DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH JULY 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 –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

Cllr D Rowe

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wake declared an interest as a resident was raising a concern about his hedge and said he would step back when it was raised in the meeting. Cllr Bell to speak as Vice Chair.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 22ND JUNE 2023

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

A resident sent the PC an email about overgrown hedges in the village. The resident said that it had been raised in the newsletter and residents should keep their hedges and bushes cut back in line with their boundary and they should not encroach over pavements and access areas. The resident said that there is a hedge at the bottom of Arisaig on the corner which is growing across the path forcing pedestrians on to the grass. He added his partner has been injured by the spikes on the hedge. The resident would like the hedge article raised again in the next newsletter, to remind residents to cut their hedges back as the hedge on Arisaig is not the only one. Cllr Bell said she will walk round the village checking hedges encroaching over access areas and report them to DCC. Cllr Bell added that at the moment, cutting is restricted due to birds nesting. CC Batey said that if residents feel that a pathway is being obstructed then they can report to DCC Do It Online. Neighbourhood Wardens can issue warning notices if they feel its necessary. CC Batey said if the resident creates an account, they will be able to see updates and feedback.

Mr Howlett said he has reported the track to Shacklady's Farm, four times as the track hedges are overgrown. Mr Howlett said the allotment track is also still overgrown. Mr Howlett to send CC Wood the reference number and he will follow it up will DCC. CC Pringle added that one of the allotment tenants is a wheel chair user and they use an access gate from the track. It is important that the tenant can access their gate to their allotment.

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 there is a consultation about increasing the council tax on empty properties and second homes. It's considered that these proposals would encourage bringing more properties into use and would be an additional means of increasing the amount of tax raising capacity for both DCC and parish and town councils. Closing date for this consultation is 13 Sep 2023.

CC Wood added that there is a Housing Strategy consultation that residents can help DCC shape a new plan to meet housing needs, the community's needs and the needs of the county both now and in the future. The closing date for all comments and surveys is 5.00pm on 14 August 2023.

CC Wood said he is still waiting for the Highways report regarding the Traffic Calming Scheme for Pelton Division.

CC Wood said there are concerns that the new Chester Le Street Leisure centre won't go ahead. CC Wood asked if the PC would share a petition. Cllr Wake said the PC will share the Petition on the website and in the Newsletter when the petition goes live. The CC's will send the PC the information.

CC Wood said the weed maintenance on the footpaths in Cromarty, Callander and Cannock was raised as an issue at the AGM. CC Wood said, the Council are saying that they are not responsible for them as they have not been adopted.

CC Wood said Chester Le Street Market Activity Week was taking part on Cone Terrace from 7th – 11th August 10am till 3pm each day.

CC Wood said the provisional start date for the BMX track works is 28th August.

CC Batey added that DCC Pools are offering free swimming to under 18's during school holidays.

The CC's said they had received complaints from residents regarding cold callers. Mr Howlett asked the item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

7.1 Information from the OCA Board

Mrs Marshall said the Ouston Community Association Chair, had resigned from the Board with effect from 1st July 2023 and added that the Chair was a very highly valued and effective Chair and Board member and the Centre made huge improvements under his leadership. The OCA Board will miss the contribution he made to the Board both professionally and personally. At an extra ordinary meeting on Tuesday 18th July, the Directors co-opted Paul McFarling on to the Board as a Director and he agreed to take the position as Chair. The OCA feel that Mr McFarling has an excellent skill set and is a perfect fit for the role of Chair.

7.2 Donation Request Fun and Food Fridays

Mrs Marshall said the OCA would like to formally withdraw their application for funding for the OCA Summer 'Fun time Fridays' programme. There were technical complications with the application to the Area Action Partnership and the OCA have inadvertently been awarded the full project costs by the AAP, therefore no other funding is required for this project. She added that she would however advise that instead, the OCA intend on submitting an application to OPC for funding towards events they are planning for October half-term as no application will be made to the AAP. Mrs Marshall added that the OCA will be in touch in due course when they have planned the events. Cllr Tate said congratulations to the OCA board as the activities looked good.

This Summer 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. Mrs Marshall the sessions have been popular, some sessions are sold out, most are half full but there are still spaces available on some days. The OCA has received a lot of positive feedback from local schools too.
The Summer Events include Angela's Ark - Friday 28th July, Teddy Bear's Picnic - Friday 4th August, ARTVenturers - Friday 11th August, DNA Sports - Friday 18th August and Mr Bubble - Friday 1st September

8. ALLOTMENTS

8.1 DEFRA Livestock Consultation

At the OAA meeting, attendees were asked for feedback about the consultation and the LB received one email supporting the proposals and none objecting. The PC's agreed that it is now compulsory to register all birds on the allotment site with DEFRA. LB to display posters instructing tenants to do so by the 31st December 2023. The PC will look at revising the rules to reflect this next year.

8.2 OAA Meeting

Cllr Tate attended the meeting on behalf of the PC.

The PC thanked the tenants for planting flowers at the top gate to prevent fly tipping.

The Allotment show has been cancelled this year but it is in the early stages of planning for next year, Harvest 2024. The OAA to speak to the OCA regarding room availability.

LB said she received an email from a resident regarding a cockerel on the site crowing at 3am. The resident replied and said they had posted the issue on social media and the noise has stopped. LB said if it occurs again, to contact the PC.

9. AUTUMN AND WINTER NEWSLETTER

Any articles or information to be included must be sent to the PC by mid-August to allow distribution in September.

10. BLOOMING OUSTON COMPETITION

Cllr Duncan and Cllr Rowe walked round the village looking at resident's gardens. They picked 13 gardens that could be a potential winner. Cllr Rowe and Cllr Duncan to select a top 5 and view them again in the Autumn with Cllr Bell.

11. FLOWER TUBS

The PC said resident Dave Kennedy had done an amazing job of replanting the village tubs. The PC agreed that the tub outside of the barbers and the tub on Cannock were to be emptied, removed and stored on the allotment site. LB to arrange. LB said a resident had offered to water the Cannock tub if it was replanted. The PC agreed that the tub on Cannock was not on the main road, there was no volunteer to plant it and should be removed. The PC apologised to the resident who kindly offered to water it but it was agreed that it would be removed due to not being on the main road and there is no volunteer to plant it with seasonal planting.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

Neighbourhood Planning Group Meeting

The postponed NHPG meeting will take place on Monday 24th July at 6pm in Pelton Community Centre.

The PC discussed a provisional green space list of the open space on Milbanke, Callander, Ross, area where the Silver Birches are located, the green belt, land adjacent Jura and the land around Ouston Community Centre. A detailed list of green spaces in Ouston Parish will be compiled by the PC before the next NHPG meeting.

80 Years Since the D Day Landings 2024

CDALC sent an email regarding the 80th anniversary, since the D Day landings.
The PC received information from Bruno Peek, Pageant master, urging parish and town councils to light a beacon on 6th June 2024 to commemorate 80 years since the D-Day landings. It was agreed at the Platinum Jubilee meeting that we could not safely light a Beacon. LB asked is the PC doing anything to commemorate it? Or is OCA? To be discussed at a later date.

Bank Branch closures

LB said the PC now have a cash deposit card to pay allotment money in the bank via the Post Office. LB thanked Cllr Wake to for requesting the card.

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

13.1 Monthly Accounts & July Invoices

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

13.2 1st Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The 1st Quarterly Bank Reconciliation for April to June was reviewed by the PC's.

14. Items to Follow Up for Next Meeting

The August monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Newsletter – Autumn & Winter
- Neighbourhood Watch and Cold Calling Zones

The monthly meeting will be held on 24th August at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 8.08pm hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED AT MEETING

Cheque No		Paid to	Description
102132		L Blondrage	July pay 4 weeks
102133		L Blondrage	July HWA
102134		D Johnston	July pay 4 weeks
102135		HMRC	July PAYE 4 weeks