

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 19th FEBRUARY 2024**

Councillor: G M Crute (Chair)

Councillors: A H Childs, S Childs, O Deinali, S Deinali, K M Dingle, A Mason, G Morris,
A Paterson, N Thompson

Officer : L A Wardle (Parish Clerk)

mh23-24104 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors' R Bowes, G Duddin &
D Teasdale

mh23-24105 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor S Deinali declared a Registerable Interest in item 13 as she is a member of
the Durham County Council Central and East Durham planning committee

mh23-24106 **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

mh23-24107 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

mh23-24108 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Goodwin had forwarded an email report for the period 22nd January 2024 to
19th February 2024, a copy of which had been forwarded to members.

RESOLVED the report is received and noted

mh23-24109 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillor G Morris attended the Larger Councils Forum and provided a
comprehensive report including information relating to the CCLA deposit fund options.

RESOLVED Councillor Morris was thanked for attending the meeting and her report
FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk is requested to look at the possible investment
options with the CCLA and provide a report to council

mh2324110 **STAFFING UPDATE**

The Clerk advised the closing date for the grounds maintenance post had closed and
candidates had been identified for interview.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-24111 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

The Estates Manager once again provided a comprehensive report which members agreed gives an excellent overview of the work undertaken by the grounds team.

Members discussed with the Estates Manager training need for the staff to undertake memorial safety training.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk investigates the options available to provide the required training

mh23-24112 **CLERK'S REPORT**

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

Street furniture (mh23-2475)

2 x noticeboards purchased to be installed at Blackhall Rocks & Office
2 x litter bins purchased replacement at Hesleden MUGA & Welfare Park
Public bench to be located at Blackhall Rocks

Motor claim

Damage to tractor door due to high winds, no-one was injured.
Insurance claim for repair submitted 29/2/2024 and repair undertaken 2/2/2024,
excess to be paid by the council of £150.00

S106 Better Play (mh21-2258)

Two applications for S106 funding submitted & received by Durham County Council -

- High Hesleden play area £34,000
- Chicken's Green play area £35,370

Following a meeting with pupils from Hesleden & Blackhall Primary School, revised specifications have been requested from contractors, once received tenders will be presented to council to award the contract.

Seating request

Members are asked to consider the purchase of 14 recyclable seats to replace the existing council seats at Blackhall and Hesleden Cemeteries, see below.

Company 1 £3932
Company 2 £7150
Company 3 £6440

Members queried the difference in price and whether the quality of company 1 seats is acceptable, the Clerk confirmed a bench had been previously purchased from this company and it is to a high standard.

A discussion took place with regards to the council's current seating policy and in particular the purchase of memorial benches by members of the public.

A member raised the issue of the lack of a public footpath from Mickle Hill Road leading to Hesleden Road and whether a new footpath could be installed by the highway authority.

RESOLVED the contract for the purchase of 14 replacement benches for the cemeteries is awarded to company 1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** the current seating policy is reviewed and brought back to council

RESOLVED the Clerk is requested to contact Durham County Council Highways to discuss the request for the installation of a footpath to link Mickel Hill Road to Hesleden Road

mh23-24113 **REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Alice House Hospice

A request for assistance had been received and circulated to members for consideration.

RESOLVED that a donation of £200.00 be granted to Alice House Hospice
LGA 1972 S137

mh23-24114 **GLENHOLME ALLOTMENTS, BLACKHALL**

This matter was placed on the agenda at the request of a member with regards to eviction notices being issued by Durham County Council to tenants at the above site and concerns the land may be sold for development.

After contacting the relevant department, the Clerk provided an update, there are 71 plots and only 15 tenants have failed to return their agreements despite three reminders. If a notice to quit has been issued tenants will receive a further 3 reminders requesting the return of the signed tenancy agreement. It is understood the issue may be the forms themselves not being completed as required, and it was suggested perhaps the Parish Council could offer assistance to tenants in this regard.

Durham County Council has confirmed there is no plan to sell this land and it should be noted current legislation prevents them from doing so without the consent of central government.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk be requested look at options to enable the Parish Council to provide administration support to the allotment tenants

mh23-24115 **FINANCIAL**

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
01.02.24	DVLA	Van Tax	DD	£320.00
07.02.24	Cathedral Leasing	Hygiene	DD	£60.84
08.02.24	Wave NWG	Water	DD	£97.85
08.02.24	Corona Energy	Gas supply	DD	£209.01
09.02.24	Co-op Bank	Bas fees	DD	£7.68

10.02.24	Babble	Telephone	DD	£76.75
12.02.24	Amazon	Universal tyre sealant	DC	£67.96
12.02.24	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£3.30
13.02.24	EE	Mobiles	DD	£105.56
15.02.24	ITC	Anti V mailbox	DD	£91.07
15.02.24	DCC	Trade Waste WP	DD	£105.34
15.02.24	DCC	Trade Waste Cem	DD	£105.34
15.02.24	DCC	Dog Bins Grass Cut	DD	£1,097.98
15.02.24	NWG Wave	Water Cemetery	DD	£59.11
18.02.24	DCC	HMRC/LGPS	IB	£4,964.93
19.02.24	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£114.14
20.02.24	GNG Waste	Skip Hire	IB	£276.00
20.02.24	Thomas Sherriff	Tractor Repair	IB	£1,551.58
22.02.24	EDF	Elec/W Park	DD	£72.56
23.02.24	DCC	Monthly Wages	DD	£8,602.24
23.02.24	Spaldings	Blower/2 x strimmer harnesses	IB	£772.21
23.02.24	Affordable Landscapes	Removal tree B/Hall cemetery	IB	£360.00
23.02.24	Standard Security	Install new alarm panel	IB	£428.40
23.02.24	KBS depot	Bench/bin/noticeboards	IB	£1,767.00
26.02.24	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£30.11
28.02.24	KCS	Cleaning	IB	£498.24
28.02.24	JT Dove Ltd	Path Repairs	IB	£187.18
28.02.24	Standard Security	Alarm call out	IB	£116.40
28.02.24	KBS depot	Litter bin	IB	£450.00
28.02.24	G Robinson	Hardware	IB	£131.68
28.02.24	Mastercopy Ltd	Photocopier	DD	£81.99
29.02.24	EDF	Elec/xmas tree C/G	DD	£22.03
29.02.24	EDF	Elec/office	DD	£135.07
			Total	£23,575.59

RESOLVED the information is received and approved

b) Approval Clerk additional hours

As per financial regulation 7.8 there is a requirement for full council to approve additional hours paid to the Clerk over 20 hours per month. The Clerk had submitted a claim for 35 hours for the period April 2023- Jan 2024, other additional hours are to be taken as TOIL.

RESOLVED additional hours 35 hours are approved

mh23-24116 **PLANNING**

Councillor S Deinali had declared a Registerable Interest and took no part in the discussion
Durham County Council Planning Applications received

DM/24/00131/FPA Mr G Johnson	8 Byron Avenue Blackall Rocks TS27 4BZ	Single storey extension to front
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Durham County Council Planning Applications approved

DM/23/02923/FPA Mr P Garner	Hesleden Hall Farm Monk Hesleden TS27 4QB	Removal of existing garden shed and replacement with purpose built garden room
DM/24/00042/PND McLarens	55 Attlee Avenue Blackhall Rocks TS27 4BZ	Prior notification for the demolition of 1 dwelling

Pre-planning consultation Cornerstone re proposed base station installation upgrade
Fillpoke Farm, Fillpoke Lane, TS27 4BS

RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comments to make with regards to the
applications received

mh23-24117 **CORRESPONDENCE**

E-mail confirming Mary Kelly Foy MP has been elected as CDALC President

E-mail received from resident thanking the Parish Council for the installation of the
new noticeboard and seat at Blackhall Rocks

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-24118 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th March 2024 at 6pm in the council
office 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date