



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH JANUARY 2022 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM.

1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Cllrs Mr A Wake (Chair), Mrs D Rowe (Vice Chair), Mrs M Duncan, Mr J Tate and Mrs A Bell
County Councillors A. Batey & D. Wood
Other Attendees - Parish Clerk Lisa Blondrage, Mr McGill, Mrs Dodd and Mr Howlett.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mr E Brown & CC Pringle

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON AGENDA

None Declared.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – DECEMBER 2021

Previous minutes were agreed by the Parish Council.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, REPRESENTATION FROM RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

Mrs Dodd said she had reported a dim street light in Cromarty. Mrs Dodd stated that the number on the light is 00624. She received an email on the 29th November informing her that the issue was resolved. During December the street light went off. Mrs Dodd said she reported it again on the 3rd January and received an email on the 4th informing her it was resolved. Mrs Dodd said the light is still dim. CC Batey said she will look into the ongoing issue as the dim lighting is due to the conifers in a resident's garden. CC Batey will check with DCC to see if the residents have been written to.

CC Batey said the ivy on the tree to the rear of Turnberry had been cut back.

Cllr Wake read out emails from two concerned residents.

1. Station Lane – A resident wrote to the PC regarding the condition of the road of Station Lane. CC Wood said he had travelled along Station Lane a couple of weeks ago and the road was covered in a layer of wet mud caused by the wagons travelling in and out of the former quarry. CC Batey said she will contact the former quarry and DCC to ask if the road is still being cleaned.
2. Woodlands – A resident reported a piece of neglected land leading to the woods behind Woodlands. CC Batey and the PC's said the land belonged to the Woodland Trust and therefore we could not plant anything there to improve the appearance. CC Batey added that DCC are reluctant to carrying out planting in wooded areas due to the amount of cutting back they have had to do. LB said she would request a dog waste bin as the resident had reported discarded dog waste bags and the resident clears them up on a regular basis. Cllr Bell said she would walk down and take a look at the area.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

CC Batey said the refurbishment of the three parks had begun, starting with the park at West Pelton. Ross Park will be starting soon. CC Batey thanked the three Parish Councils for financially supporting the park projects.

CC Wood said that Pelton Parish Council has allocated a £8000 reserve in their 2022/23 Precept for the traffic calming scheme and Urpeth has allowed £6000.

CC Wood said he had contacted Parish and Town Councils throughout the County to ask if they have community assets and if they support them financially. The outcomes varied throughout the County, some were providing support which accounted for 57.5% of their Precept and the lowest was 1.5%. The average was 14.48%.

CC Batey said that she has spoken to CDALC regarding the asset transfer of the community centre and they recommended that it be transferred to the OCA rather than the PC due to it being a registered charity. She said the PC may need to help financially with legal costs.



CC Batey said she is meeting a DCC representative on site to discuss the resurfacing and line drawing on the Broom's Park MUGA.

CC Batey sent an email to the Clerk regarding an update on the BMX Pump Track. LB said she had forwarded the email to the PC's which included track examples. The Chopwell Woods track was recommended.

CC Batey will meet with a DCC representative at Ross Park to discuss the drainage issues and condition of the football pitch.

CC Wood left the meeting at 7.32pm

7. EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR OUSTON PARISH

The PC suggested that CC Batey draft the plan as she has the training and experience. CC Batey agreed. CC Batey said the PCs could take on roles as First Responders along with other volunteers. Three years ago, the PC invested £500 in mats to be used in an emergency which are currently being used and stored in the community centre by groups. To use the kitchen, volunteers must hold an NVQ Level 2 in Food Hygiene. CC Batey said Cornerstones in Chester Le Street hold free courses.

8. SECTION 106 FUNDING

The PC's reviewed and discussed the available Section 106 money. LB to apply for funding for a Jubilee bench to be located near the Golden Jubilee flag pole.

9. 2022/2023 BUDGET PREPARATION & PRECEPT

9.1 Proposed Parish Gardener

Cllr Wake said that the PC would rely on OAA volunteers to maintain the War Memorial Garden as previously discussed. Mrs Dodd said she would list the item on the OAA's next meeting agenda to ask if the OAA members would volunteer to maintain the garden. CC Batey said she has had complaints regarding the untidiness of the garden and has cleared leaves and removed weeds before services. Cllr Wake said we would try to manage with volunteers but would keep the money in reserve in case we needed to employ a gardener at a later date. The PC agreed that people complain about the tubs but don't volunteer to look after them. Mrs Dodd said she maintains two. Tubs to be discussed at the next meeting.

9.2 Proposed Asset Transfer of Ouston Community Centre

Cllr Tate attended the OCA Board meeting on behalf of the PC. Cllr Tate said the board were positive and keen to develop the centre. Cllr Tate suggested that the OCA provide a two-page feature in our newsletter to promote the centre. Cllr Tate suggested that a PC attend the OCA Board meeting on a regular basis. The attendee will take turns and it will be rotated. However, for continuity Cllr Tate will attend the next meeting. The cost of the asset transfer is to be confirmed and the legal costs are estimated at £700.

9.3 Traffic Calming Contributions & Reserves

The PC agreed to allocate £2000 over four years for our Traffic Calming Contribution. This will be reviewed each year.

LB suggested we reserve £800 per year over the next six years to pay for the street lights on Station Lane. The next invoice is due in 2028. The PC's present agreed.

LB suggested reserving £1000 over the next few years to contribute towards the costs for a refurbishment of the Brooms Park. The PC's present agreed.

9.4 Allotment Rents 2022/23

Cllr Wake confirmed that due to the allotment income covering costs this year and allowing a reserve for contingency and repairs, the rents will not increase for 2022/23. Cllr Wake said the PC were still looking at introducing a three-tier size system and hopefully this year we can hold a public consultation to discuss and agree rents for 2023/24.

The PC agreed to raise the Precept to £36,000.



10. CLERK'S REPORT

LB emailed DCC regarding a date for installing the Jubilee Flower Bed. Ian Harland said he will schedule a date soon and will let us know. LB to follow up before next meeting.

LB sent a detailed email stating why the PC object to the asset transfer of the Roseberry playing fields to Hilda Park FC.

Allotment tenant Colin Henderson has kindly replaced the tap near Plot 61.

LB has contacted Greenfingers asking them again to inspect and repair the Memorial Garden paving. There are at least three loose paving slabs now.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

11.1 Monthly Accounts and January invoices.

The expenditure for January was reviewed and agreed.

11.2 3rd Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation and bank statement we reviewed and agreed.

12. ITEMS TO FOLLOW UP NEXT MEETING

The February meeting agenda will include:

- Events 2022
- Platinum Jubilee
- Memorial Garden & Tubs
- Newsletter

The next Parish meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2021** business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 20.31 hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING

102012		L Blondrage	January pay 4 weeks
101013		L Blondrage	Home working allowance
101014		D Johnston	January pay 4 weeks
101015		HMRC	January PAYE 4 weeks
101016		Colin Henderson	Replacement tap nr P61
101017		DTE Landscapes	Lights and tubs
101018		Wave	Water Allotments