

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2023**

Councillor: R Bowes (Chair)

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

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

mh23-2472 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors' G M Crute, S Deinali,
A Paterson, D Teasdale

mh23-2473 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None were received

mh23-2474 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 23rd OCTOBER
2023**

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

mh23-2475 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed a member of the public, who thanked the council for the four
defibrillators they provide in the parish and queried the location of the device at
Blackhall Rocks, the Clerk confirmed this is not a council defibrillator.

Members were requested to consider the installation of a noticeboard at Blackhall
Rocks.

RESOLVED the Council will consider installing a noticeboard at a suitable location in
Blackhall Rocks

mh23-2476 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Goodwin had forwarded an email report for the period 16th October 2023 to
13th November 2023, a copy of which had been forwarded to members.

RESOLVED the report is received and noted

mh23-2477 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Members reported the Blackhall Remembrance Service was well attended, it was
disappointing Blackhall Air Training Corps for the first time in many years were not
present. It was also mentioned at times it was hard to hear certain speakers.

Hesleden service, again was well attended, however there was an issue with the
music recording.

RESOLVED members were thanked for their attendance and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the issues raised are addressed for the 2024 services

mh23-2478 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

A detailed report for the November had been forwarded with the agenda and members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

a) Blackhall Cemetery Flooding

A copy of a letter received from a resident with regards to flooding in Blackhall Cemetery had been distributed with the agenda. The Estates Manager's report included details of the work undertaken by the Parish Council over many years to address the issue. Durham County Council have been contacted to ask if the gully which runs through the adjacent allotment site could be cleared, this may help the water to flow away.

RESOLVED a response is forwarded to the resident advising of the actions taken by the Council and **FURTHER RESOLVED** once a response has been received from Durham County Council the matter is brought back to a future meeting.

b) Review of sporting clubs' terms & conditions

A copy of the proposed changes to the terms and conditions were distributed with the agenda.

RESOLVED the terms and conditions are received and approved

mhh23-2479 **REVIEW COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN 2023-25**

A copy of the plan had been forwarded with the agenda for information and discussion.

RESOLVED the information is received and the Business Plan adopted

mh23-2480 **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
01.11.23	Royal British Legion	Wreaths Donation	DC	£150.00
07.11.23	Cathedral Hygiene	Hygiene Bins	DD	£60.84
09.11.23	Co-Operative	BACS Fees	DD	£7.68
13.11.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£54.97
13.11.23	EE	Mobile Phones	DD	£105.56
14.11.23	Affordable	Grass Cuts	IB	£576.00
14.11.23	GNG Waste	Skip Hire	IB	£276.00
14.11.23	G Robinsons	Hardware	IB	£261.17

14.11.23	Krystal Cleaning	Cleaning	IB	£498.36
14.11.23	Regal Print	Remembrance programmes	IB	£190.00
14.11.23	JT Dove	Repair Chickens Green play area	IB	£9.59
14.11.23	Spaldings	Lapping Compound	IB	£58.20
15.11.23	DCC	Dog Bins Grass Cut	DD	£1,097.98
15.11.23	DCC	H&S SLA	DD	£171.54
15.11.23	DCC	T Waste Welfare P	DD	£105.34
15.11.23	DCC	T Waste Bhall Cem	DD	£105.34
15.11.23	DCC	Hes Cem Bus Rates	DD	£54.00
15.11.23	DCC	Bhall Cem Bus Rates	DD	£215.00
15.11.23	DCC	Bus Rates Council Office	DD	£293.00
15.11.23	DCC	Play area rent	DD	£100.00
15.11.23	ITC	Anti Virus Mailbox	DD	£76.67
16.11.23	NWG	Bhall cem water	DD	£61.74
17.11.23	Blackfords	Flowers	DC	£35.00
18.11.23	DCC	HMRC LGPS	IB	£4,272.18
20.11.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£81.80
21.11.23	EDF	Elec W Park	DD	£118.68
21.11.23	IOS	Stationery	IB	£80.40
21.11.23	J T Dove	PPE	IB	£16.56
21.11.23	ARCO	PPE	IB	£159.83
21.11.23	Wel Medical	Defib repairs	IB	£175.02
21.11.23	DCC	HR Support	IB	£180.00
21.11.23	NWG	Hes cem water	DD	£126.98
21.11.23	Amazon	Equipment	DC	£40.98
24.11.23	DCC	Monthly Salaries	IB	£13,269.91
27.11.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£40.26
27.11.23	Mastercopy	Photocopier	DD	£113.74
29.11.23	EDF	Elec office	DD	£126.83
29.11.23	EDF	Elec Xmas Tree	DD	£22.67
		Total		£23,389.82

RESOLVED the information is received and approved

b) Pay agreement 2023-24

The Clerk provided details of the pay agreement and revised pay scales for 2023-24, which will be back dated and paid in November payroll.

RESOLVED the information is received and approved

c) Review of income & expenditure 31st October 2023

A copy of the above report had been forwarded with the agenda for consideration by members.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

e) Consider budget committee report

The budget committee report had been distributed with the agenda for information and approval.

RESOLVED the report is received and noted, **FURTHER RESOLVED** approval is given to:

Replacement lights at Blackhall Pit Wheel

Existing contractor to be appointed to undertake grass cutting at Blackhall Cemetery from 1st April 2024.

Purchase of new electric fine turf grass cutter for April 2024, delegated authority to Estates Manager and Clerk to source the machine, subject to three quotes and full report to council.

f) Review of council fees 2024-25

The budget committee recommended the following fees for 2024-25

Sporting Clubs

Bowls £515.00

Cricket £890.00

Football £355.00 & £1100.00

Room hire

Full room £16.00 per hour Half room £8.00 per hour

Cemetery fees

Exclusive Rights of Burial	Resident	Non-Resident
Single Plot	250	1000
Cremated Remains	150	800
Burials		
Adult	250	820
Cremated Remains	105	220
1 month - 18 Years	0	0
Memorials		
Headstones	100	150
Plaques/Vases	80	120
Added Inscription	35	50
Replacement Headstone	0	0
Transfer of ownership	30	30
Cemetery search	10	10
Copy of deed	10	10

g) Review of banking

The Clerk advised the current Nationwide investment is due to mature on 1st December and provided details of the reinvestment options.

RESOLVED to reinvest the Nationwide account balance for a fixed term of 18 months, **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk looks at alternative providers to ensure a better rate of return on the Council's other bank accounts

It is recommended the Council considers dual approval for internet banking for the Co-operative Bank accounts. This is currently in place for the Barclays accounts, the Clerk recommended Councillors' Crute and Thompson are nominated for this facility.

RESOLVED dual authority is put in place for Co-operative Bank internet banking and **FURTHER RESOLVED** Councillors Crute and Thompson are given this authority

h) Receive interim internal audit report

The report had been circulated with the agenda for information

RESOLVED the interim internal audit report is received and noted

mh23-2481

PLANNING

Durham County Council Planning Applications approved

DM/23/02240/FPA Mr & Mrs G Humphries	South Blackhall's Farm, Coast Road, Blackhall Rocks, TS27 4BD	Detached, garden annex in rear garden and replacement office building attached to existing storage building to support retail business
DM/23/02568/FPA Mr N Armstrong	15 Station Road, Blackhall Rocks, Hartlepool, TS27 4AR	Dropped kerb for vehicle access to front of property

Durham County Council Planning Applications refused

DM/23/02437/HPN Mrs N Pine	3 Bevin Grove, Blackhall Rocks Hartlepool, TS27 4BU	Prior approval required and refused
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RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make with regards to the applications received

Update on continued restoration of colliery spoil heap

The Clerk has submitted a request for guidance from CPRE with regards to this application and a response is awaited.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-2482

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were circulated for information:

E-mail Blackhall Bowls Club thanking the Parish Council for recent grant
Letter from St Andrew's Outreach Group – Tea & Chat update
Invitation from Haswell Mencap to annual nativity at Durham Cathedral

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-2483

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4th December 2023 at 6pm in the council office 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date