

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18th MAY 2026**

Present Councillors: R Bowes, S Childs, GM Crute, O Deinali, S Deinali, G Duddin, A Mason, N Thompson,

Officer L Wardle (Parish Clerk)

mh26-2701 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor R Bowes proposed the current chairman to be re-elected, no other nominations were received.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs GM Crute be unanimously elected as Chairman of Monk Hesleden Parish Council for the Municipal Year 2026/27

mh26-2702 **TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Mrs G Crute accepted her election to Chairman; she declared her Acceptance of Office signed the required form and proceeded to chair the meeting.

RESOLVED the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received

mh26-2703 **ELECTION OF VICE- CHAIRMAN**

Councillor R Bowes was nominated for the position of Vice Chairman, no other nominations were received.

RESOLVED Councillor R Bowes be appointed as Vice Chairman of Monk Hesleden Parish Council for the Municipal Year 2026/27

mh26-2704 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received accepted from Councillor A Paterson & Estates Manager

mh26-2705 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations were received

mh26-2706 **TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES & REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Details of current committees and terms of reference were distributed to members with the agenda for consideration and review.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the following members be appointed:

Appeals panel for both staffing & complaints committees:
R Bowes, S Deinali, A Mason, G Morris, A Paterson

Complaints committee: S Childs, G M Crute, O Deinali, G Duddin, A Paterson,
N Thompson

Environment Committee: S Childs, G Duddin, A Mason, N Thompson

Events Committee: R Bowes, G M Crute, S Deinali

Health & Safety Committee: S Childs, G M Crute, A Paterson, N Thompson

Planning Committee: S Childs, S Deinali, G Duddin, N Thompson

Staffing Committee: S Childs, G M Crute, O Deinali, G Duddin, N Thompson

Welfare Park User Group: G M Crute, G Duddin, N Thompson

Councillors Areas of Responsibility: Public spaces G Duddin, O Deinali

The Clerk & Estates Manager passed on their thanks to Councillor Duddin for his continued help in checking the play areas on a weekly basis.

Details of the Council's current representatives outside bodies and organisations were also distributed with the agenda for consideration.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council representatives be appointed as follows:

Blackhall Air Training Corps - G Duddin

County Durham Association of Larger Councils Forum - G M Crute & Clerk

Durham Heritage Coast – G Duddin

East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils -
O Deinali, S Deinali & A Mason

Hesleden Residents Association - S Deinali & N Thompson

FURTHER RESOLVED the Council's terms of reference are reviewed and accepted

mh26-2707

TO FIX THE AMOUNT OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 15(5) LOCAL GOVT ACT 1972

The matter was discussed by members.

RESOLVED the Chairman's allowance be set at £250.00

mh26-2708 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
20th APRIL 2026**

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

mh26-2709 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

mh26-2710 **MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL**

No reports

mh26-2711 **POLICE REPORT**

No report received

mh26-2712 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

The Estates Manager had submitted his apologies.

RESOLVED apologies accepted

mh26-2713 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk gave a brief overview on the current staffing levels. It has been necessary to engage the services of NEREO to assist the council, this was approved by the Chairman under Financial Regulation 5.18

RESOLVED information is received and noted

Members were asked to approve payment of an additional 30 hours to the Clerk for covering staff absences

RESOLVED approval is given

The Clerk reported an accident at Blackhall Welfare Park Play area on 29th April 2026. Council policy and procedure have been followed and documented and retained for future reference.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

mh26-2714 **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Clerk advised these documents had been reviewed and updated in line with NALC guidelines.

RESOLVED the information is received and adopted

mh26-2715 **APPROVAL OF CODE OF CONDUCT IN THE WORKPLACE**

RESOLVED Code of Conduct in the Workplace is approved and adopted

FINANCIAL

a) To endorse invoices for payment

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

[illegible]

		Total	£

b) To receive bank reconciliation @ 30th April 2026

The Clerk had distributed a bank reconciliation as of 30th April 2026 which showed combined bank balances of £659,975.95 Councillor S Deinali checked and signed the reconciliation.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) Review maturing investment

The current Nationwide investment is due to mature in June 2026; the Clerk recommended to re-invest for a 12-month period.

RESOLVED the funds, together with accrued interest, are reinvested into a fixed rate saver account for 12 months

d) Kubota repair

The Clerk provided an estimated price for a repair to a kubota which has already been into the workshop for a similar issue. After discussion members felt the estimated cost of £3081.96 was too high and with no guarantees the issue would be resolved.

RESOLVED approval is given to the disposal of this machine in line with council policy and quotes are sought for a replacement machine.

mh26-2717 **PLANNING**

mh26-2718 **CORRESPONDENCE**

mh26-2719 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 22nd June 2026 at 6pm in the Tea Pavilion, Blackhall Welfare Park, Blackhall Colliery

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date