



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2022 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Cllr Rowe put herself forward for the Chairs position. The PCs unanimously agreed.

Cllr Wake put himself forward for the Vice Chairs position by email prior to the meeting. The PCs unanimously agreed.

2. COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Mrs. D Rowe, Mr J Tate, Mrs A Bell and Mrs. M Duncan.

County Councillor – Mr. D. Wood

Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, Mr B. Howlett, Mr. J Rochester, Mrs C. Dodd, Mr C. Adamson, Mr P. Pringle and Mr N. Badger OCA.

3. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr A. Wake, Cllr Brown, County Councillor Batey

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Previous minutes agreed.

6. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

Mrs Dodd asked if the yellow lines at St Benet's School can be extended. CC Wood said he will contact Highways to see if the consultation is still open and if the lines can be extended.

Mrs Dodd said that footpaths in the village are a hazard for people with mobility issues. Vehicles parking on paths are also an ongoing issue and asked if it could be mentioned in the newsletter again. Mrs Dodd asked if the CCs could raise it. Mr Pringle said it is an issue everywhere. The CC's asked the enforcement team to visit Brecon Place in Perkinsville and letters were sent to vehicle owners.

Mrs Dodd and Mr Adamson spoke about their concerns regarding the bus consultation. LB had also received a phone call and an email from two concerned residents. LB filled in the online Go Northern consultation and wrote a letter to Stephen King at Go Northern on behalf of the PC's. The letter discusses how bus services are vital to Ouston as school children, commuters and other residents use the bus to travel to school, work, medical appointment, shopping and social trips. Removal of services will cause a massive disruption and stress to residents as well as causing damage to the environment (less buses more taxis and cars contributing to an increase in climate change). CC Wood said the services the Local Authority are most concerned about are the 28, 28a and 25. CC Wood encouraged residents to respond to the consultation.

Mr Adamson asked if we could fly the Ukrainian flag on our flagpole. Cllr Bell explained that the PC must be impartial when it comes to religion and politics and not all residents would agree to it being flown.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

CC Wood spoke about the traffic concerns raised in the Parish Assembly. He said that the CC's had asked for a weight restriction to be placed on Ouston Lane but the application was rejected as the criteria was not met.

CC Wood said he is still waiting for the report detailing the outcome of the traffic survey. CC Wood said that the traffic calming scheme is part of a bigger project and the Parishes will receive match funding from the CC's. Ouston's scheme will differ from the other Parishes as we already have speed cushions on Ouston Lane in the village.

CC Wood said the CC's have supported the Platinum Jubilee projects in the division and Ouston Community Association has been awarded £300 for their party on Friday 3rd June.

The Selective Licencing discount available for landlords will end at the end of July. Anyone applying for a licence will receive a discount if they apply in time.

There was a fly tipping conviction relating to an offence committed on Baytree Terrace. The conviction was possible due to the covert cameras purchased by the CC's. The perpetrator was a local person.

There has been a request made by a local resident for a fenced off dog exercising area at Ross Park. CC Batey will look into.



CC Wood said Karbon Homes are planning to reduce their grass cutting schedules from 16-8 per year. CC Wood sent an email response stating that large grassed areas will look unsightly and added that the residents pay a service charge to Karbon for services which include grass cutting and asked will the charge be reduced if the grass cutting is reduced.

CC Wood said that there have been some recent queries regarding Parish Boundaries. If the PC would like to review and extend the Parish Boundary, he can ask DCC for further information. The PC's asked CC Wood to gain more information and report back to the PC.

CC Wood read out the following updates from the last meeting:

CC Wood emailed Clean and Green about the bedding plants. Response - Residents can ask teams if they can take the old plants when they are being removed.

CC Wood emailed the parks officer and the officer from Clean and Green who deals with signage about the lack of dog fouling / PSPO signs at The Brooms and Ross Park. The signs have been replaced however, they will be monitored as DCC suspect someone is removing them.

CC Wood will pass on the details of the Neighbourhood Warden dealing with the report about the dog being let out onto farmland. LB to contact the farmer.

Regarding the bus shelter near Turnberry. CC Wood and Cllr Tate walked along to the bus stop after the meeting and took some new photos. CC Wood emailed the officer responsible saying we have all reported this several times and either it's been missed or it's in need of repair / replacement rather than cleaning. He had an email response back stating:

Clean and Green have been out to this shelter and attempted to clean it.

From your photos, I believe it is more a case of looking its age.

I will have a look at its structural integrity and either give the shelter a full refurb (which consists of our in-house contractor stripping back the paint, a full repaint and replacing all the required panels), or add it to the list for this financial year's replacements if it is showing signs of structural deterioration.

CC Wood contacted Mrs Dodd regarding the Leisure consultation. He has shared with her the emails that he has received and have also written to the Cabinet Member as it is still not live.

CC Wood and Cllr Tate inspected a potential trip hazard on edge of dropped kerb close to 6 Atoll. CC Wood reported it and it will be repaired in the next three months.

CC Wood and Cllr Tate inspected hedges obstructing the footpath behind Iris Crescent, as well as trip hazard from paving stone and height and impact of Leylandii in garden of a property. CC Wood has reported this to Karbon Homes the land owner and is waiting for a response.

CC Wood requested that the bin next to the bus stop at Turnberry to be replaced. It was in a poor state and didn't appear to close properly. The bin has now been replaced.

8. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Tate said there has been reports that tenants are attaching their hoses to the taps. The PC reminded tenants that, as per rule 8.2 The tenant shall have consideration at all times for other tenants when extracting water from water points. No hoses are to be used at any time to water gardens. Hoses can only be used to fill water butts during the dry months. Any tampering with the water supply, for example to lead an offshoot from the main supply into a garden, will lead to termination of tenancy. Mr Pringle said it's a common occurrence and he has spoken to tenants about using hoses on the taps. Mrs Dodd suggested that Mr Pringle report issues to LB and she can send letters to the tenants who are not adhering to the rules. LB to display a poster reminding tenants of the rules.

LB received an email from an allotment tenant regarding the unsightly scrap pile. They said, another allotment tenant has said they will clear all broken glass from the metal heap. Tenants on the site think that we should get rid of that scrap heap altogether. The tenant suggested that once it is clear a nice barrel planter should be put there with flowers in, they would be happy to ensure it is watered. The heap gets all sorts thrown over the fence from the lane and is an eye sore! They will speak to the OAA about this too. It was suggested that the adjacent plot be extended. Mr Pringle said the tenant will probably decline the offer as they halved their plot a few years ago. The PC are concerned the planter won't be maintained.

9. NEWSLETTER

Cllr Rowe said there were some queries relating to the poster we were including regarding the Jubilee event. The poster was removed and the pages will be filled with other Parish information such as overgrown bushes, parking on paths and reminding drivers that children will be playing out in the better weather.



10. **OCA DONATION REQUEST – CAR PARK RESURFACING**

Mr Badger from OCA attended the meeting to ask if the PC could contribute to the resurfacing of the car park. Mr Badger said when they received the original quote, they applied for £16,000 of 106 funding to cover the costs. Due to the rising cost of materials, there is a shortfall of £2702 and asked the PC if they could help cover it. The PC's asked if they'd approached Uxton PC as residents from other Parishes use the centre. Mr Badger said no. The PC's considered the requested and offered to contribute £1500 to help cover the additional costs.

11. **2022 PARISH EVENTS AND SUBGROUP MEMBERS**

Best Allotment & Runner up 2022 - Cllrs Bell and Tate.

Best Residential Garden & Runner up 2022 – Cllrs Duncan and Rowe

Christmas Tree Lighting – Saturday 3rd December. May be to coincide with a Christmas Event in the Community Centre.

Christmas Lights Competition 2022 – Cllrs Rowe and Duncan - The Christmas Lights competition 2022 will be judged mid-December.

12. **QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENT – REVISED DONATION REQUEST**

The event at the community centre is free of charge to attend and the OCA asked if PCs could contribute any monies. The CC's have supported the event by awarding a £300 grant that the OCA applied for. Uxton PC have agreed to contribute £250 and the OCA have a reserve of £600 to cover costs. The PC's agreed to contribute £250 to the event.

13. **MEMORIAL GARDEN AND VILLAGE TUBS**

Cllr Brown weeded the memorial garden and jubilee garden. The OAA Chair will be planting his poppies around the edge in the next week or so, Cllr Brown will plant the perennial poppies soon. The jubilee garden is a big let-down, only 1 rose is coming which is due to lack of watering. They have replaced 3 of them but the same fate will await them if they are not watered for the first 7 days. Cllr Brown has planted a further 3 in pots (1 at the association allotment, which the OAA Chair will look after and 2 with Cllr Brown, these won't be planted up until he is sure that they are strong enough to survive. LB to email DCC to check DCC's watering schedule.

Cllr Brown will visit memorial garden and jubilee garden at least once in a week during June and the following months and he will be in touch to arrange the tub planting in June.

Cllr Tate said four of the Laurel plants have been snapped. We will monitor to see if they will recover.

14. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Plaque

We now have the Commemorative plaque for the Rosebed. Sam Davies will fit it and set in concrete.

Bench

We now have planning permission for the bench and LB has ordered it. The bench will be situated near the flagpole and will overlook Penshaw. LB has contacted DCC Clean and Green and asked them to supply and fit paving stones for £150.00

AGAR 2021/2022

AGAR has been approved by the Internal Auditor. AGAR now submitted to Mazars for the External Audit.

Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Pelton PC recently held a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting to look into the feasibility to commence a Neighbourhood Plan. One of the suggestions from the Working Group was to invite representatives of neighbouring Parish Councils to an information meeting. The intention is to ask Stuart Carter, DCC Senior Planner to attend and talk to us all along with maybe a representative from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. The PC's said they will confirm someone will attend once a date has been set.

15. **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

15.1 **Standing Orders**

Reviewed and approved.

15.2 **Financial Regulations**

Reviewed and approved.

15.3 **Asset Register**

Reviewed and approved.

15.4 **Risk Assessment**

Reviewed and approved



16. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

16.1 Monthly Accounts & May Invoices

The expenditure for May was reviewed and agreed.

16.2 Insurance Renewal Quote

The Parish insurance policy is due for renewal and the renewal premium is £827.57 including tax. Last year the cost was £811.37. The PCs agree to renew.

17. Items to Follow Up for Next Meeting

The June Monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Newsletter
- Jubilee Bench
- Allotments

The Monthly meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 23RD 2022** at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 20.39 hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING

102039		L Blondrage	May pay 4 weeks
102040		L Blondrage	May HWA
102041		D Johnston	May pay 4 weeks
102042		HMRC	May pay 4 weeks
102043		Gordon Fletcher	Internal Audit 2021/22
102044		OCA	Donation Car Park