

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2025**

Present Chairman: G M Crute
Parish Councillors: R Bowes, S Childs, O Deinali, S Deinali, G Duddin, A Mason,
G Morris

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

mh25-2653 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillors' L Davison,
A Paterson, N Thompson

mh25-2654 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations were received

mh25-2655 **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

mh25-2656 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

mh25-2657 **POLICE REPORT**

Reports for July & August had been circulated to members for information

RESOLVED reports received and noted

mh25-2658 **MEMBERS REPORTS OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON
BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillors Crute & Duddin attended the Welfare Park User Group meeting

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-2659 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

The Estates Manager had provided a comprehensive report covering the summer
period and answered members questions.

Details were given about the 2-year course the Estates Manager is to undertake
via East Durham College - Level 5 Operations Manager Apprenticeship.
this is a government funded qualification with no cost to the council

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-2660 **WELFARE PARK PROJECT**

Work is progressing on the installation of the MUGA and details were given with regards to the removal of the hedge which ran parallel to the site, this ensures a clear view to ensure the safety and wellbeing of users. A new fence has been ordered and the streetlamp which is adjacent to the area is to be refurbished and linked to the council's electricity supply rather than the cricket club.

Expenditure to date £232,258

Budget £250,000

£135500 S106 monies has been received with £12577.00 to be claimed upon completion of the MUGA

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-2661 **CLERK'S REPORT**

Apprentice (min ref mh24-25142)

Five candidates were selected for interview and three attended, all three were excellent candidates, the successful candidate started in post 8/9/2025.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

Xmas tree lights (min ref mh25-2649d)

Replacement set of pure white tree lights have been ordered for Blackhall tree at a cost of £1774.00. Depending upon the reliability of the remaining sets of lights, another set may be required for Hesleden in 2026

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

Councillor tablets/council e-mail address (min ref mh24-2547)

Members were requested to consider if tablets and council e-mail addresses should be issued to remaining members.

RESOLVED all members should be given a gov.uk e-mail address and members to confirm if they require use of a council tablet.

Play area repairs

Scheme houses, Blackhall Colliery

Safety flooring installed around the relocated piece of equipment has been vandalised and torn up, this has now been repaired. Repairs are needed to the birds' mouth fence at this area; this has been repaired in-house.

Chicken's Green, Blackhall Colliery

Rocker vandalised; new part has been received and will be fitted shortly. Basket swing ropes vandalised, this equipment was removed and replacement parts ordered, this repair will also be undertaken shortly.

High Hesleden

Rabbit holes in and around the play equipment, where possible these will be filled in.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-2662

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

Houses of Multiple Occupation planning measures

After much discussion **RESOLVED**

Durham County Council should give serious consideration to:

Option 1: Fully aligning the existing Section 13A policy with Government regulations.

Our community continues to be significantly affected by issues related to private landlords. This has reached such a level that a Selective Licensing Scheme is currently in operation in one area of our parish. Additionally, there are numerous vacant properties available for rent, many of which are terraced houses that are wholly unsuitable for multiple occupancy.

While the Parish Council acknowledges that adopting this option may have financial implications, we believe that delaying implementation by a further twelve months will have a detrimental and lasting impact on our community.

mh25-2663

REVIEW OF POLICIES

The following policies have been reviewed and updated where appropriate –

Adverse weather

Disciplinary Policy & Procedure Policy

Driver Policy

Emergency /Dependants Leave Policy

Filming, recording, broadcasting and live streaming in Council Meetings

Flexible Working Policy

Grievance Policy & Procedure

Maternity Leave Pay Policy

Memorial Seating Policy

Mobile Device Policy

Paternity Leave & Pay Policy

Play Area Inspection Policy

Recruitment Policy & Procedure

Training & Development Policy

Volunteer Policy

RESOLVED the policies are received and adopted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the Emergency /Dependants Leave Policy is reviewed and brought back to a future meeting.

TO CONSIDER ANNUAL DONATION TO ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

In the past the Council has purchased two Remembrance Wreaths at a cost of £40.00 and in lieu of the cornet player's fee and a donation a total of £150.00 has been paid.

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

LGA 1972 S137 British Legion

FINANCIALa) To endorse invoices for payment

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
04.08.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£66.65
07.08.2025	Cathedral Hygiene	Servicing	£70.20
11.08.2025	Wave	Water Supply	£90.83
11.08.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£90.34
11.08.2025	Coop Fees	BACS	£7.68
11.08.2025	EE	Mobile Phones	£111.05
14.08.2025	Affordable Landscape	Grass Cuts	£1,310.40
14.08.2025	Cyan Jaiti	Memorial Bench	£795.26
14.08.2025	Delanoy Funeral Services	Refund	£10.00
14.08.2025	Krystal Cleaning	Cleaning	£729.60
14.08.2025	Print Factory	Signs	£132.00
14.08.2025	Alistair Bright	Roller Shutters	£65.00
14.08.2025	Hags Uk	Welfare Park	£162,600.88
14.08.2025	Coop	CHAPS Charge	£25.00
14.08.2025	Spalding's	Strimmer Heads	£230.40
15.08.2025	Durham C Council	Dog Bags/Grass Cuts	£1,210.52
15.08.2025	Durham C Council	T Waste Blackhall Cemetery	£113.93
15.08.2025	Durham C Council	T Waste Welfare Park	£113.93
15.08.2025	Durham C Council	Bus Rates Blackhall Cem	£289.00
15.08.2025	Durham C Council	Bus Rates Hesleden Cem	£52.00
15.08.2025	Durham C Council	Bus Rates Council Office	£324.00
18.08.2025	IOC	GDPR	£47.00
18.08.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£76.66
18.08.2025	DCC	HMRC LGPS	£6,671.98
22.08.2025	DCC	Monthly Wages	£12,748.55

25.08.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£103.62
26.08.2025	Corona Energy	Gas	£95.78
26.08.2025	Document Solutions	IT Support	£197.66
26.08.2025	Babble Cloud Ltd	Tel Broadband	£104.54
01.09.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£55.94
02.09.2025	Mastercopy	Copies	£72.37
08.09.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£61.10
09.09.2025	Coop Bank	BACS Fees	£7.68
09.09.2025	A1 Trophy's	Signs	£252.00
09.09.2025	Hags Uk	Equipment Relocation	£15,750.34
09.09.2025	KRAFTWERX	Ironwork	£474.00
09.09.2025	Wybone	Benches/ Bin	£1,660.74
13.09.2025	EE	Mobiles	£115.05
15.09.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£48.07
15.09.2025	Durham C Council	Dog Bags/Grass Cuts	£1,210.52
15.09.2025	Durham C Council	Bus Rates Council Office	£324.00
15.09.2025	Durham C Council	Bus Rated Hesleden Cem	£52.00
15.09.2025	Durham C Council	Bus Rates Blackhall Cem	£289.00
15.09.2025	Durham C Council	T Waste Welfare Park	£113.93
15.09.2025	Durham C Council	T Waste Blackhall Cem	£113.93
17.09.2025	Plantex Uk	Sprinkler	£134.67
18.09.2025	HMRC	LGPS	£8,359.09
22.09.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£43.06
22.09.2025	Browns Decorating	Football Field Hand rails	£890.00
22.09.2025	G Robinson	Hardware	£80.69
22.09.2025	Pear Technology	Software Support	£192.00
22.09.2025	Uniform Supplies	Uniform	£119.02
22.09.2025	Charles Dickens	PPE	£81.15
22.09.2025	Peter Janes	Repairs	£1,500.00
22.09.2025	Arco	Uniform	£68.36
22.09.2025	Horns Garden Centre	Shrubs Compost	£174.84
22.09.2025	Aitkens	Bowling Green Maintenance	£71.58
22.09.2025	Turfcare	Cricket Bowls Maintenance	£3,849.60
22.09.2025	Affordable Landscapes	Grass Cuts	£1,310.40
22.09.2025	Affordable Landscapes	Grave	£300.00
22.09.2025	Dove	Fence Compound Muga	£98.10
24.09.2025	DCC	Salaries	£12,194.40
26.09.2025	Babble Cloud Ltd	Telephone	£104.54
26.09.2025	Corona Energy	Gas Supply	£97.84
27.09.2025	Wave	Water Supply C Office	£182.63

29.09.2025	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£97.34
30.09.2025	Mastercopy	Copies	£72.37
30.09.2025	Document Solutions	IT Support	£197.66
29.09.2025	Event Grove	Tickets Posters	£98.99
29.09.2025	Home Done	Scarifier	£94.97
Income			
01.08.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£40.00
08.08.2025	Milgreen	Memorial Fees	£110.00
10.08.2025	R G Bennett	Burial Fees	£1,375.00
12.08.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£200.00
22.08.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£100.00
22.08.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£40.00
27.08.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£10.00
14.09.2025	DCC	S106 Monies	£135,500.74
15.09.2025	Resident	Burial Fees	£330.00
15.09.2025	Dog Bags	Cash	£160.00
17.09.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£240.00
22.09.2025	Hetton Lyons	Hire	£100.00
22.09.2025	Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£40.00
23.09.2025	MBNL	Mast Rent	£5,000.00
23.09.2025	Zurich	Refund	£113.44
26.09.2025	R G Bennett	Burial Fees	£275.00

b) To receive bank reconciliation @ 31st July & 31st August 2025 & bank transfers

The Clerk had distributed a bank reconciliation as of 31st July & August 2025 5 which showed combined bank balances of £474739.26 as of 31st August 2025, Councillor S Childs checked and signed the reconciliation.

Co-op Bank inter account transfer £30,000 - 31/7/2025

Co-op Bank account transfer to Barclays Bank £20,000 - 8/8/2025

Co-op Bank inter account transfer £162600.88 - 11/8/2025

Co-op Bank inter account transfer - £20,000 - 18/8/2025

Co-op Bank inter account transfer - £100,000 – 16/9/2025

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) Pay award 2025-26

The Clerk confirmed a pay award of 3.2% had been agreed by the NJC and was paid to all employees in the August payroll

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

d) Notice of Conclusion of Audit @31st March 2025

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** recognition be given to the Clerk for another unqualified audit.

mh25-2666

BLACKHALL CRICKET SOCIAL CLUB LEASE RENEWAL

The Clerk recommended the lease is renewed for a further twelve months with no changes other than the annual rent review, which using the current CPI rate will increase the rent from £595.00 to £610.00.

RESOLVED the lease is renewed for twelve months with effect from 2nd December 2025 and **FURTHER RESOLVED** the annual rent of £610.00 is agreed

Correspondence has been received from Blackhall Cricket Club asking for a support in their bid for funding to install cricket outdoor nets in the cricket ground. The Clerk confirmed there are already nets in the ground and any improvements would be at the same location.

RESOLVED the Parish Council supports this project, and a formal letter is to be sent to the Club

mh25-2667

PLANNING

Durham County Council Application Received

DM/25/01964/FPA Grupotec Solar UK 8 Limited	Land to the East, South and West of Benridge Farm, Fillpoke Lane Blackhall Rocks TS27 4BT	Installation of solar farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure including battery storage
DM/25/01964/FPA Dene Leazes Farm	Land North West of Ebony Stud 3 Weems Farm, Mickle Hill Road Hesleden TS27 4PY	Change of use from agricultural land to two secure dog walking fields with associated access from Mickle Hill Road, Parking area, two timber shelters, fencing and gates.
DM/25/02025/FPA DM/25/02026/AD Kiras Kebab House LTD	75 Middle Street, Blackhall Hartlepool, TS27 4ED	Replace existing timber shopfront with new powder coated frame and installation of roller shutter.

		Signage – backlit 3D lettering on aluminium composite sign tray.
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Durham County Council Applications Approved

DM/25/00815/FPA Mrs Jade Hart	Hartmoor House 31-32 Leaholme Terrace Blackhall, Hartlepool TS27 4AF	Retention and relocation of fence (to exclude highway verge) and reduce height to 1.3m to front.
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Durham County Council Applications Refused

DM/25/01679/FPA Clymo	Land to the South of Playground. Dene View High Hesleden TS27 4QE	Erection of self-building dwelling house including access, landscaping and boundary treatments.
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RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make with regards to the above planning application except for DM/25/01964/FPA **RESOLVED** to object. **FURTHER RESOLVED** matter is deferred to planning committee to prepare objection statement to be submitted to Durham County Council

mh25-2668

CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail from resident regarding gable end mural displays

RESOLVED the Clerk responds to the query as follows –

This topic was explored several years ago but could not be progressed at the time due to a lack of interest from property owners willing to have a mural painted on their buildings.

Regarding the Parish Council office, members do not wish to have a mural installed on the side of the building. However, should any residents express interest in having a gable end mural on their property, the Council would be happy to discuss this further

E-mail Durham Heritage Coast – council representative

RESOLVED Cllr G Duddin is nominated as the Parish Council representative on the Heritage Coast Partnership

E-mail from resident complementing Parish Council bedding schemes

RESOLVED information is received and noted

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 20TH October 2025 at 6pm in Council Office 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery, TS27 4EA.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date