

**Minutes**  
**FENCOTT & MURCOTT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**7.00pm March 4th 2026 Murcott Village Hall**

Present: James Lewis (Chair), Lucy Macfarlane, Nick Wyke, Timothy Bennett, Francois Nerfin, Lynne Bustin (Clerk)  
5 x Members of the Public  
County Cllr Laura Gordon from 7.45pm

**1. Welcome**

**2. Apologies-** none

**3. Declarations of Interest** – no new declarations

**4. Minutes of previous Parish Council meeting**

Minutes from February approved

**5. Meeting Adjourned**

Opportunity for members of public to propose new matters for PC consideration. (Max 5 minutes per topic)

- The Nut Tree reported that the bottle banks have been removed from their site, however the concrete base which they were told to install by CDC remains.
- The Parish Council to send a letter of thanks to young resident in Murcott who litter picks
- The Parish Council to send letter of thanks to resident in Fencott who clears drains

Meeting Re-convene

**6. County & District Councillor reports**

Oxfordshire County council – Cllr Laura Gordon.

- Cllrs asked whether the 20mph zones had worked – yes accidents have reduced
- Cllrs noted that there needs to be accountability for bad road repairs, LG said that faulty repairs were reported and the contractor had to return to redo them.
- There are issues with lasting fixes on pothole in the wet weather with many failings. Temporary fixes are being done in the worst areas. There are budgetary implications when potholes must be mended more than once
- Buffer zone speed limits into 20mph are being looked into e.g. 60 to 40 to 20
- Kidlington Landfill is being cleared, this will take 6-8 months
- There is a new flood warning scheme
- Last chance to have a say in the plans for local government reorganisation
- Congestion zone discussion

Cherwell District Council - none

**7. Parish Matters / Clerk Update**

Road mirrors: Highways confirmed they do not maintain or clean privately installed mirrors as they are not approved by Highways for use. County Cllr priority fund application turned down due to this.

Clerk has requested funding for Alice's Meadow gate from County Council instead. (Cllr Gordon confirmed receipt of this request)

Fencott pond: Highways responded to ownership/responsibility enquiry: "In this case, the pond located opposite the Fencott Bus Stop is not considered part of the highway maintainable at public expense (HMPE)."

Murcott pond: Oxfordshire County Council have responded: "The Horse Pond, Murcott, is held in our ownership as a Village Green under S 8(3) of the Commons Registration Act 1965 and I regret therefore we are not prepared to Transfer it to the neighbouring Nut Tree Pub. Furthermore, maintenance responsibilities therefore rest with us as owners.

We do however thank you for bringing this to our attention. I can confirm that the pond is now being monitored and at minimum will be on an Annual Inspection Regime and our colleagues in the Landscape Department have recently visited to inspect the pond and are arranging some remedial repairs suitable for a natural pond.

If there are any future concerns or issues with the pond, please feel free to advise contact is made with myself or with regard to any maintenance, my colleagues in the Landscape Department, Tim Green, or Victoria Wilson.”

Discussion within meeting covered:

- The Nut Tree have been chasing CDC for two years for information without response
- There is no financial gain for the Nut Tree to own the pond, however it affects the frontage of their business and kerbside appeal
- The Nut Tree have been maintaining the pond at their own expense since taking on the property nearly 20 years ago, mowing it fortnightly etc
- An ecologist has advised that the pond is dying as its current ecological value is so low. This will create a public health hazard as rats will move in
- The road drains are still broken so no water flows into the pond
- Someone from CDC visited the pond and mentioned that the PC have funds in their budget to maintain it (!)
- Same person (CDC landscaping?) said they were sent out to assess reinstating the fence around the pond
- There does not appear to be a defined/mapped boundary between the Nut Tree and the pond area
- The Parish Council confirmed there were no issues with the Nut Tree’s request to own the pond
- Enquiries to be made whether the Nut Tree or the Parish Council can lease the pond from CDC
- CDC maintenance plan mentions once yearly visits which are not sufficient

#### **Parish Walks & Maintenance:**

- Fencott Parish walk recorded 71 defects which were logged on FMS.
- Cllrs noted that issues logged in Murcott in January had not been mended yet.
- Rights of Way walk booked for 3<sup>rd</sup> March – LB and FN walked the parish and noted issues to report to OCC including broken stiles for repairs
- Temporary road repair carried out at the Splash, OCC to do a permanent repair soon.
- OCC responded to query about repairing potholes – email circulated – Parish Council cannot do it.
- 20mph consultation due this spring to see how the scheme is working – can request amendments.
- 2026 Spring Clean scheme from Cherwell DC – can borrow litter picking equipment.
- Fresh sandbags at the village hall carpark.

#### **Parish Noticeboards:**

The Splash, local conservation and Rights of Way around the Otmoor: Rights of way options circulated Alice’s Meadow C/F

### **8. Governance**

- Parish Council Election this year, clerk to ensure all information is available to parishioners
- Online Briefing Sessions available for Local Government Reorganisation consultation 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March.

### **9. Finances Report - see attached**

Insurance premium due  
Clerk wages and HWA March  
VAT Return submitted to HMRC  
Russell Lambert Invoice for grass cutting £968  
Cllrs approved invoices for payment

### **10. Planning Applications**

New: None

Awaiting Decision:

25/03166/F Parcel adjoining River Ray, Construct a wooden stable block, parking and change of use to equestrian

25/02067/F Moorlands Farm amendments to planning for 8 houses

25/02361/F (and also LB) Pigeon House Farm, Pigeonhouse Lane, Murcott, OX5 2RE, Re-building a collapsed wall to the rear elevation of The Stables building and restoring support and stability to the first floor and roof structure - no changes to the external appearance of the building are proposed (7 October)

Decisions:

No new decisions

**11. Items for next meeting: Wednesday April 1st 2026 7.00pm Murcott Village Hall**

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm

Signed:

Dated: