DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2023 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM.

1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chair Mrs. D Rowe, Mr A Wake, Mr. J Tate, Mrs. A Bell,
County Councillors – Mrs. A Batey, Mr. D. Wood and Mr. P Pringle
Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, OCA Chair Mr. S Routledge and Resident Mr. B Howlett.

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr M Duncan

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 23rd MARCH 2023

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

BH asked what was happening with the Jubilee bed. Cllr Bell said Cllr Tate had visited the Rosebed to weed it and remove any dead plants. Cllr Bell asked LB to find out what was included in the maintenance contract. LB added that Eric Brown has planted 3 well rooted roses in the Jubilee bed. That will give us 4 roses. Eric will order a further 3 to give us what we originally planned. However, as they are bare rooted Eric is reluctant to put them into the bed until they are more established. He believes that the best way is for him to put them in pots at the Allotment Association until they are well rooted and ready to be placed in the bed. The PC agreed.

BH said he was pleased with Cllr Tate and Cllr Bell's involvement with the allotments. BH asked for the other PCs to visit the site as they collectively make the decisions. Cllr Rowe said she has visited site and added that the PC appoint Cllrs to Sub Committees to monitor the allotments and report back to the PC. CC Batey added it is good practice to have a Sub Committee and the other PCs to remain impartial to enable the PC to deal with any complaints unbiased. The PC said they would consider an annual walk around the allotment site and the village to ensure tenants know who they are.

BH asked if the PC had a Livestock register for the allotment site. LB said due to the ongoing issue of Avian Flu, the PC has a register of which plots have livestock with what type, but numbers fluctuate due to births and deaths. LB said DEFRA were currently holding a consultation to ask if the public would like all bird keepers to registered with DEFRA even if they only have one bird. The PC said that allotment tenants must raise grievances with the PC.
BH raised road safety again and asked what was happening. BH said road safety improvements will benefit elderly residents not just children. The CCs said DCC said the locations for the proposed additional speed visor posts were not viable. They added that

the Division wide scheme was ongoing at the moment and they could not allocate any of their Neighbourhood funding until the scheme has been agreed and approved.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

CC Wood presented the Councillors report supported by CC Pringle and CC Batey.

CC Wood said the CCs were waiting for the result of the Customer Access Point consultation.

There is a Fire Service Consultation which can be accessed by visiting https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CRMP23-24/

CC Wood gave an update on the Local Government Boundary Consultation. He said the draft recommendations are imminent and he will send to LB when he receives them.

CC Wood said the concerns he reported about the two trees are ongoing.

CC Wood said the footpath in the Oval will be inspected by Karbon homes and fixed. CC Wood will check with DCC about ownership.

CC Batey said Pelton Community Centre had put an application in for a large sum of 106 money which is allocated to be shared across the division. LB to email DCC and suggest that all Parishes in the division should be consulted regarding high value applications from the divisional pot of money. LB will also ask for OPC to be consulted about the application due to its high value.

CC Batey has asked all residents to report sightings of off-road bikes in public areas to 101.

CC Batey said the BMX track is ready to go but DCC need to wait for ground conditions to improve. It will hopefully be in place for the summer holidays.

CC Batey to check and follow up the pot hole repairs on Abingdon / Aberfoyle / Aberdeen.

CC Batey said that all street parties must be registered with the relevant organisations.

For more information on the CC report please contact the County Councillors.

7. OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chairperson Simon Routledge said their 50th Birthday events on Saturday 15th April were enjoyed by all. He thanked the volunteers and Cllr Duncan whose help was appreciated.

On Sunday 7th May the OCA are holding two events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III for adults and children. The children's event is 11.30 – 1.30 and the adult event is 2.30 – 4.30. Tickets can be bought by scanning the QR code on the posters or by purchasing from the OCA office.

SR said the OCA were purchasing some lockers and OPC will be allocated one for their post. LB said she would empty the OPC filing cabinet.

8. ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Plot 53b Structure

LB said the new tenants on 53b would like to build a green house or poly tunnel around 6ftx10ft or 2mx3m max dimensions and is planning on building a trestle structure from 3 x 100mm diameter posts of wood buried into the ground and cut off to make it the same height of the fence or the 1.8m/6ft rule The PC reviewed and approved the plans.

8.2 OAA Meeting

Cllr Tate said the OAA want to change the structure of the meeting. Cllr Tate added that he was disappointed as he invites tenants to the OPC meeting but no one attends.

9. EVENTS 2023

9.1 King Charles III Coronation

The PC provided a donation to the OCA, to enable them to purchase souvenirs for their event.

9.2 Jubilee Rosebed and Bench Updates

DCC have installed a metal wedge under the leg and painted it green. LB received the invoice for the Jubilee bench. LB sent it to planning and the OPC have received the 106 funding we applied for.

9.3 Schedule date for AGM

The PC agreed to hold the AGM on Thursday 25th May at 7pm. The Parish Assembly will be held on the same date at 6.30pm.

10. CLERK'S REPORT

Skip

A tenant asked when we were getting a skip? LB replied, OPC have not arranged a date for a skip yet as we made enquiries a while ago and had trouble sourcing one. At the time, it was put on hold. The previous skip companies we have used, won't deliver on to the site now as they say the gates aren't wide enough. We would have to find a place to locate it on highways / residential land, source permission to place it outside of the site on the street which will cost more money. In addition to this, we would also have to order a lockable skip, not an open skip as the public would use it, which costs more. LB tried other companies but they won't accept allotment waste for some reason or won't deliver through the gates? LB said she would raise it again in the next meeting but skip provision is not in the current rules and two of the neighbouring Parishes don't provide them either. The PC agreed that we cannot provide a skip that would be located outside the site. Cllr Wake said if companies changed their policy and could deliver on site, we would discuss skip provision again but at the moment we will not provide a skip.

Scrap Pile

LB inspected the scrap pile on site. LB said the area has been cleared many times and signs put up, but tenants repeatedly ignore the sign and continue to dump all sorts there, not just metal. When cleared the PC agreed to allow tenants to plant bulbs and flowers there.

Derelict Building on Plot 36

LB spoke to the tenant the derelict building / shed on plot 36.and he agrees its unsafe. LB said it could cause damage to his other structures such as his poly tunnel. He said the

building was on his plot when he took over the tenancy. He asked if we would take it down but LB said no as it will cost the PC money and other tenants will want the same service. LB suggested he take it down with help from family and friends and burn it in small quantities when the wind is in the right direction but LB said it is up to the PC. The PCs said the allotment sub committee would discuss it with the tenant at the next inspections.

Vacant Plots

Plots 2b and 29b are now vacant. Eric Brown OAA will contact the next two on the waiting list.

Rents

All rents are paid except for plot 2b and 29b as they are vacant.

Pest Control

Kevin Walker will continue Pest Control for 2023-24. Still visiting every two weeks. LB to email Cllr Tate and Cllr Bell the dates. Cllr Wake suggested revising the registering livestock with DEFRA Rule.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

11.1 Monthly Accounts & April Invoices

The expenditure for April was reviewed by the PC's.

11.2 Year End Bank Reconciliation

The PCs reviewed the Year End Bank Reconciliation

11.3 Approve AGAR 2023/2024 and appoint an internal auditor

The PC agreed to appoint Gordon Fletcher to internally audit the AGAR.
Cllr Rowe approved the AGAR and LB and Cllr Rowe signed the relevant AGAR documents.

12. Items to Follow Up for Next Meeting

The May Parish Assembly and AGM meeting agenda will include:

- Newsletter
- Allotments – scrap area
- Review of OPC Policies and Procedures
- DEFRA Livestock

The Annual General meeting will be held on 25th May 2023 at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 8.13pm hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING

102111		L Blondrage	April pay 4 weeks
102112		L Blondrage	April HWA
102113		D Johnston	April pay 4 weeks
102114		HMRC	April pay 4 weeks
102115		CDALC	Annual Subscription 2023/24
102116		DCC	Supply and install bench