

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2023**

Councillor G M Crute (Chair)

Councillors: S Childs, L Davison, G Duddin, A Mason, G Morris, A Paterson,
N Thompson

Officer : L A Wardle (Parish Clerk)

A Peace (Estates Manager)

Deputy Police Crime Commissioner – Nigel Robson

Two members of the public were present.

mh23-2443 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors' R Bowes, O Deinali,
S Deinali, D Teasdale

mh23-2444 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest on items on the agenda were received

mh23-2445 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 19th of JUNE
2023**

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

mh23-2446 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed two members of the public

A member of the public had wished to ask questions with regards to the decision made at the council meeting held on 22nd May 2023 (min ref mh23-2416), when the request for junior fixed goal posts to be installed at Chicken's Green was declined. The Council listened to the questions raised and provided their response.

mh23-2447 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

A comprehensive report was submitted by the Estates Manager for the period August to September and members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** Estates Manager is thanked for an excellent report

mh23-2448 **CLERK'S REPORT**

A report had been distributed with the agenda for information

Concerns for pedestrian safety Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery (min ref ec311920)
Durham County Council are to undertake a consultation event at the council office to seek the views business owners and members of public

Selective Licence

Durham County Council has approved the property licence for Welfare Cottage, Blackhall Welfare Park 19/7/2023 – 18/7/2028

Annual ROSPA play inspection reports

As in previous years the reports highlight the age of equipment and the flooring in a number of play areas, all these are to be addressed within the application for S106 funding application to Durham Council.

Replacement adult goalposts Blackhall Welfare Park

A grant of £1200.00 has been secured from the Football Foundation towards the replacement of adult goal posts, total cost of £2580.00.

Members were requested to approve this expenditure of £1380.00 by a budget virement from general reserves.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** approval is given to a budget virement of £1380.00 from general reserves to pay for this additional expenditure

mh23-2449 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Goodwin had forwarded an email report for the period 21st August 2023 to 15th September 2023, a copy of which had been forwarded to members.

RESOLVED the report is received and noted

mh23-2450 **POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER - JOY ALLEN**

The Deputy PCC, Nigel Bryson offered apologies on behalf of Joy Allen, he gave a an overview of the current challenges faced by Durham Police and provided information with regards to the funding bids which the PCC have submitted to the Home Office. The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council had expressed an interest in funding for deployable CCTV cameras, off-road bike barriers and to be considered for the immediate justice proposal.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy PCC for his attendance and he left the meeting

mh23-2451 **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
03.08.23	Aitkens	Grass Seed	IB	£112.00
03.08.23	Howardson Group	Conveyor Sleeve	IB	£156.96
03.08.23	KCS	Cleaning	IB	£498.24
03.08.23	Lloyd Ltd	Machine Repair	IB	£46.89
03.08.23	ROSPA	Annual Inspections	IB	£548.40

07.08.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£50.60
07.08.23	Cathedral Hygiene Services	Hygiene Bins	DD	£60.84
09.08.23	Co-op Bank	BACS charges	DD	£7.82
13.08.23	EE	Mobile Phones	DD	£105.56
14.08.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£53.32
14.08.23	A1 Trophies	Signs	IB	£211.20
14.08.23	NWG	Water Welfare	IB	£83.39
14.08.23	Affordable Landscape	Grass Cuts	IB	£1,152.00
15.08.23	ITC	Mailbox Anti V	DD	£102.77
15.08.23	Durham County Council	SLA H&S	DD	£171.54
15.08.23	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Council Off	DD	£293.00
15.08.23	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Bhall Cem	DD	£215.00
15.08.23	Durham County Council	Bus Rates Hes Cem	DD	£54.00
15.08.23	Durham County Council	Trade waste BH cem	DD	£105.34
15.08.23	Durham County Council	Grass cutting/dog bins	DD	£1,097.98
15.08.23	Durham County Council	Trade waste W/P	DD	£105.34
17.08.23	NWG	Cem Water	DD	£58.49
18.08.23	Durham County Council	HMRC LGPS	IB	£4,349.07
18.08.23	ICO	Renewal	DD	£35.00
21.08.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£86.74
22.08.23	EDF	Elec Welfare Pic	DD	£154.31
23.08.23	Hughie Willett	Kubota part	DC	£127.80
23.08.23	Pitchcare	Dragbrush	DC	£194.17
24.08.23	DCC	Monthly wages	BACS	£9,188.49
29.08.23	EDF	Elec Changing Rooms	DD	£535.53
29.08.23	EDF	Elec Council Office	DD	£277.53
29.08.23	Rightfuel	Fuel	DD	£21.58
29.08.23	SSE	Elec pit wheel	DD	£26.44
31.08.23	Safechem	Hand towels	IB	£52.04
31.08.23	G Robinson	Hardware	IB	£211.58
31.08.23	J T Dove	Timber & posts	IB	£232.72
31.08.23	Garden Hire & spares	Recoil starter	DC	£18.66
31.08.23	Ross Handling	Kubota inner-tube	DC	£40.02
31.08.23	Mastercopy	Photocopying	DD	£113.74
				£20,956.10

04.09.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£41.14
11.09.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£85.82
11.09.23	BACS Fees	Fees	DD	£7.82
12.09.23	L&S	Starter Assembly	DC	£15.30
12.09.23	Garden & Hire Spares	Recoil starter	DC	£18.66
13.09.23	EE	Mobile Phones	DD	£105.56
15.09.23	DCC	Cem Bus Rates	DD	£215.00
15.09.23	DCC	T Waste Blackhall Cem	DD	£105.34
15.09.23	DCC	T Waste Welfare P	DD	£105.34
15.09.23	DCC	B Rates Hes Cem	DD	£54.00
15.09.23	DCC	B Rates Council Off	DD	£293.00
15.09.23	DCC	H & S SLA	DD	£171.54
15.09.23	DCC	Dog Bins Grass Cut	DD	£1,097.98
15.09.23	ITC	Anti Virus Mail	DD	£76.67
18.09.23	DCC	HMRC LGPS	DD	£4,150.64
18.09.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£101.75
19.09.23	KCS	Cleaning	IB	£622.80
19.09.23	Mazars	External audit fee	IB	£1,308.00
19.09.23	Pear Technology	Annual support	IB	£180.00
19.09.23	SLCC	Annual subscription	IB	£222.00
19.09.23	Turfcare Specialists	Seed top dressing	IB	£3,459.60
19.09.23	Affordable Landscapes	Grass cutting	IB	£1,152.00
19.09.23	J T Dove	Fence Board	IB	£70.80
19.09.23	Emmerson Marketing	Gazette	IB	£774.00
19.09.23	Howardson Group	Sisi Repair	IB	£294.79
19.09.23	Play & Leisure	Hesleden Repair	IB	£193.20
19.09.23	Spaldings	Strimmer Cord	IB	£62.40
19.09.23	G Robinson	Hardware	IB	£97.74
19.09.23	Charles Dickens	Work Boots	IB	£34.70
20.09.2023	Prime Lubricants	Lubricant Oil	DC	£75.00
21.09.23	Eon	Cem Elec	DD	£54.10
21.09.23	Eventgroove	Tickets	DC	£75.33
22.09.23	DCC	Monthly wages	IB	£9,547.15
22.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£158.28
25.09.23	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	DD	£116.90
26.09.22	DCC	Bedding Plants	IB	£1,186.34
26.09.23	Mastercopy	Rental Copies	DD	£233.74
26.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£25.26
26.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£26.04
26.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£25.26

26.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£24.64
26.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£29.83
27.09.23	Blackfords Nurseries	Bedding Plants	DC	£63.00
28.09.23	NWG Wave	Water Supply	IB	£504.06
29.09.23	SSE	Elec Pit Wheel	DD	£26.29
29.09.23	NWG Wave	Water Supply 002	IB	£544.50
29.09.23	Pirtek	Call out fee Tractor	IB	£84.00
29.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£522.28
29.09.23	Gorilla Work Wear	PPE	DC	£192.02
29.09.23	EDF	Elec	DD	£271.29
			TOTAL	£28903.10

RESOLVED the information is received and approved

b) Bank reconciliation @ 31st August 2023

The Clerk had distributed a bank reconciliation as of 31st August 2023 which showed combined bank balances of £500,599.34

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) Income & Expenditure @ 31st August 2023

A copy of the above report had been forwarded with the agenda for consideration by members. The Clerk confirmed a meeting of the budget committee will be scheduled in the near future.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

d) Budget planning – tax base & LCTRS Grant

Durham County Council are consulting on a proposal to reduce the LCTRS grant paid to the council by 50%- phased in over the next two financial years. This has the potential to reduce the Parish Council's current grant from £45310 to £32981 in the financial year 2024/25.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk prepares the 2024/25 budget based on this proposed reduction

e) Notice of Conclusion of Audit 31st March 2023

The Council's external auditors Mazars LLP have concluded "on the basis of our review of Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

RESOLVED the information be received and noted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** members recognition be given to the Clerk for another unqualified audit.

a) Renewal of utility contracts

Utility contracts have been renewed from 1st October 2023 until 30th September 2024, whilst energy costs have reduced, standing charges have increased substantially which is the case for all consumers.

mh23-2452 **TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

a) Royal British Legion

Two wreaths have been ordered for Remembrance Sunday, in the previous year a total payment of £150.00 was made in lieu of the cornet player fees, who do not charge.

RESOLVED a total payment of £150.00 be approved, this includes the cost of two wreaths

LGA 1972 S137

British Legion

b) Blackhall Bowls Club

A request for financial assistance had been distributed with the agenda.

RESOLVED the Clerk contact the Club for a detailed breakdown of the equipment to be purchased and enquiry if any revenue is received for the hosting of county bowls games.

mh23-2453 **EVENTS UPDATE**

The Clerk confirmed the following:

Sunday 5th November 2023 - Fireworks event in partnership with Blackhall Cricket Club

Sunday 12th November 2023 - Remembrance Services Blackhall Welfare Park & Hesleden Memorial

Monday 4th December 2023 - Blackhall Christmas tree lighting

Tuesday 5th December 2023 - Hesleden Christmas tree lighting

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-2454 **PLANNING**

Durham County Council Planning Applications received

DM/23/01971/FPA Mr Paul Dulai	34a Middle Street Blackhall Colliery TS27 4EA	Change of use from flat to retail shop stock room
DM/23/02901/LB Mrs Louise Banks	Crimdon House Farm Coast Road Crimdon TS27 3AA	Proposed alterations and replacement roof
DM/23/02240/FPA Mr & Mrs G Humphries	South Blackhalls 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 15 Station Road
Mr Neal Armstrong Blackhall Rocks
TS27 4AR

Dropped kerb for vehicle
access to front of
property

Durham County Council Planning Applications approved under delegated authority

DM/23/00095/FPA Clover INC. (Durham) LTD	116 East Street Blackhall Colliery TS27 4HA	Change of use of existing Hotel to a C2 use for Supported Living Accommodation for 8 people with a learning disability or autism and associated staff office (amended title)
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Durham County Council Planning Applications refused

DM/23/01489/FPA Mr Glen Fallow	51 Ocean View Blackhall Rocks TS27 4DA	Extension to front to create garage
DM/22/00010/MIN B & S Recycling	Former spoil heap Hesleden TS27 4PN	Continued restoration of colliery spoil heap, including extraction, processing and export of combustible material limestone and sand for a period of 10 years

RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make with regards to the applications received and **FURTHER RESOLVED** thanks is given to the Clerk for representing the Parish Council at the planning meeting to determine the application for the former spoil heap at Hesleden

mh23-2455 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items were circulated for information:

Text received by Estates Manager from resident commenting “ how wonderful Blackhall Cemetery looked when they visited and to keep up the good work”

Text message received by Estates Manager from Hartlepool Old Boys “ thanks to you and your team for excellent greens”

Visit from Chairman Blackhall Bowls Club to say “ thank you to the Parish Council and staff for the wonderful facilities they provide at Blackhall Welfare Park and how lucky residents are”

E-mail from Blackhall Community Centre giving thanks for the £250 grant awarded to fund the annual flower & vegetable show

E-mail from Blackhall Cricket Club to say thank you to the council for paying for the skip to help clear out the scoreboard

Invitation from Blackhall Vets Bowls for Chairman & Clerk to their presentation night on Thursday 26th October 2023, with a request that Chair presents the awards

E-mail from resident asking for assistance in relation to the traffic travelling to and from Tweddle Farm, Blackhall Rocks

E-mail from resident with regards to issues at Crimdon, in particular warning signs, litter bins

E-mail from St. Andrew's Outreach Group providing an update on the continuing success of the tea n chat project and once again thanking the Parish Council for their support

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh23-2456 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) act 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

A resolution was passed that the following item is classified as being of a confidential nature in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; and that at this point of the agenda members of the press and public were asked to leave.

Members of the public left the meeting

a) Staffing update

A member of staff had been absent from work for four weeks due to illness; they have now returned to work and a referral has been made to occupational health to seek guidance in supporting the employee

The staffing committee was convened to undertake a disciplinary hearing, supported by Durham County Council Human Resources. The Council's disciplinary policy was followed, and a decision taken, no appeal has been made.

RESOLVED the information is received

mh23-2457 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd October 2023 at 6pm in the council office 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date