



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF  
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE  
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM.**

**1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Chair Mr. A Wake, Mrs. A Bell, Mrs. M Duncan and Mr. J Tate

**County Councillor** – Mrs. A Batey, Mr. P Pringle and Mr. D. Wood

**Other Attendees** – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, OCA Board Member Audrey Stephenson and Resident Mrs. C. Dodd

**2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Cllr D. Rowe

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022**

Previous minutes agreed and accepted.

**5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS**

No representations made.

**6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

7.03pm – CC Paul Pringle entered the meeting.

The CC Report was presented by CC Wood with CC Batey and CC Pringle.

**Drop Kerbs**

Concerns were raised in a previous meeting regarding accessibility for wheelchair users and pushchairs near the charity shop and chapel. CC Wood handed out a map showing proposed drop kerbs in that area. CC Wood said if there were any other access concerns, to raise them as soon as possible as the area was currently under review. Cllr Bell was approached by a resident concerned about accessibility on Aberfoyle. CC Wood said he could check.

**Highways Traffic Calming Scheme Proposals**

CC Wood said that the revised draft traffic calming scheme report had been sent out to all three Parish Council's in Pelton Division. He said it was sent to PCs to enable Parish Councillors to review the proposals and feedback their views of support or whether they would suggest alternatives. Once the feedback from PC's is received by DCC Highways via CC Wood, a public consultation will be held and proposals will be shared with residents. CC Wood stated that Neighbourhood budget funding would cover the majority of costs and the CCs would be looking for PC contributions.

CC Wood said he would like the PCs to feedback their thoughts on the types of proposed schemes and would like an indication whether the PCs would support the schemes or not. Cllr Bell asked would the proposed speed cushions be similar to the ones on Fell Bank in Birtley? Cllr Bell felt the Fell Bank cushions are too severe and could cause damage to vehicles. CC Wood said they could be bolted ones and said there have been many complaints from Ouston residents regarding speeding through Ouston. CC Wood encouraged PCs to state what they would remove (if anything) and what they would like to see.



ClIr Wake said OPC's would send their feedback by email to the Clerk then they will be forwarded to CC Wood.

ClIr Bell asked if Highways would consider traffic lights on the A693 "Sausage A Bout" to deter commuters cutting through our village. CC Batey said this is not part of the consultation and the SAB is still being looked at as a separate issue. CC Batey said there will be huge costs involved.

The CC's stated that the issues on Milbanke are not included in the proposed scheme. The scheme is only for traffic travelling through the village.

#### Local Government Boundary Review

CC Wood said DCC are to review the number of County Councillors in County Durham. It has been proposed that DCC will reduce the number of CCs from 126 to 100 or less. Once the review ends it will go to a public consultation for residents, online.

#### Riverside Stadium Consultation

As reported in the last meeting, the consultation was withdrawn. CC Batey attended a meeting to discuss play provision. CC Batey asked if the Roseberry playing field could be taken into consideration in this consultation. The playing fields changing facilities were paid for using Pelton Division Neighbourhood Budget money but were being solely used by a club outside of our division. CC Wood added that local MP Kevan Jones has written a letter of concern.

#### PACT Christmas Event

CC Batey said the PACT Event would take place in another location as they held the Santa in a Van last year in the OCA car park (as well as other locations) and the PACT Party in Ouston Community Centre in December 2019.

The Community Centre are planning a Craft Fair to coincide with the Christmas Lights event.

ClIr Bell raised concerns over the condition of the road on Aberfoyle. ClIr Bell to send photographs to the clerk so she can report it on DCC Do It Online for repair.

## **7. OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### **7.1 Review of Donation Amount**

LB asked, should the £2000 donation be given in April at the beginning of the financial year, currently given at the end? The PC's agreed.

LB asked, should we set a separate amount in our budget for contributions to events that OCA Hold, that benefit the community like children's parties and coffee mornings for adults (preventing loneliness)? ClIr Wake said the PC would discuss donations in the next meeting as 2023-24 Budget Proposals is on the agenda.

LB said she has emailed OCA 2 cost of living grant opportunities, one from AAP and one from energy companies. LB emailed another AAP funding opportunity for £500 and over for Christmas holidays 2022 – the closing date is 17<sup>th</sup> October.

OCA were successful in securing AAP funding for half term activities in the Community Centre. OCA have asked if all three PCs would be willing to contribute £100 per PC towards the cost of the Halloween Party. The PC's agreed.



## 8. ALLOTMENTS

### Livestock Consultation Proposals

LB contacted CDALC asking “after the foot and mouth outbreak, was some sort of policy / legislation passed stating that Parish Councils must have a livestock register for their allotment sites.

CDALC replied – “It is possible that there were requirements around the time of Foot and Mouth. It’s no doubt good practice for you to have a record of what livestock is kept on your allotments but I suspect it might be quite a job to secure a complete record. They also imagined that it wouldn’t be prescribed by legislation as it’s such a difficult record to compile and keep updated and the govt would know it would be tricky for councils to comply.” However, the PC agreed that we should have a record of which plots have livestock in case of an infectious disease outbreak such as Avian Flu. Cllr Bell and Cllr Tate said they would record it during the next inspection which will take place next year.

Cllr Bell said the inspections were left too late this year and the PC’s agreed that the inspections would be carried out earlier next year, in March / April then in August / September.

### OAA Rents

It has been previously discussed that there should be a three-tier system for rents depending on the plot size. Currently £50 full plot £45 half. Cllr Bell and Cllr Tate will review the rents and feedback in November’s meeting. LB to send costs to Cllrs Bell and Tate. CC Pringle said he thought the PC had to give 12 months’ notice of a rent increase. LB to check.

**Post Meeting Note:** As stated in the current Allotment Tenancy Agreement dated 24.01.2020 - 3.2 Any rent increase will be notified by the Council to the Tenant via the Allotment Association and posted on the OAA noticeboard within four weeks of the precept being confirmed.

### Skip

LB said usually provide an annual skip and asked if she could order one? The PC’s agreed.

### Pest Control

Pest Control resumed on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

### Allotment Inspections

The results of the Inspection carried out by Cllrs Bell and Tate and Eric Brown OAA on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

Failed Inspection – 8 plots did not have 50% cultivation

Failed Inspection on Tree and Hedges – 11 plots require their hedges cutting back

Letters posted on Tue 30<sup>th</sup> August – the follow up inspections took place 10<sup>th</sup> September, 7 hedges still to be cut back, LB has sent tenants another letter, for reinspection on 20<sup>th</sup> October. We now have 2 vacant plots. OAA to contact residents on the waiting list. LB said there are currently 3 OPC residents on the waiting list and 30 from other Parishes.

## 9. CLERK’S REPORT

### Autumn and Winter Events

#### Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November

LB asked CC Batey to source a Bugler. The PC agreed to pay the Bugler £20.00.

LB has ordered the Wreath and 10 Wooden Crosses from RBL.



### **Christmas Tree Lights 2022**

The Event is scheduled for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm. LB said the Trees are ordered. One to be located at Cooks Corner and the other one at the top of Ouston Bank on Turnberry side. Down to Earth Landscapes are booked and confirmed for week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Christmas Lights – Residents Competition**

Cllr Duncan and Cllr Rowe to discuss a date to judge.

### **Jubilee Rose bed**

The PC agreed to purchase another 3 roses to make 7. CC Pringle said he has a volunteer to water the Rosebed during dry spells.

### **Noticeboards**

LB ordered three noticeboards in October 2020. Despite being promised them several times, we still haven't received them so LB cancelled them as the company could not guarantee a delivery date. The PC agreed they only need one now to replace the one at the Community Centre and LB can source one from an approved company costing £1485 plus VAT. OCA will be given the old board located at the community centre. The PC agreed that OCA can display two landscape A5 posters in the current board as there is limited space.

## **10. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL**

### **10.1 Monthly Accounts & September Invoices**

The expenditure for September was reviewed and agreed.

## **11. ITEMS TO FOLLOW UP FOR NEXT MEETING**

The October Monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Allotments – Rent Review
- OCA Donation
- Events – Autumn and Winter
- 2023-24 Proposed Budget Items to be discussed at the next meeting.

**The Monthly meeting will be held on THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.**

### **The Parish Council meeting closed at 20.26 hours.**

#### **APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING**

<b>cheq nbr</b>	<b>Paid to</b>	<b>Description</b>
102064	L Blondrage	September pay 5 weeks
102065	L Blondrage	September HWA
102066	D Johnston	September pay 5 weeks
102067	HMRC	September PAYE 5 weeks
102068	Angian Water Bus Nat	Wave - Allot Water Jn-Spt
102069	DCC	Website - 2022-2023
102070	OCA	Room hire Jan-Dec 2022
102071	Mazars	Audit 2021-22