

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2026**

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

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

mh26-2720 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

mh26-2721 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations were received

mh26-2722 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE
18th MAY 2026**

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

mh26-2723 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

mh26-2724 **MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/EVENTS ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL**

Councillor G Duddin gave a detailed report at his attendance at the recent Durham Heritage Coast meeting.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted and Councillor Duddin thanked for his attendance and report

mh26-2725 **POLICE REPORT**

No report received

mh26-2726 **ESTATES MANAGER REPORT**

The Estates Manager provided a verbal update –

- Football field renovation undertaken in-house
- High number of burials
- Over 4500 bedding plants installed in and around the parish
- Cricket field is in use most nights
- Parish has hosted several county bowls competitions with very positive feedback

- Post box to heaven installed in Blackhall Welfare Park has been well received by visitors
- Installation of a three lions-themed circle display at Chicken's Green in preparation for the Football World Cup. The display has received many positive comments from residents and visitors

The team has been operating with reduced staffing levels due to summer annual leave but has continued to work exceptionally hard to ensure these tasks were completed efficiently and to a high standard.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted **FURTHER RESOLVED** thanks is given to the Estates Manager and his team

mh26-2727

CLERK'S REPORT

A written report had been distributed with the agenda –

Machinery

- A fully refurbished ride-on mower has been purchased at a net cost of £13,000.00. Owing to the operational requirement to secure a replacement mower as quickly as possible, it was not practicable to obtain three quotations prior to the purchase.
- The 2018 ride-on mower has been sold for £3,000.00. In view of the significant mechanical defects identified with the machine, it was considered inappropriate to advertise it through a tender process.
- An insurance claim relating to the 2022 mower resulted in a payment of £9,576.00.
- Following the insurance settlement and the sale of the 2018 mower, the net cost to the Council was £424.00.

Members are requested to waive Financial Regulation 5.8 in respect of this purchase, considering the exceptional operational circumstances outlined above.

RESOLVED the information is received and accepted and **FURTHER RESOLVED** approval is given to the waiving of Financial Regulation 5.8

Durham County Council Selective Licensing Consultation

Members had been forwarded the information with regards to this consultation

<https://letstalkcountydurham.co.uk/en-GB/projects/proposed-new-selective-licensing-scheme>

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be instructed to respond to the consultation, confirming the Parish Council's support for the proposed scheme

Annual playground inspections

The annual playground inspections have been undertaken this year by a new contractor; there are several minor recommendations which will be actioned.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

Staffing update

- The Council currently has one employee on long-term sickness absence.
- Members were asked whether they wished to proceed with the recruitment of a second apprentice in September.
- The Clerk had submitted her formal notice of her intention to retire, with effect from 30 September 2026

RESOLVED the staffing update be received

FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the recruitment of a second apprentice

FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk's notice of retirement, effective from 30 September 2026, be received and accepted with thanks for her service

mh26-2728

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1932 (Blackhall) Squadron Air Training Corps

A request for funding of £500.00 had been received to assist with the purchase of corporate clothing for squadron members, a quotation for the clothing had also been submitted. The Clerk suggested that the squadron obtain a second quotation from an alternative supplier.

RESOLVED agreement be given in principle to support the funding request, subject to the submission of a further quotation.

mh26-2729

FINANCIAL

a) To endorse invoices for payment

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
01.06.26	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£117.74
08.06.26	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£137.59
09.06.26	Co-operative	BACS Fees	£7.82
10.06.26	Blackford's Milestone Nurseries	Topsoil	£129.00
10.06.26	Horns Garden Centre	Topsoil	£52.50
10.06.26	K Brown Decorating Services	Bowls Hut Painting	£2036.00
10.06.26	Affordable Landscapes	Grass Cutting	£1310.40
10.06.26	Lloyd Ltd	Kubota Estimate Repairs	£1427.26
13.06.26	EE	Mobile Phones	£135.27
14.06.26	Durham C Council	Payroll SLA	£121.32
14.06.26	Durham C Council	B Rates Council Office	£341.00
14.06.26	Durham C Council	B Rayes BHall Cem	£194.00

14.06.26	Durham C Council	B Rates Hes Cem	£53.00
15.06.26	Amazon	Roller Chain	£12.34
15.06.26	Corona Energy	Gas Council Office	£110.51
15.06.26	Corona Energy	Gas Changing Rooms	£51.43
15.06.26	Corona Energy	Elec Changing Rooms	£116.41
15.06.26	Corona Energy	Elec Council Office	£115.26
15.06.26	Corona Energy	Elec Pit Wheel	£36.17
15.06.26	Corona Energy	Elec Welfare Park	£182.62
15.06.26	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£119.50
16.06.26	NWG Business	Water Welfare Park	£244.76
18.06.26	HMRC LGPS	HMRC LGPS	£6914.01
22.06.26	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£88.02
22.06.26	Corona Energy	Elec Xmas Tree	£51.74
22.06.26	Zurich	Insurance	£117.41
22.06.26	G Robinson	Hardware	£97.83
22.06.26	Vitax Ltd	Repairs Maintenance	£53.76
22.06.26	IPA	Play Inspection Reports	£648.00
22.06.26	Standard Security	Fire Alarm Maintenance	£660.48
22.06.26	Lee Chapman Plumbing	Thermostat Council Office	£140.00
24.06.26	Durham C Council	Monthly Salaries	£13478.27
25.06.26	Bob Wild Machinery	JD Grass Cutter	£15600.00
25.06.26	Krystal Cleaning	Cleaning	£278.98
27.06.26	NWG Business	Water Council Office	£183.20
29.06.26	Right Fuel Card	Fuel	£168.95
30.06.26	Mastercopy	Printing	£82.50
30.06.26	Document Solutions	Tel B Band IT SLA	£315.76
Income			
Date	Payee	Description	Amount
02.06.26	Nationwide	Bank Interest	£3846.86
04.06.26	Scott Memorial	Memorial Fees	£170.00
08.06.26	T & G Funeral Services	Burial Fees	£290.00
08.06.26	Barclays	Bank Interest	£523.41
10.06.26	Cash	Burial Fees	£331.00
		Dog Bags	
12.06.26	Hartlepool Old Boys BC	Bowling Fees	£110.00
18.06.26	S Bell Memorials	Memorial Fees	£110.00
19.06.26	Affordable Landscapes	Mower	£3000.00
22.06.26	Scott Memorial	Memorial Fees	£115.00

b) To receive bank reconciliation @ 31ST May 2026

The Clerk had distributed a bank reconciliation as of 31st May 2026 which showed combined bank balances of £645,642.83 Councillor S Childs checked and signed the reconciliation.

RESOLVED the information is received and noted

c) To receive income & expenditure report @ 31st May 2026

A report had been circulated with the agenda for information

RESOLVED the report is received and noted

mh26-2730

PLANNING

DM/26/00192/FPA	Mr James Willis 19 Glenholme Terrace Blackhall Hartlepool, TS27 4HU	Removal of the existing hedge and construction of a 1500mm high brick wall with fencing above and brick pillars, giving overall height of 1650mm (section b) together with a 100mm high wall and access gate with brick pillars to an overall height of 1150mm (section a)
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mh26-2731

CORRESPONDENCE

None received

mh26-2732

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED the next meeting will be held on Monday 20th July 2026 at 6pm in the Council Office, 68 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery, TS26 4EA

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date