	Water Supply	£946.60
14.07.2025	Wel Medical	Defib Batteries	£572.44
15.07.2025	Durham County Council	Grass Cut Dog Bins	£1,210.52
15.07.2025	Durham County Council	Trade Waste Bhall Cem	£113.93
15.07.2025	Durham County Council	Trade Waste Welfare Park	£113.93

15.07.2025	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Blackhall Cem	£289.00
15.07.2025	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Hes Cemetery	£52.00
15.07.2025	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Council Office	£324.00
18.07.2025	Eon	Electricity Bhall Cem	£53.51
18.07.2025	DCC	HMRC LGPS	£6,554.34
22.07.2025	JT Dove	Materials	£131.16
22.07.2025	Affordable Landscapes	Grass Cutting	£1,310.40
22.07.2025	G Robinson	Hardware	£257.52
24.07.2025	DCC	Salary	£11,065.31
25.07.2025	Babble	Telephone	£104.54
27.07.2025	Mastercopy	Copies	£72.37
28.07.2025	Corona Energy	Gas Supply	£97.84
28.07.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£60.29
30.07.2025	Chapmans Heating	Water Heater/ Toilet Repair	£340.00
30.07.2025	Spalding's	Strimmer Line	£141.60
30.07.2025	Amberol	Planter	£578.40
30.07.2025	Blackford's	Topsoil	£51.00
30.07.2025	Hesleden Resident	Donation	£400.00
31.07.2025	Doc Solutions	IT Support	£197.64
		Total	£32,361.43
Income			
Date	Payee	Description	Amount
01.07.2025	Cash	Mem Bench/Dog Bags	£725.00
01.07.2025	Northern Power Grid	Substation income	£5.31
02.07.2025	EDF	Elec Supply Refund	£649.23
07.07.2025	Stars Community CIC	Storage	£150.00
10.07.2025	Scott Memorial	Memorial Fees	£130.00
11.07.2025	HUFC Academy	Sporting Fees	£1,400.00
21.07.2025	Cash	Mem Fees/Dog Bags	£240.00
24.07.2025	Water Reimburse		£121.63
27.07.2025	Durham Police	Rent	£250.00
30.07.2025	Delanoy Funeral	Burial Fee	£250.00
31.07.2025	Water Reimburse		£100.00
		Total	£4,021.17

b) To receive bank reconciliation @ 30th June 2025

The Clerk had distributed a bank reconciliation as of 31st May 2025 which showed combined bank balances of £690,600.24, Parish Councillor S Childs checked and signed the reconciliation.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) To receive Income & Expenditure report @ 30th June 2025

A copy of the income and expenditure report as of 30th June 2025 had been forwarded with the agenda.

The Clerk advised a crucial component on the back-has snapped and it is unlikely it can be repaired. The Council has agreed to replace min ref 2425140 and an order is to be placed.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

d) To approve a budget to purchase Christmas tree lights

The existing tree lights are over 4 years old and need replacing, a discussion took place as to the whether multi-coloured or soft white would be preferred.

RESOLVED a budget of £2500.00 is allocated for replacement lights for both trees and **FURTHER RESOLVED** colour options are to be provided to members for consideration.

e) To approve delegated authority

Due to the summer recess the Clerk requested delegated authority to make all payments for August and September in accordance with the council's financial regulations.

RESOLVED delegated approval is given to the Clerk to make all payments for August and September in accordance with the council's financial regulations.

mh25-2650

PLANNING

Durham County Council Application Received

DM/25/01679/FPA Mr Clymo	Clymo, Land to the south of playground, Dene View, High Hesleden, TS274QE	Erection of self- building dwellinghouse including access, landscaping and boundary treatments.
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Durham County Council Applications Approved

DM/24/01301/FPA Mr & Mrs Scott	Land adjacent to the Elms, High Hesleden	Demolition of existing stable block and erection of proposed dwelling with associated landscaping and site remedial works
DM/25/00751/FPA Mr Edwards	Aithorpe Coast Road Blackhall Rocks Hartlepool, TS27 4AY	Hip to gable roof extension, including front and rear dormer windows

RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make with regards to the planning application

mh25-2651 **CORRESPONDENCE**

E-mail response from Hartlepool Old Boys Bowls Club
E-mail Durham County Council advertising two vacancies for parish councillors on the Durham County Council’s Standards Committee

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-2652 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 22nd September 2025 at 6pm in Council Office 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery, TS27 4EA.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date