

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

Councillor: G M Crute (Chair)

Councillors: A H Childs, S Childs, L Davison, O Deinali, S Deinali, G Duddin,
K M Dingle, G Morris, N Thompson

Officer : L A Wardle (Parish Clerk)

mh23-24119 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors' R Bowes, A Mason,
A Paterson & D Teasdale

A Peace (Estates Manager)

RESOLVED apologies are received and accepted

mh23-24120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None received

**mh23-24121 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19th FEBRUARY
2024**

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

mh23-24122 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present

mh23-24123 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Goodwin had forwarded an email report for the period 19th February 2024 to
18th March 2024, a copy of which had been forwarded to members.

RESOLVED the report is received and noted

**mh23-24124 MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillors' G M Crute, G Duddin & N Thompson attended the Blackhall Welfare Park
User Group meeting, for which Councillor Crute gave a verbal report .

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-24125 STAFFING

a) Staffing update

The successful candidate for the vacant grounds maintenance operative post has
been appointed and will commence employment on 24th March 2024.

The administration assistant is currently absent from work, the Clerk is covering her post at present.

b) Review of council employment contract

The Clerk had distributed, with the agenda, a report detailing the National Association for Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks revised employment contract template. It is recommended the new contract is adopted for use for all new employees.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the proposed new employment contract is adopted for future employees

mh23-24126 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

The Estates Manager once again provided a comprehensive report detailing the work undertaken by the team, which included the building of a new timber compound for the skip at Blackhall Cemetery and the installation of the recently purchased seats.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-24127 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk had distributed a report with the agenda which included the following: -

Footpath leading to Hesleden (mh23-24112)

It has been established there is a footpath at this location which over the years has become overgrown, Durham County Council have cleared the footpath, however it is very short as there is a dropped kerb allowing access to the farmers field. County Councillors have been contacted to refer to the relevant department requesting a possible extension.

Staff training(mh23-24111)

Two members of ground staff have been booked onto a Management of Memorials Inspection Workshop at a cost of £150 pp.

Request for footpath clearance leading from Evergreen Park to northbound footpath, Durham County Council responded immediately and cleared. The ongoing water issues from the adjoining fields has been referred back to the County Council highways & drainage department.

Request by resident for emptying of bin and rubbish bags following litter pick at Crimdon, Durham County Council removed the same day at our request

Report from Castle Eden PC re fly tipping of over 20 empty vodka bottles scattered on the grass verge between Mickel Hill Road and Hesleden reported to and removed by Durham County Council.

Four incidents to date of food waste fly tipped at School Avenue, Blackhall Colliery, Neighbourhood Wardens are investigating.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-24128 **HART CRESCENT PLAY AREA**

A request has been received from a resident living near to the play area for it to be removed and relocated, due to children banging on the gate and climbing on the equipment.

The Clerk provided a report -

The play area was relocated from the rear of Ocean View at the request of local residents who were involved in the process from start to finish.

Funding was secured, planning application approved, a lease agreed with Durham County Council and the play area was installed in November 2011

Well used play area with no ASB issued or complaints

Valued by residents

This is the only location for a play area in Blackhall Rocks

Cost implication

Parish Council have taken steps to reduce the noise from the gate but cannot address the noise and disturbance from children using this play area

RESOLVED the request to remove and relocate the play area is declined

mh23-24129 **TO CONSIDER PLAY AREA CONTRACTS**

To appoint contractor to refurbish High Hesleden & Chickens Green play areas

The Clerk had forwarded detailed reports for both play areas to members with the agenda, this detailed the tender process. I was requested approval is given to waive Financial Regulation 11.1(b) due to the value of the contracts and the cost to the Clerk's time if Contract Finder was to be used for these projects.

Chicken's Green

Company 1	£39198.17
Company 2	£32395.00
Company 3	£28243.38

High Hesleden

Company 1	£34467.79
Company 2	£34995.00
Company 3	£31614.98

RESOLVED the contracts for both play areas are awarded to Company 2 Streetscape Products & Services Limited and **FURTHER RESOLVED** Financial Regulation 11.1(b) is waived

mh23-24130 **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS**

The Clerk provided a brief overview of the consultation and in particular highlighted a proposed change to ensure housing need assessments will require consultation with Parish and Town Councils as a standard.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

a) To endorse invoices for payment

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

Date	Payee	Description	Chq/DD/IB	Amount
08.03.24	Blackfords	Flowers	DC	£39.00
11.03.24	Co-op	BACS fees	DD	£7.54
11.03.24	Right Fuel	Fuel	DD	£46.32
12.03.24	Corona Energy	Gas - Office & Welfare Park	DD	£397.64
13.03.24	EE	Mobile telephones	DD	£105.66
15.03.24	Durham CC	Grass cutting dog bins	DD	£1,097.97
15.03.24	Durham CC	Trade Waste Welfare Park	DD	£105.45
15.03.24	Durham CC	Trade Waste B/Hall cemetery	DD	£105.45
15.03.24	ITC Ltd	Mail box/website/antivirus	DD	£91.07
17.03.24	Right Fuel	Fuel	DD	£50.29
19.03.24	Vision ICT Ltd	Design & develop website	IB	£1,170.00
19.03.24	BACS	Payroll LGPS/HMRC	DD	£4,677.66
22.03.24	BACS	Wages - March	DD	£9,016.28
22.03.24	EDF	Elec supply- B/h cemetery	DD	£68.30
24.03.24	Right Fuled	Fuel		£60.11
26.03.24	Durham CC	HR Support	IB	£163.13
26.03.24	Wel Medical	Replace defib battery B/hall Comm C	IB	£279.54
26.03.24	Alice House	Donation	IB	£200.00
26.03.24	IOS Ltd	Stationery	IB	£134.00
26.03.24	KBS Depot	Replace seats B/Hall Cemetery	IB	£4,704.00
26.03.24	Jati Ltd	Memorial bench	IB	£408.00
26.03.24	G Robinson	Hardware	IB	£164.56
26.03.24	Origin Amenity	Fertiliser/weedkiller	IB	£2,258.70
26.03.24	J T Dove	Timber - skip compound BH cemetery	IB	£690.74
26.03.24	Uniform Supplies	Staff uniform	IB	£344.35
26.03.24	Thomas Sheriff	Grass cutter	IB	£1,199.98
26.03.24	C K Electrical	Repair socket Welfare Park garage	IB	£80.00
26.03.24	Wave	Water supply Welfare Park	IB	£147.77
26.03.24	Durham CC	Autumn bedding	IB	£1,662.00

			Total	£29,475.51
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RESOLVED the information is received and approved

b) To approve annual insurance renewal

The Parish Council has an active long-term agreement with Zurich Municipal Insurance until 1st April 2026, the renewal premium for 2024-25 is £7376.39, which is an increase of 2%.

RESOLVED the renewal is approved

c) Review of asset register

A copy of the updated asset register was distributed with the agenda, as discussed previously a redundant kubota has been sold for £1560.00.

RESOLVED the asset register is received and approved

d) To approve Durham County Council Service Level agreements

- Trade waste contracts for Blackhall Cemetery & Blackhall Welfare Park £976.56 pa each, increase 3%
- Grass cutting & servicing of 16 dog bins £4817.89, increase 5%
- Business rates -increase of 10%
 - Office £3227.53
 - Hesleden cemetery £469.06
 - Blackhall Cemetery £2363.02

Health & Safety SLA not renewed making a saving of £1543.96

RESOLVED the SLA's are received and approved

mh23-24132 **PLANNING**

Durham County Council Planning Applications approved

DM/24/00037/FPA Mr Graham Holmes	1 Bevin Grove Blackhall Rocks TS27 4BU	Radio antenna to rear
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RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-24133 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter of thanks from Alice House Hospice for donation of £200.00

Update from Neighbourhood Outreach Group- Tea n Chat

E-mail from resident requesting Council agenda & minutes are displayed in the Blackhall Rocks noticeboard – due to the number of minute pages they cannot be displayed, agenda's will be placed in all 4 noticeboards going forward

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-24134 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 22nd April 2024 at 6pm in the council office 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date