



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 19th MARCH 2026 IN OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00PM.

1. COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Chair Mr A Wake, Mr G Batey, Mrs A Bell, Mrs M Duncan, Mr T Fenwick and Mr P Pringle

County Councillors – None

Other Attendees – Lisa Blondrage - Parish Clerk, OCA - Mrs J Watson
and Residents – Mr A Lister and Mr D Mole

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr D Wood

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 8 – Cllrs Fenwick and Pringle are allotment holders.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 26TH FEBRUARY 2026

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

Mr Mole said part of the Turnberry path had been replaced but the other half is still an issue. Mr Mole said he had emailed CC Biggs a few months ago to ask when the other half of the path was to be replaced but he has not heard back. LB to report again.

Mr Mole said the path at the Brooms Park had flooded after heavy rain when the ground was already saturated. To be monitored.

Mr Mole said the speed sign on Ouston Bank was being obstructed again by overgrowing trees / bushes. Cllr Pringle said he would check and trim it back if he could. If not, he will let LB and she will report it to DCC.

Mr Lister said the trees on Abingdon had been trimmed by DCC but not thinned out. LB said DCC had carried out a tree survey and the necessary works had taken place.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

The CC's did not attend and there was no written report submitted from them.

7. OUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD

7.1 Information from the OCA Board

Mrs Watson thanked the PC for their donation for the children's Easter event. The bookings are now open, and the event will be held on Tuesday 7th April.

The Easter coffee morning for adults will be held on Tuesday 31st March.

Mrs Watson said two board members have resigned, and the OCA would like to thank them for their service. Mrs Watson said she was elected as Chair, and they will be looking for new board members when the OCA receives their charity status.

Mrs Watson said they had received one quotation for the rewiring of the centre. The quote is for £140k and they are waiting for another two more quotes.

Mrs Watson said the OCA have received positive comments and ideas from the questionnaires handed out to the community.

8. ALLOTMENTS

LB said rents will be collected on Saturday 21st and 28th March. All rents are to be paid by Wednesday 1st April 2026.

LB said she had received complaints from tenants regarding a bin containing dead fowl on one of the plots. Cllr Wake asked for LB to email the tenant informing them, the Parish Council are concerned about the smell, risk of disease and attracting vermin. Cllr Wake said the tenant must pay a contractor to have the waste removed correctly. Cllr Wake also asked that the tenant retrieves their small black cockerel running around site and secures it on their plot, ensuring it is cared for correctly. Cllr Wake added that failure to do so was a breach of their tenancy agreement and this must be carried out within a time period. LB to email the tenant.

Cllr Bell reminded tenants to close and lock the gates on entering and exiting to ensure site security.

9. MOTION TO FLY THE UNION FLAG ON 21ST APRIL

Cllr Batey suggested that the OPC Union Flag is flown on the 21st of April to mark what would have been the late Queen Elizabeth's 100th Birthday. The PC agreed.

Cllr Bell asked if the PC Union Flag could be flown on the 22nd of May to commemorate the 15th Anniversary to mark the end of the Iraq war. LB to list it as an agenda item.

10. CLERKS REPORT

10.1 OPC Easter Event

Cllrs Batey and Pringle will organise and co-ordinate the Parish Easter Egg hunt over Easter weekend as previously held by the former CC's. Cllr Batey said plastic eggs will be located round Ouston Parish, and they can be taken by the finder to a location to trade for a prize such as chocolate or sweets. The PC agreed to the project and Cllr Batey said he would organise it. The PC have allocated at £50 budget to purchase items for the project. Cllr Batey to hand receipts to LB who will raise a cheque to cover the costs.

10.2 Memorial Garden

Cllr Batey said he will speak to Green Fingers regarding the Memorial Garden works.

10.3 Cook's Corner Tree

LB emailed Karbon Homes to site a permanent Pine / Yew tree with an electrical point on the grass opposite Cook's Corner. LB awaiting a response.

Do It Online – Reported by OPC

- Broken Sign Ouston School– added to schedule of works
- Ouston House gully –added to schedule of works will be completed in this financial year.
- Overhanging bushes Alleys in Cromarty – 43-44
- Overhanging bushes Alleys in Cromarty – 60-61
- Arcadia garage the NHW rang to say she was contacting the landlord / property management company to ask them to resolve this – works to be carried out by 25th March.
- Milbanke / Byron sign – reported again

Majority covered in other agenda items.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

11.1 Monthly Accounts & March Invoices

The expenditure for March 2026 was reviewed by the PC

12. ITEMS TO FOLLOW UP FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The April Monthly meeting agenda will include:

- Union Flag 22nd May

The Parish Monthly Meeting will be held on 23rd April from 7.00pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.
The Parish Council meeting closed at 7.55pm hours.

APPENDIX ONE: March 2026

Chq No		Payment to:	Description
102352		L Blondrage	March pay 4 weeks
102353		L Blondrage	March HWA
102354		D Johnston	March pay 4 weeks
102355		HMRC	March PAYE 4 weeks
102356		DCC	Flowerbeds 2025-26
102357		CDALC	GDPR Training