

OUSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
12th May 2026

PRESENT: Parish councillors John Gale (Chair), Sylvia Pettitt (Vice-chair), Jess Pettitt and Guy Holland Bosworth.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), Chris Ingham (Ousden Village Hall).

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from parish councillors Fiona Bills and Edward Page-Turner and District Councillor Mike Chester and Helen Gale (Neighbourhood Watch).

The meeting was chaired by Parish Council Chair John Gale.

All the reports presented at the meeting are available on Ousden Parish Council's website at <https://ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/annual-parish-meeting/annual-parish-meeting-2026/>

1. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2025 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chair.

2. District Councillor's Report by Mike Chester.

The full report is available on Ousden Parish Council's website as detailed above.

3. Ousden Village Hall Report

Chris Ingham presented her report. The bid for National Lottery funding has kept the Committee really busy. They are also going through the process of incorporating the charity. Committee membership has increased with seven new members. Chris Ingham remains as chair, Celia Holt is vice-chair and Fiona Bills is treasurer.

They have held some successful fund-raising events including a Paint and Plonk evening. They are looking forward to the farm walk on 16th May.

They had a meeting with Nick Timothy MP in February.

There is a new strength building class which is proving popular.

Chris Ingham thanked the Parish Council for their annual contribution and for purchasing a replacement bin.

There is now an Ousden Residents' What's App group which is sharing information with the wider community.

4. Neighbourhood Watch Report.

Saturday 9th August 2025 - Attempted Aggravated Break In

In the early hours of the morning on Saturday, 9th August, a person was seen attempting to break into vehicles in Ousden. The male perpetrator was wearing a balaclava and when challenged by the owner of one of the vehicles, he produced what was thought to be a screwdriver and threatened the resident before running off and escaping through gardens backing onto open farmland, of which it appears he probably had prior knowledge. The incident was reported and followed up vigorously by Helen Gale our neighbourhood watch coordinator but no identification or arrests were made.

Saturday 20th December 2025 Stolen Agricultural Trailer.

A farm trailer was stolen from Hall Farm at the bottom of Front Street in the evening / night. The thieves took advantage of the fact that the yard is busy and is generally easily accessible with horse owners and also farm machinery and delivery vehicles coming and going. The theft was reported but neither trailer nor thief were recovered or identified. Since the incident security has been improved by a substantial set of automatic gates.

There are always other issues in and around our neighboring villages so as usual please keep an eye out for suspicious activity.

Finally, please contact Helen Gale your 'neighbourhood watch coordinator' if you see or hear any suspect activities in or around your village as she is regularly in contact with the police and other enforcement/support groups and can get messages to other villagers quickly when required.

5. Chair's Report

The Parish Council Chair, John Gale presented his report. The full report is available on Ousden Parish Council's website.

6. Financial Report 2025/26

The full report is available on the parish council website.

- 7. **Any other issues or concerns which residents would like to bring to the attention of the Council.**
No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed

Dated.....

DRAFT