



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF
OUSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 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 and Allotment tenants – Mr L Maddison and Mr P Middleton

2. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr D Wood, OCA and Mr Lister

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 8 – Cllrs Fenwick and Pringle are allotment holders.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 19TH MARCH 2026

Previous minutes agreed and accepted by the PC.

5. REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS AND ALLOTMENT TENANTS

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

8. ALLOTMENTS

Mr Maddison said the access path leading to the top of site near plots 55 & 56 needs repairing due to the uneven surface. Cllr Batey asked Mr Maddison to get a quote for the materials to repair the access path and send it to LB. Mr Maddison said he has Public Liability Insurance to lay the dolomite on the area.

Mr Maddison asked for a skip on site. LB said skip companies have refused to deliver skips to site due to the width of the access gates. The PC said if Mr Maddison could source a company which will deliver to site, they will discuss it again.

Mr Maddison said if a tenant hires the OAA rotavator they must use and return it before the OAA Chair leaves site. Mr Maddison said this only allows tenants a short time to use it.

Cllr Batey said he will speak to the OAA to ask when OAA meetings will resume.

Cllr Batey said Inspections will be carried out soon.

Outstanding Rents

LB said there are still rents outstanding which were due on the 1st April. LB said she is on site for an hour on the four Saturdays in March, tenants can drop rents off before March's PC meeting or rents can be left at the Community Centre with the Manager. The PC agreed LB will send letters to tenants to terminate tenancies if rents are outstanding on 30th April. LB asked if we could revise the rules to state any rents outstanding on the 1st April, tenancies will be terminated. LB to draft. Cllr Wake to look at Bank Transfers.

Email to tenants regarding Site Security & Tenants Safety

It was reported by a tenant that several plots were broken into / locks vandalised on Monday 6th April / Tuesday 7th April. The Parish Councillor's have asked that tenants report all break ins / vandalism to the Police. It has also been noted that tenants are still leaving the site access gates either unlocked or left wide open especially the gate near the Chapel / Allotment Association plot (it is both gates so probably a

tenant with a vehicle). The Parish Council would like to remind tenants that for site security and safety all access gates must be closed and locked upon entering and exiting.

Update regarding Avian Flu - email from Animal & Plant Agency

Due to the reduction of the avian influenza risk to poultry and captive birds, plans have been announced to lift the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone housing measures in England and Wales at 00:01 on Thursday 09 April 2026.

New Tenant Plot 1

The tenant asked to site a 6x4 shed for ducks & chickens – 7 total – permission granted.

They also asked to also site a 6x5 shed for 8 pigeons – tumblers & fantails permission granted.

9. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Cllr Batey said he will obtain 3 quotes for the Memorial Garden works. The PC will use the £3000 held in reserve for the Brooms Park refurbishment as the previous County Councillors used their funding to replace / refurbish equipment before last years local elections. The refurbishment of Brooms Park will be carried out soon.

10. MOTION TO FLY THE UNION FLAG ON 22ND MAY 2026

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. The PC agreed.

11. DATE FOR AGM & PARISH ASSEMBLY

The PC agreed that the date for the AGM and Parish Assembly is Thursday 28th May from 6.30pm.

12. CLERKS REPORT

12.1 OPC Easter Event

Cllrs Batey organised and co-ordinated the Parish Easter Egg hunt over Easter weekend. Cooks Corner donated the prizes for the winners. The PC thanked Cllr Batey and Cooks Corner.

12.2 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.

Email from Karbon Homes - Siting a tree permanently changes matters significantly, any tree which is growing on/in Karbon owned land automatically becomes Karbon's tree. Legally we would become accountable for any liability attached to the tree and for costs associated with its ongoing maintenance, this is regardless of the PC's offer to assume responsibility. LB to look at getting permission for a junction box.

Cllr Pringle said DCC had made an error on the Council Tax. He said the new houses in Urpeth Grange have paid their Parish element to Ouston not Urpeth.

Do It Online – Reported by OPC

Broken Sign Ouston School – FS806471786 – added to schedule of works

Ouston House gully – 806469518 closed

Overhanging bushes Alleys in Cromarty – 43-44 – 812672115 closed

Overhanging bushes Alleys in Cromarty – 60-61 – 812673453 closed

Abingdon Tree - FS791324044 – closed by DCC work carried out 06/02/2026

Arcadia garage – Update from Cllr Bell – DCC emptied garage and boarded garage up to deter further flytipping.

Milbanke / Byron sign – 610728929 – new ref 812674478 - open

Trees restricting Speed sign Ouston Bank – 827332057

Majority covered in other agenda items.

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COUNCIL

13.1 Monthly Accounts & April Invoices

The expenditure for April 2026 was reviewed by the PC

13.2 Year End Bank Reconciliation

The Year End Bank Reconciliation was reviewed by the PC.

14. ITEMS TO FOLLOW UP FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Parish Assembly and AGM will be held in May and the meeting agenda will include:

- Allotment Rent Rule
- Revision of Policies and Procedures
- Annual Report

The Parish Assembly and Annual General Meeting will be held on 28th May from 6.30pm. Business to discuss will be as per Agenda.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 7.57pm hours.

APPENDIX ONE: APRIL 2026

Cheque No.		Paid to	Description
102358		L Blondrage	April pay 4 weeks
102359		L Blondrage	April HWA
102360		D Johnston	April pay 4 weeks
102364		HMRC	April pay 4 weeks
102361		OCA	Annual Donation 2026-27
102362		Wave Water	Allotments
102363		CDALC	Subscription 2026-27