



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2025 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.30PM.**

1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chair Mr A Wake, Mr G Batey, Mrs A Bell, Mrs M Duncan, Mr T Fenwick, Mr P Pringle and Mr D Wood
County Councillors –
Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk and Mrs A Batey – OCA

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

County Councillors

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 8 – Cllr Fenwick is an allotment holder.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 27TH NOVEMBER 2025

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

None

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

The County Councillors sent an email stating that they did not agree with a leaflet that had been distributed to residents by two Labour Pelton Parish Cllrs, saying that the Reform CC's had "blocked the road safety" scheme particularly the speed bumps. They claim residents did not want more speed bumps. The Reform CC's said that the funding from the Neighbourhood Budget had not been signed off by the previous Labours CC's. Cllr Wood produced a letter dated 11th January 2024 for a funding total of £163,900 for the Traffic Calming Scheme, at the meeting from DCC showing that the scheme had been signed off by the previous CC's. The CC's said that the PC's will get their contributions back but did not state what would happen to the £163,000; as signage, 20mph school zones and gateways would not amount to that. The PC said the physical measures such as the speed cushions would cost the most.

The CC's said they will not attend PC meetings until they receive an apology but will supply monthly updates when required.

There was no written report submitted from the CC's.

7. OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

Mrs Batey said any items stored in the centre must be in the clip handled storage boxes and be clearly labelled.

Mrs Batey said that the adult Christmas event was attended by 70 people and everyone enjoyed it. Mrs Batey thanked the Ranch for the loan of their Bingo machine.

Mrs Batey said the children's Christmas party was held on 6th December. It was attended by 60 people. Mrs Batey thanked Cllr Duncan for her help and the OPC for the donation of selection boxes.

Mrs Batey said that a Grinch event and Santa event had been held in the centre.

Mrs Batey said that potential board members are required to volunteer for a period of time to understand what being a board member involves. She added that OCA need volunteers to help with events and staff roles and responsibilities are still being reviewed.

Mrs Batey said groups who have long term booking requests are to let the centre manager know what tables and chairs are needed. LB said she is not Manual Handling trained and was not confident carrying tables and chairs and did not want to risk injury. Mrs Batey said tables and chairs will be in place on OPC

meeting days from Neuroactive. Mrs Batey added that groups are not required to set the centre alarm but were to drop the latch to secure the centre. An OCA board member / staff will set the alarm.

The PACT meeting will be held in the Community Centre on 21st January at 6.30pm. Residents are encouraged to attend to raise any concerns they may have such as parking and antisocial behaviour.

A QR code is in their noticeboard, please scan for events information. Please contact the OCA for more information.

8. ALLOTMENTS

Nothing to report.

9. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND GARDEN COMPETITION

The PC's reviewed the photos of the Christmas lights and Gardens taken by Cllr Duncan and thanked her for her efforts. The PC chose a winner and runner up for each category from the photos. Cllr Duncan to send addresses to LB so she can notify residents.

10. CHRISTMAS TREES

Cllr Bell said she is not happy as the Cook's Corner tree spend a few weeks unlit. Cllr Wake said this was due to faulty lights and the delay in installing them due to OCA throwing our lights out. The PC thanked OCA board members Joanne Watson, Clare Marshall and Alison Batey for purchasing new lights and installing them on Cook's Corner tree.

LB to contact Karbon Homes to ask if we can site a permanent tree on Cook's Corner square with a potential power source.

11. EVENTS 2026

Proposed / to be agreed in January

Easter Egg Event – Easter Sunday – Sunday 5th April

Remembrance – Sunday 8th November

Christmas Lighting – Saturday 28th November / 5th December

Garden & Christmas Lights event

12. CLERKS REPORT

Majority covered in other agenda items.

LB contacted DCC regarding the Brooms Park extension. DCC emailed on 15th December saying it is due to go out on their framework in the new year in the next batch of projects. They added all being well, the works should be completed by Easter, weather dependant.

LB emailed Highways to ask for OPC's £8,000 contribution back due to the Reform CC's removing the speed bump element from the Traffic Calming Scheme. Highways replied on 16th December asking for our bank details to refund by BACS.

LB emailed DCC to ask about the flowerbeds being planted. They replied on 15th December to say they would be planted as soon as possible.

LB to email DCC regarding derelict garages.

Do It Online – Reported by OPC

- Brooms Paths – closed by DCC
- Path at Turnberry bus stop – closed by DCC

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

13.1 Monthly Accounts & December Invoices

The expenditure for December was reviewed by the PCs.

13.2 Draft Budget / Precept 2026/27

The PC reviewed the draft budget for 2026/27. LB clarified the figures and it will be signed off in January. The PC agreed to increase the Precept by 4% to allow money to be held in reserve for the streetlights on Station Lane and to keep the flower beds planted all year round. The cost of electricity and planting of the flower beds has increased considerably and to pay for this the PC had to increase the Precept.

CLlr Wake suggested increasing the Clerks home working allowance as it had not been increased for six years despite rising costs.

CLlr Wood suggested using the Traffic Calming refund to offset the general reserve.

CLlr Wood said the Government were increasing core spending power for DCC by 27%. But Reform DCC had proposed cutting the LCTRS which will affect the most deprived areas.

CLlr Wake said the OCA donation would stay the same at £5600 but the PC would look at additional capital investment if required.

14. ITEMS TO FOLLOW UP FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The January Monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Christmas lights and Garden Competition winners & runners up
- 2026 Events
- Agree Budget / Precept – 2026-27
- Traffic Calming Scheme

The Parish Monthly Meeting will be held on 22nd January at 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 7.55pm hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED DECEMBER

Chq No	Paid to	Description
102332	L Blondrage	December pay 4 weeks
102333	L Blondrage	Home working allowance
102334	D Johnston	December pay 4 weeks
102335	HMRC	PAYE December 4 weeks
102336	NSALG	Membership 2025
102337	Wave Water	Allotment water charge 11.09-10.12
102338	Ouston Comm Assn	Room rent Apr 25 - Mar 26