

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 23rd March 2026**

Present Chairman: G M Crute
 Parish Councillors: R Bowes, S Childs, O Deinali, S Deinali, G Duddin,
 N Thompson

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

mh25-26127 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors' A Mason & A Paterson

Co-option appointment (min ref mh25-26102)

Due non-attendance at meetings co-option has been withdrawn LGA1972 S83(4)

mh25-26128 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Crute declared a Non-Registerable Personal Interest in item 13

mh25-26129 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
2nd MARCH 2026**

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

mh25-26130 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

mh25-26131 **POLICE REPORT**

No report received

mh25-26132 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

A report had been distributed with the agenda and the Estates Manager also provided a verbal update.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-26133 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report had been distributed, detailing the following items:

Members Code of Conduct

Members were requested to consider adopting Durham County Council's recently amended Member Code of Conduct, to include the right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights

Members **RESOLVED** not to adopt this amendment to the Members Code of Conduct

Annual fireworks display Friday 6th November 2026

The Clerk had provided details of the cost for the display, which due to rising costs, has risen from £2500 for an 18-minute display to £2950 for a high impact 15-minute display.

RESOLVED that approval is given to the quote provided; and
FURTHER RESOLVED additional information is requested regarding the content of the display.

Remembrance Services Sunday 8th November 2026

The Parish Council have been made aware Methodist Chapel in Blackhall will be closing and this may impact upon the ability to secure the services of a member of the clergy to lead the services.

RESOLVED the Clerk is requested to contact all local clergy to check availability to attend

Plants stolen from the Chicken's Green planter in Blackhall

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh25-26134

EXECUTION OF DEED OF SURRENDER, STATION ROAD, HESLEDEN

Members were requested to approve the execution of this deed.

RESOLVED the deed is signed in accordance with the Council's financial regulations

mh25-26135

FINANCIAL

a) To endorse invoices for payment & receive income report

To endorse the following invoices for payment, including agreed direct debits and payroll and received details of income received

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
02.03.2026	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£20.51
03.03.2026	Ringtons	Biscuit Box Gift	£21.99
03.03.2026	Mastercopy	Photocopying	£82.50
09.03.2026	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£101.46
09.03.2026	Co-Operative	BACS Fees	£7.82
13.03.2026	EE	Mobile Phones	£107.42
14.03.2026	Corona Energy	Elec Supply C/Green	£24.78
14.03.2026	Corona Energy	Elec Supply Welfare Park	£137.76
14.03.2026	Corona Energy	Elec Supply Pit Wheel	£26.60
14.03.2026	Corona Energy	Elec Supply Council Office	£119.33
14.03.2026	Corona Energy	Elec Supply Changing rooms	£193.08

16.03.2026	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£39.44
18.03.2026	Durham County Council	HMRC LGPS	£6,961.00
23.03.2026	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£52.56
23.03.2026	Horns Garden Centre	Shrubs Compost	£163.88
23.03.2026	Peter Janes	Ransome Repair	£320.00
23.03.2026	Durham County Council	Play Inspections	£1,235.78
23.03.2026	Durham County Council	Winter Bedding	£1,872.00
23.03.2026	JT Dove	Bowling Green	£396.00
23.03.2026	CYAN	Memorial Bench	£439.00
24.03.2026	Durham County Council	Salaries	£12,489.99
26.03.2026	Tuda Grass	Artificial grass	£400.00
26.03.2026	Corona Energy	Gas Supply	£329.64
27.03.2026	NWG	Water Council Office	£182.45
30.03.2026	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£52.52
30.03.2026	KCS	Cleaning	£364.80
30.03.2026	ABR	Roof repair B/hall cemetery	£2,040.00
30.03.2026	Aitkens	Fertiliser	£2,506.50
30.03.2026	T Sheriff	Compact tractor	£22,687.69
31.3.2026	Document Solutions	Tel/ Bband SLA	£315.76
		Total	£53,692.26
Income			
02.03.2026	Barclays	Bank Interest	£481.70
03.03.2026	R G Bennett	Burial Fees	£1,925.00
04.03.2026	East Durham Funeral	Burial Fees	£900.00
09.03.2026	Millgreen Memorials	Memorial Fee	£110.00
09.03.2026	Bradley L F	Bench	£365.83
10.03.2026	S Bell Memorials	Memorial Fee	£40.00
26.3.2026	W M Scott Memorials	Memorial Fees	£245.00
27.3.2026	Zurich Insurance	Engineer report- kubota	£885.00
30.3.2026	Hill	Memorial fee	£115.00
		Total	£5,067.53

b) To receive bank reconciliation @ 28TH February 2026 & bank transfers

Bank reconciliation had been distributed with the agenda showed combined bank balances of £566115.35 as of 28th February 2026, this was checked and signed by Cllr Childs.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) Review of Asset Register

A copy of the updated Asset Register had been circulated for information and approval.

RESOLVED the register is noted and approved

d) Approval to paint exterior of bowls hut

Approval was sought to instruct the Council's contractor to repaint the bowls hut at cost of £2036.00, this will be allocated from 2026-27 general reserves.

RESOLVED approval is given and the funds allocated from 2026-27 reserves

e) Review of annual play inspection contract

Three quotations had been sought –

- 1) £664.00
- 2) £540.00
- 3) £612.50

RESOLVED contract is awarded to company 2

mh25-26136

PLANNING

Durham County Council Applications Received

DM/25/03613/FPA	Tweddle Farm Filpoke Lane Blackhall Rocks Hartlepool TS27 4BT	Erection of 1 detached self-build family rural worker dwelling with associated access, parking, landscaping and ancillary works to support the established Tweddle Children's Animal Farm.
DM/26/00185FPA	Mr P Robbins 7 Shaftesbury Avenue Blackhall Hartlepool TS27 4NF	Loft Conversion with dormer to front elevation.
DM/26/00549/FPA	Mr L Jones 12 Welfare Crescent Blackhall Hartlepool TS27 4LU	Demolition of existing rear extension and conservatory with erection of replacement two storey side and rear and single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED the Parish Council has no comment to make with regards to the above applications

mh25-26137

CORRESPONDENCE

Resident complaint - memorial mason

An email received from a resident raising concerns regarding the level of service provided by a local memorial mason. This correspondence had been circulated to all Members for information. Feedback was provided by the Clerk highlighting the contractor's repeated failure to adhere to the Council's established procedures in

relation to the installation of memorials. These ongoing issues are a cause for concern and require appropriate consideration.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be requested to write to the company concerned to express the Council's concerns regarding the letter of complaint, its failure to adhere to Council procedures, and to advise that any continuation of these issues may result in access to the cemeteries being withdrawn.

E-mails received from Elysium Theatre Company & North East War Memorial Project requesting financial assistance –

RESOLVED both requests are denied

mh25-26138 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960
EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that the following items are classified as being of a confidential in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

mh25-26139 **TO RECEIVE STAFFING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Councillor Crute declared a Non-Registerable Personal Interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or resolution

The Clerk provided an update from the recent staffing committee meeting-

- Approval is sought to award an increment to the Estates Manager post effective 1st April 2026

RESOLVED approval is given

- A recommendation current lease on the Welfare Park Bungalow is approved for a further two years and thereafter rolled over on an annual basis. As per the current agreement the annual lease is subject to a rent increase in line with CPI

RESOLVED approval is given to the extension of the lease for a further two years

- Members were requested to consider an apprentice post for late 2026, subject to a full costing report being prepared and submitted to full council

RESOLVED agreement is given in principle subject to affordability

- Following the indication of the forthcoming retirement of the Clerk/RFO, a broader review will also be undertaken of both the Clerk/RFO role and the Administration post. This review will seek to ensure that the future needs of the Council are effectively met.
- A report outlining the findings and any recommendations will be prepared and submitted to Full Council later.

RESOLVED the report is received and recommendations noted

mh25-26140

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 6pm in Council Office 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery, TS27 4EA.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date