



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

**HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2025 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7PM.**

1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chair Mr A Wake, Mr G Batey, Mrs A Bell, Mr T Fenwick and Mr D Wood

County Councillors – CC Brian Quirey

Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, Mrs C Marshall – OCA, Co-Option Candidates – Mr Neil Moffatt and Mr Paul Pringle.

Residents - Mr A Lister

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr M Duncan

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 9 – Cllr Fenwick is an allotment holder.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 23RD OCTOBER 2025

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

OPC received two applications for the Co-Option Vacancy.

Cllr Wake invited the two candidates to present their personal statements to the PC's. Cllr Wake suggested a secret ballot be held. Cllr Bell agreed and Cllr Batey seconded it. The PC's were asked to select one candidate on the ballot slip. Cllr Wake counted the ballot slips and handed them to LB for verification.

Cllr Wake announced that Mr Pringle was the successful candidate. The PC welcomed him to the Parish Council and thanked Mr Moffatt for his application. Cllr Pringle signed his acceptance form.

6. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

Mr Lister said the sign is still pointing the wrong way for Ouston Primary School. Cllr Wake advised him to report it via Do It Online.

Mr Lister asked for an update on the Traffic Calming Scheme, the PC are still waiting for a response.

Mr Moffatt said the derelict garages behind Arcadia were infested with rats and were being used for fly tipping. Cllr Fenwick said DCC had put a notice on one of the doors. Cllr Wake said the PC had reported it to DCC many times. LB said Building Control emailed on 10th February to say they would visit site. LB to send the information to CC Quirey to follow up. Mr Moffatt added that various vehicles were visiting one of the garages to fill up with fuel. Mr Moffatt to forward the details to CC Quirey to follow up.

Mr Moffatt asked about the frequency of Police Patrols. Cllr Wake suggested Mr Moffatt attend the PACT meeting on the 10th December. Mr Moffatt reported to the Police an assault at Brooms Park and an incident of intimidating Antisocial Behaviour on the same day. CC Quirey will follow up. Cllr Batey said after concerned residents attended our meeting, the PC paid for sessions from Pelton Youth Project to help reduce incidents of Antisocial Behaviour at the BMX track. He added they weren't successful or value for money.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

CC Quirey said the three Pelton Division County Councillors had refused the speed ramps in the Pelton Division Traffic Calming project. Cllr Wood asked why the CC's had done this as it went out to Public Consultation and it was what residents wanted. CC Quirey said he personally did not agree with speed ramps and therefore the three CC's wrote to DCC Highways refusing them.

He said they supported the speed reductions and signs elements, but suggested chicanes instead. LB said chicanes would cause a build up of traffic and congestion at either ends Ouston Lane. Cllr Wood asked why the CC's had not mentioned it in other meetings. Cllr Wake said the scheme was already agreed and paid for. Cllr Wood added that funding from the previous CC's Neighbourhood Budget, Towns and Villages funding and contributions from all three Parish's had been agreed. Neither Highways nor the CC's had told the PC until now that the speed cushion element part of the scheme had been removed. Cllr Pringle added some residents are for speed cushions, and some are against them. He added that something has to be put in place to reduce speeding before somebody was severely injured or killed. Cllr Wood added that £90k of funding had been taken from the Ward. LB said OPC has contributed £8k to the scheme and the Ouston element was speed cushions and if the ramps had been cancelled, OPC wanted their £8k contribution refunded. LB to email Highways. CC Quirey said he would support OPC receiving their £8k back.

Cllr Batey said the previous CC's funded an extension of the Brooms Park including an extra piece of equipment, resurfacing and extending the path to the front gate. This has not happened yet. LB to send the information to CC Quirey to follow it up with DCC. He said he has no objections to the project.

CC Quirey said there is a Grinch Event taking place on the 9th December between 6 & 9pm at Ouston Community Centre. He added that there is also a Santa Event taking place, but the details are TBC.

8. OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

Mrs Marshall apologised for throwing the Parish Council Christmas tree lights out. Mrs Marshall said she thought they had been donated by a resident but confirmed she later discovered that the storage box had OPC written on it. LB said the Lighting Technician had handed the lights to the Centre Manager for storage in January. Mrs Marshall said OCA have bought replacement lights for the trees and would arrange them to be installed. LB to send her the tree locations. Mrs Marshall said the OCA have cleared a shelf for OPC in the Boardroom cupboard for storage. LB handed the PA system to OCA in a labelled box for their Christmas Events.

Mrs Marshall said the OCA are moving from a limited company to charity status and an extraordinary meeting was held on 13th November to discuss the restructure, and it was accepted by the members.

Mrs Marshall said a Christmas wreath making event is to be held on 30th November. An adults Christmas afternoon tea and quiz will be held on 29th November (coincides with PC tree lighting event) and a children's Christmas party will be held on 6th December. Mrs Marshall thanked the OPC for the donation of selection boxes.

The PACT meeting will be held in the Community Centre on 10th December at 6.30pm. Residents are encouraged to attend to raise any concerns they may have such as parking and antisocial behaviour.

On the 9th of December between 6 and 9pm the Grinch will visit the Community Centre.

Mrs Marshall said a QR code is in their noticeboard, please scan for events information. Please contact the OCA for more information.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Batey said we have received an email from a tenant, raising concerns about dog fouling on site. Cllr Batey said if it continues, the PC will consider banning dogs from site.

The OAA Chair said 3 plots had been broken into over the weekend of 14th November. Plot 57 has a damaged gate, plot 55 gates was untied and another plot near 36 had a damaged gate. He said nothing had been taken. Cllr Batey said the PC need to look at security cameras. Cllr Batey to send LB details.

10. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Cllr Batey said the PC should consider a low maintenance option for the Memorial Garden. Children from St Benet's will make Poppies to decorate the garden. Cllr Batey said Greenfingers are putting together proposals and a quote. Cllr Batey to send proposals to LB.

Mr Moffatt asked why there were few Poppies through Perkinsville. Cllr Wood said, it's due to limited DCC metal lampposts through the Front Street and we don't have permission to display them on wooden telegraph poles.

Cllr Wood added that all our Poppies are RBL Poppies which raised funds for RBL.

11. CHRISTMAS EVENT

LB said the lights issue was discussed under item 8.

Cllr Bell will switch on the lights at the lights event.

Cllr Batey suggested contacting Karbon Homes to site a permanent Fir / Yew Tree at Cooks Corner.

12. CLERKS REPORT

Majority covered in other agenda items.

Do It Online – Reported by OPC

- Corroded sign Ross Park – email from public rights of way saying it will be replaced.
- Overhanging trees Ouston Bank - cleared
- Brooms Paths – closed by DCC
- Sunken Path Turnberry bus stop – closed by DCC
- Turnberry cut overgrown – cleared
- Woodlands overhanging trees with Ash die – closed by DCC
- Speed sign covered by trees Ouston Bank– cleared
- Speed sign covered by trees DCC Gateshead boundary – cleared
- Traffic Calming Scheme – LB to email Highways to ask for OPC’s £8,000 contribution back due to the Reform CC’s removing the speed bump element.

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

13.1 Monthly Accounts & November Invoices

The expenditure for November was reviewed by the PCs.

13.2 Draft Budget / Precept 2026/27

The PC reviewed the draft budget for 2026/27. LB to clarify figures and it will be discussed in December.

14. ITEMS TO FOLLOW UP FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The November Monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Christmas lights and Garden Competition results
- 2026 Events
- Review draft Budget / Precept – 2026-27
- OCA Donation

The Parish Monthly Meeting will be held on 18th December at 6.30pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 8.25pm hours.

APPENDIX ONE: CHEQUES SIGNED NOVEMBER

Chq No		Paid to	Description
102327		L Blondrage	Nov pay 4 weeks
102328		L Blondrage	Home working allowance
102329		D Johnston	Nov pay 4 weeks
102330		HMRC	Nov PAYE 4 weeks
102331		SE Harrison & Sons	2 x 15ft Christmas trees