DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 22ND JUNE 2023 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM.

1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chair Mr A Wake, Mrs. A Bell, Mrs. M Duncan, Mrs. D Rowe, Mr. J Tate
County Councillors –Mrs. A Batey, Mr. P Pringle and Mr. D. Wood
Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, OCA Board Member Mrs. C. Marshall, Resident Mr. B Howlett and another resident.

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 25TH MAY 2023

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

A resident raised their concerns regarding parking on the path on Arisaig and Ardrossan, particularly at school pick up and drop off times. They said it is dangerous, as accessibility and visibility is restricted due to the vehicles parking on the paths and on corners. They also added that the surface of the path was uneven. They said that there are 5 spaces near the shops but vehicles are parking on the path and a bollard that has recently been fixed is damaged again. The resident has reported concerns to DCC and asked if additional bollards can be installed. Cllr Wake said unfortunately it is an ongoing issue and the police won't do anything about it and DCC won't add additional bollards.

The resident said the derelict garages are unsightly and the debris is dangerous. CC Batey said the derelict garages have been assessed by DCC building control, they are privately owned belonging to the flats and shops on Arcadia and there is nothing DCC can do. CC Batey said she will check the damaged bollard. CC Batey said if residents report, by Do It Online, you get a log in, reference number and can residents can check on progress.

CC Batey said If the parked cars are really bad especially on school event days, residents can report it to 101.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

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

CC Wood said the grass cutters have nearly caught up but there are still some areas that need cutting. He added that new grass cutters are taking longer to be delivered which causes shortages.

CC Wood said a resident reported several areas that the grass was encroaching over the path. If DCC don't resolve the problem, the resident can notify CC Wood and he will follow it up.

Cllr Bell arrived at 7.18pm

CC Wood said that Highways had carried out a site visit regarding the Traffic Calming scheme. CC Wood is hoping to get match funding from the AAP.

CC Wood said that it is the Miners Gala in Durham on 8th July. The High Handenhold banner will be carried and if any one would like further information, please contact the CCs.

CC Wood said the Parish Councillors need to compile a list of green spaces with in their Parish for the Neighbourhood Plan.
CC Wood said there are road works on the A693 Pelton/ Perkinsville RAB on the weekend of 24th & 25th June.

CC Wood said the start date for the BMX track works will be announced soon.

7. OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Clare Marshall said the OCA Board have applied for planning permission for an Ouston Community Centre sign to be fitted on the junction of Greenford Lane and Iris Crescent.

The OCA applied for AAP Fun and Food Funding for the Summer holidays and were successful. The OCA will run Fun Time Fridays taking place over 5 weeks. There will be no session on the Friday of the bank holiday weekend.
Week 1 – DLA Kids – Sports Party
Week 2 – Angela's Ark – Exotic Animals
Week 3 – Mr Bubble – Balloon Animals
Week 4 – Art Ventures – Art Sessions
Week 5 – Teddy Bears Picnic – OCA

The sessions will include a meal and a snack for children and there are 30 places per session. Please contact OCA for more information.

The sessions are costing £2272 in total. OCA are contributing £607 plus free room hire and £ 1060 of AAP funding. OCA asked if OPC, UPC and the CC's will contribute £175 each to cover food costs. Cllr Wake said the donation request will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

8. ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Allotment Inspections

The allotment inspections were carried out on Tuesday 20th June. Cllr Bell and Cllr Tate joined the OAA board member to carry out the inspections. Cllr Tate said there are some allotments that aren't 50% and asked LB to send letters.

8.2 DEFRA Livestock Consultation

LB displayed a poster on the OAA Board stating that it is proposed that:
Currently, if you keep less than 50 birds it is not compulsory to register your flock with DEFRA. It is optional. DEFRA are holding an online consultation to ask whether it should be compulsory for all bird keepers to register their birds with DEFRA. The PC unanimously agreed that due to the ongoing threat of Avian Flu, all birds on site must be registered with DEFRA.
Tenants were asked to email the clerk any suggestions, objections or comments before Monday 19th June 6pm. LB has not received any feedback. Cllr Wake said the OAA could ask for feedback at their next meeting.

8.3 Leaking Taps

A tenant emailed LB to report that the tap near the weather vane is leaking. Cllr Wake asked LB to contact the tenant who repairs the taps to take a look and the PC will reimburse any costs.
Another tenant repaired the tap near the Lyne Close entrance, at no cost to the PC. The PC thanked him.

8.4 Scrap Area

LB sourced a price to clear the scrap area at the top gate. PFG Waste quoted £100 to clear it and provided LB with a copy of their waste disposal licence. The PC agreed the price and LB to ask the OAA to plant it to deter fly tipping. LB to display another notice.

9. AUTUMN AND WINTER NEWSLETTER

Cllr Rowe said any articles or information to be included must be sent to her by mid-August to allow distribution in September.

10. FLOWER TUBS

The OAA Chair and local resident has offered to source the plants for the tubs, plant them and will weed and water them through the summer months. The PC will reimburse any costs and thanked the resident for their efforts. Mr Howlett said the tub near the shop at Cannock belongs to the PC too.

Cllr Bell said the OAA Chair suggested the PC purchase a water trolley with solar panels to water the Memorial Garden and tubs. He suggested sourcing Lottery funding but Cllr Wake said the PC cannot apply due to being a Local Governing Body. However, the OAA could apply. The OAA Chair said the Memorial Garden alone took 80 Gallons of water in a year. He also waters the tubs. The PC will meet on Monday 26th June at 6.30pm to identify and inspect tubs.

11. CLERK'S REPORT

Neighbourhood Planning Group Meeting

The postponed NHPG meeting will take place on Monday 24th July at 6pm in Pelton Community Centre. A list of green spaces in Ouston Parish must be compiled.

Derelict Shed Waste

The tenant on plot 36 asked if the PC would pay for 4 industrial waste bags, containing the derelict shed, to be removed from his plot. The PC said no, as other tenants will make the same request. CC Pringle said he had explained to tenants that skip companies were refusing to deliver onsite now due to the width of the gates.

Anti-Social Behaviour Teams Meeting

LB explained how she had attended an Anti-Social Behaviour Teams Meeting with the Chief of Staff of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Durham Constabulary have been asked to take park in a pilot scheme to improve areas affected by ASB. There is a new system being introduced to make it easier to report ASB. Week commencing 3rd July is ASB Week and LB has asked for more information and some posters to display in the boards.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.1 Monthly Accounts & June Invoices

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

12.2 Insurance Renewal

The insurance renewal for 2023-24 is £910.93 last year was £827.57. The PC agreed to renew with Zurich.

12.3 Bank Branch Closures

When LB paid the allotment rents into the bank, she was told the bank was closing in July. The Cashier suggested that the Parish Council get a cash deposit card to enable her to pay the monies into the post office. Cllr Wake will contact the bank to enquire.

13. Items to Follow Up for Next Meeting

The July monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Newsletter – Autumn & Winter
- OCA Donation Request
- DEFRA Livestock

The monthly meeting will be held on 20th July at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 8.19pm hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING

Cheque No		Paid to	Description
1021024		L Blondrage	June pay 4 weeks
102125		L Blondrage	June HWA
102126		D Johnston	June pay 4 weeks
102127		HMRC	June PAYE 4 weeks
102128		Zurich Municipal	Insurance
102129		Wave	Allotment Water
102130		D Kennedy	Flower Tubs
102131		PFG Waste	Allotment Scrap Pile