DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2023 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 Councillors – Mr. D. Wood and Mr. P Pringle
Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, Norman Badger OCA Board Member and Residents - Mr. B. Howlett and Mr K. Dunn

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr Rowe and CC Batey

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 15TH DECEMBER 2022

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. PRESENTATION OF PRIZES TO GARDEN & CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION WINNERS

Cllr Duncan presented Mr Dunn, who is the Christmas Lights runner up with his prize and thanked him for displaying lights that brought pleasure to passing residents. Cllr Duncan thanked residents for their efforts to make our village a more pleasant place to live, by tending to their gardens and displaying Christmas decorations. Cllr Bell thanked Cllrs Rowe and Duncan for walking round the village judging the Gardens and lights.

2022 Competition Winners

Garden Winner – 9 Abingdon	Garden Runner Up – 9 Cromarty
Christmas Lights Winner – 75 Turnberry	Christmas Lights Runner Up – 23 Ross

6. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

Mr Howlett spoke to CC Wood regarding the overflowing litterbins. Mr Howlett sent a request to DCC requesting that the bins are emptied more frequently. CC Wood said the bins weren't emptied due to staff holidays over Christmas. Mr Howlett said they have now been emptied.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

CC Wood presented the CC report.

CC Wood said that the Chester Le Street Police's Santa in a van was a huge success again. The van visited 6 locations and were well attended. The feedback from attendees was positive and there were a lot of letters sent to Santa via the letterboxes at the events.

The County Councillors are also looking at additional grit bin locations. CC Wood said the CCs would only pay for the capital costs from the Neighbourhood budget if PCs agreed to cover the long term maintenance costs thereafter. PCs to suggest locations if needed.

CC Wood said that the DCC Consultation for the Wynd in Pelton is still live if any residents would like to share their views. The proposals are to sell the existing play area to a housing developer.

CC Wood said a consultation will be launched soon regarding the Customer Access points. For more information contact the CCs.

The Local Boundary Review consultation is still live and will close on the 30th January. LB to respond on behalf of OPC. The PCs were asked to respond individually too. CC Wood encouraged residents to share their views on the consultation as it is proposed that the DCC CCs will be reduced from 128 to 98. Ouston, Urpeth and Pelton PCs are currently part of Pelton Division which has 3 CCs (CC Batey, Wood and Pringle). The 3 PCs within Pelton Division work together on Remembrance service schedules, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Civil Contingency Plan. Ouston Community Centre within Ouston Parish is the only community asset this side on the A693 which is also used by residents from the surrounding Parishes. It would be beneficial if Ouston PC remained apart of Pelton Division.

CC Wood said the LA 7 will cover from Berwick to Barnard Castle and a Regional Mayor will be elected. CC Wood said there will be more updates to follow.

CC Wood attended a meeting with Highways regarding potential road safety schemes last week. CC Wood said there are eight additional elements to the original proposals. CC Wood requested a revised report from Highways which should be late April / May. CC Wood will contact a resident with an update.

CC Wood said the Byron Street Planning Application should be going to Planning Committee soon. Cllr Wake suggested that the PCs send their views individually to DCC.

8. <u>OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE</u>

Mr Badger said the Christmas event had been a huge success and the OCA Board were planning events for February Half Term and Easter Holidays. Mr Badger said the proposed February Half Term event was dependant on funding. The Easter events will be ticketed and a small charge will apply. During the Easter holidays there will be an Easter Egg trail and Easter Crafts.

Mr Badger said the OCA will be celebrating their 50th Birthday this year. In April there are two events planned to celebrate. On Friday 14th April there will be a 70s kid's disco and on Saturday 15th April there will be a 70s Concert and Afternoon tea for Adult's. Mr Badger asked for donation of prizes for raffles and tombolas. OCA have asked residents for any photographs from the 1970s taken in the Community Centre. The photos will be copied and returned.

Cllr Tate asked Mr Badger to ensure that OCA Board members volunteering on the event dates hold a Food Hygiene Certificate. Mr Badger said he would feedback the comments to the OCA Board.

The PCs asked if there were any OCA plans for King Charles III Coronation? OPC to discuss at the next PC meeting.

LB to ask Cllr Rowe for the date of the next Newsletter.

9. <u>PARISH PRECEPT 2023-2024</u>

Due to the cost of living crisis, the PC agreed to keep the Parish Precept at £36,000.

The Chair Cllr Wake, and the Clerk and Responsible Financial Office Lisa Blondrage, signed the Precept.

10. <u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>

An Allotment Tenant asked LB if the Avian Flu restrictions were still in place. LB checked the latest Government guidance and the restrictions are still in place. Cllr Bell said there is still a tenant on site who has not covered their birds. LB to send a letter.

LB said the rents will be collected on Saturdays in March. Cllr Bell said if the rents were not paid by the 1st April, tenants may lose their allotment. LB said some rents last year were still

outstanding in June 2022. LB said she logs the time on her weekly timesheet for collecting rents on Saturdays.

As raised earlier due to the Christmas break and staff sickness the village bins were not emptied and were overflowing. It was reported to LB by two PCs and a resident twice. LB reported the bins before Christmas and on the 2nd December via DCC Do it Online.

It was previously agreed that the PC would replace the noticeboard near the community centre. The current noticeboard will be donated to OCA. The PC agreed that LB would purchase the noticeboard from Parish Noticeboards as it was the cheapest. The money has been held in reserve since 2020 to replace this noticeboard. The A1 board will cost £2080 plus VAT.

LB responded to the online Roseberry Playing Fields Leisure Consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

As agreed earlier, LB will respond to the Local Boundaries Review Consultation on behalf of the PC.

The PC agreed that all three areas, Pelton, Urpeth and Ouston will be part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The PC agreed that Pelton PC will take the lead and the plan will be named the Pelton, Urpeth and Ouston Neighbourhood plan.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

11.1 Monthly Accounts & January Invoices
The expenditure for January was reviewed by the PC's.

11.2 3rd Quarterly Bank Reconciliation
The Bank Reconciliation and bank statements were reviewed by the PC.

11.3 Discuss transfer of funds from OPC current account to the deposit account.
The PC agreed for Cllr Wake to move £20,000 to the savings account.

12. Items to Follow Up for Next Meeting

The January Monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Newsletter
- 2023 Events including King Charles III Coronation

The Monthly meeting will be held on THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2023 at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda. The Parish Council meeting closed at 20.15 hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING

Chq Nbr	Paid to	Description
102092	L Blondrage	January pay 4 weeks
102093	L Blondrage	January HWA
102094	D Johnston	January pay 4 weeks
102095	HMRC	January pay 4 weeks
102096	Down to Earth	Christmas Trees & Lights
102097	NSALG	Membership Fees 2023
102098	Wave Water	Allotment water 11Sep-10Dec