



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD JUNE 2022 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM.

1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chair Mrs. D Rowe, Mr J Tate and Mrs. M Duncan.

County Councillor – Mrs A. Batey

Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, Mr B. Howlett and Mr D. Hindmarch OCA.

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr A. Wake, Cllr Brown and Cllr Bell and County Councillor Wood

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Previous minutes agreed.

5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

Mr Howlett said during the recent strong winds, a canopy has been blown into his garden. If the owners would like to collect it, he has still has it. Please contact the clerk if it is yours.

Mr Howlett broke the sad news that Mr Rochester, a regular attendee of the PC meetings is unwell and is in hospital. Mr Rochester has served in the past as a Parish Cllr and a County Cllr. Cllr Rowe said that she will get a card and all the PCs can sign it. All present at the meeting, said they hoped Mr Rochester would get well soon.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

CC Batey said the DCC Plan for 2022-2026 was approved and would be reviewed annually at a full council meeting.

CC Batey said it is proposed the former Durham Light Infantry building is to be extended and repurposed as an art gallery. A few items of the DLI collection may be displayed there. The majority of the DLI collection will be displayed at the former Mount Oswald site which will be called the History Centre at Mount Oswald.

CC Batey said Durham missed out on the City of Culture 2024 Bid. However, Durham will be awarded £125,000. CC Batey said she proposed that the £125,000 was topped up by £15,000 from reserves and shared amongst the 14 AAPs. The opposition voted against it. If you would like further information, please contact CC Batey.

CC Batey gave an update on the proposals affecting the bus services. 9000 people responded to the Go Northern consultation. The outcome was that the 28 will continue through Ouston, the 28a has been replaced by a new service, the 29. DCC will fund the route but it might not be operated by Go Northern. The 28b will continue on an evening. The 34 remains the same. See Go North East's website or OPC's website under consultations for further details.

CC Batey said the Riverside Complex consultation was now live. The are proposals to re do areas of the Riverside Complex such as the football pitches, running tracks, and cricket area. The works will not encroach on the conservation area.



CC Batey said parking issues around Ouston Primary cul de sacs continue. CC Batey met with DCC Highways to look at the hammer head signage.

CC Batey said Karbon Homes proposed reducing their cutting schedules from every two weeks to every four weeks to create ecology corridors. An issue has been reported in the Oval which CC Batey will look at.

CC Batey said she raised a parking issue in the street behind the petrol station in a previous meeting. She updated that lines have now been putting place to help resolve parking issues.

7. ALLOTMENTS

7.1 Livestock Consultation

To be put on the next agenda

7.2 Pest Control

An allotment tenant has asked if he can set his own traps as the poisoned dead rats are being pecked at by his chickens and it's making them unwell. The PCs said the OAA Board need to speak to the Pest Controller to see if this is possible.

7.3 Ouston Allotment Association Meetings

The meetings previously took place at the Red Lion Pub which unfortunately is currently closed. LB said the Red Lion has been taken over by new management and may reopen soon. It was suggested that the OAA could use the Ranch but some of the OAA members don't want to use the Ranch as they aren't members and don't want to pay the Subs. It was suggested that the OAA could speak to the OCA about using the Centre short term. Cllr Tate said he will speak to OCA and the OAA Chair and Treasurer. Mr Hindmarch (OCA) suggested that the OAA hold their Autumn show their too. This would be a great opportunity for the OAA to show their produce to the community which will raise awareness of our Allotments and encourage new visitors the Community Centre.

Mr Hindmarsh also added that the OCA hoped to form a group called the "Friends of Ouston Community Association" which will plan and host events in the Community Centre. The events will coincide with important dates such as Remembrance, Christmas and school holidays. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ouston Community Centre. LB added that the OPC Christmas Tree Lighting event is to be held on Saturday 3rd December and suggested the OCA held a Christmas event to coincide. Mr Hindmarch said he would suggest it to the OCA Board.

8. MEMORIAL GARDEN AND VILLAGE TUBS

Cllr Brown weeded the memorial garden and jubilee garden. The OAA Chair Dave Kennedy has planted his poppies around the edge in the next week or so, Cllr Brown will plant the perennial poppies soon. The PC's said they would like to say a huge thank you to Dave Kennedy who waters the Rosebed and Memorial Garden.

Cllr Tate said four of the Laurel plants have been snapped. We will monitor to see if they will recover. LB said she looked the price of tree sapling protectors and a pack of 20, 24" ones on Amazon are £13.99.

9. PARISH BOUNDARIES



At the last meeting CC Wood asked if OPC would like to extend its boundary. CC Batey said it would be a lengthy process and UPCs Clerk was looking into it.

10. JUBILEE EVENT AND ROSE GARDEN

The PC's said the Jubilee Event held in Ouston Community Centre was a tremendous success. The event was attended by residents from Ouston and Urpeth Parishes. The feedback from attendees was all positive and a good time was had by all. Clare Marshall (OCA) worked extremely hard, planning it to ensure it would be a success and on the day. Thanks to Cllrs Rowe, Duncan and Bell, and OCA Volunteers for their help with planning too. Huge thanks go to Cllrs Tate, Rowe and Duncan, and CC Batey and Norman Badger (OCA) for their hard work and dedication helping on the day to make it a huge success. CC Batey said the event was attended by a couple who originally took part in the original Buy a Brick scheme. They were pleased to see the Centre was still thriving. CC Batey praised the PCs who have obtained the Food Hygiene qualification to enable them to help out at the events. Cllr Duncan encouraged more volunteers to complete the qualification.

LB said the company the PC placed the bench order with have not confirmed receipt of the order and are not responding to emails or phone calls. LB sent an email to cancel the order due to their lack of communication. LB contacted another two companies for prices. CC Batey told LB to ask DCC for a price too. LB to source price to be discussed at the next meeting.

11. CLERK'S REPORT

Planning

A request has been received from the owners of 36 and 37 Turnberry, Ouston to purchase land in between their gardens. The area would be used as garden land. The PCs said they had no objections. CC Batey said many residents have double dropped kerbs now as most households have more than one vehicle. This is affecting parking for visitors, as it is reducing the areas they can park. She added that in her street visitors were parking on bends which is dangerous. LB said residents parking on their drives was more beneficial, as a major issue in streets is cars parking on the roads. Having wider drives with dropped kerbs is helping to reduce cars parking on the roads. LB said visitors could possibly park across the dropped kerb of the property they are visiting.

Email Update from Chester Le Street Neighbourhood team

Chester Le Street Neighbourhood team have been involved in a rural crime operation with the aim of addressing concerns raised to us by people who live and work in our rural communities. Alongside the main concern of poaching, we have been looking at the use of 4x4 vehicles and off-road bikes that have been destroying land and crops along with fly tipping that is becoming a major issue across our area. We also have problems with ASB with people setting fires and leaving rubbish behind. All the above are unacceptable in any of our communities, but with people in rural areas feeling more isolated, it is important to give the re-assurance that they are not left alone and that your local policing team are actively working to tackle the issues that you raised to us. PCSO Mark Lumsden is the point of contact for any issues relating to our rural communities and can be contacted via E-Mail at mark.lumsden@durham.police.uk, please get in touch if you have anything you would like to discuss. #opgalileo Chester Le Street Neighbourhood team have been involved in a rural crime operation with the aim of addressing concerns raised to us by people who live and work in our rural communities. Alongside the main concern of poaching, we have been looking at the use of 4x4 vehicles and off-road bikes that have been destroying land and crops along with fly tipping that is becoming a major issue across our area. We also have problems with ASB with people setting fires and leaving rubbish behind. All the above are unacceptable in any of our communities, but with people in rural



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Emergency Planning

CDALC sent the Clerk an email as they hope to encourage as many councils as possible to pull a Plan together for their community. To assist this process, they have already held an in-person event and will be making the same information available again via a Zoom information session. LB will be attending the meeting on behalf of the PC.

CC Batey said she has been contacted by residents regarding the condition of the garage block in Arcadia. They are in a poor condition and an eyesore. She has suggested they could be demolished and the area could provide additional parking, which will help ease the parking issues in Arcadia. CC Batey has referred it to DCC Building Enforcement and the Neighbourhood Warden.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.1 Monthly Accounts & June Invoices

The expenditure for June was reviewed and agreed.

13. Items to Follow Up for Next Meeting

The July Monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Jubilee Bench
- Allotments – Livestock, Pest Control
- Newsletter – delivery price.

The Monthly meeting will be held on THURSDAY 28TH JULY 2022 at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 20.35 hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING

102045		L Blondrage	June pay 4 weeks
102046		L Blondrage	June HWA
102047		D Johnston	June pay 4 weeks
102048		HMRC	June pay 4 weeks
102049		OCA	Donation for Jubilee Event
102050		Zurich	Insurance 2022-23
102051		Lifestyle Print	Summer Newsletter
102052		Wave Anglian Water	Allotment water



102053

Sam Davies Property Maint

Plaque Inst Rosebed