

MINUTES
FENCOTT & MURCOTT PARISH COUNCIL
7.30pm January 7th 2026 Murcott Village Hall

Present: James Lewis (Chair, Lucy Macfarlane, Tim Bennett, Francois Nerfin, Nick Wyke (via teams)

3 x Members of Public

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Minutes of previous Parish Council meeting**

Minutes from December approved

- 5. Meeting Adjourned:** Opportunity for members of public to propose new matters for PC consideration.
Parishioners reported overflowing dog bins – Clerk to contact CDC
Request to move the ‘pick up after your dog’ signs – Russell Lambert to move them to more suitable spot
Request to move the bench at the Splash onto the concrete pad
Parishioners asked what would be in the noticeboard at the Splash – Cllrs confirmed it would be Rights of Way information, local conservation and environment information.
Parishioners asked why there was a litter bin at the bus stop. Clerk confirmed there had been litter left in the bus stop and every so often volunteers cleared it. See how much the bin fills - the location may change.
Meeting Re-convened

6. County & District Councillor reports

Cllr Laura Gordon sent a report via email

7. Parish Matters

Painted White Gates to be installed this month, approved payment for mounting posts. Noted that there is an electric cable near the Splash site.

Playground pressure washing partially done, due to be completed this month

Litter bins, dog bin, noticeboards installed

Village Hall fence creosote arrived, due to be done this month

Application to County Cllr Fund made for £758 for litter picking items, road mirrors and flood signs

Salt bins:

Clerk has chased the order for two new salt bins that was sent in February 2025

Fencott bin needs a refill

The Parish Council extended their thanks to Francois Nerfin for gritting the roads in Fencott.

Parish Walk:

Arranged to walk the highways of the parish and log defects for FMS on 19th January, meeting at 9am at the village hall. Suggestion to use What3Words for locations.

Arrange a time to walk the footpaths of the parish and report issues to Rights of Way team – carried forwards.

Parish Communications

Draft a leaflet: Flooding info, useful contacts, Fix My Street, Alices Meadow, village hall, precept use.

Facebook: Update weekly with district/county news, useful information for residents. FN has offered to take on the management of this, clerk to liaise.

Website: Update with minutes, agendas, finance, links to local resources. Create a ‘How To’ guide for Fix My Street.

Discussion around: making meetings more engaging, attracting more residents. Arrange a speaker/presentation for the Annual meeting in May about a topic that is important to residents, such as flooding or road conditions. Speak to Callum Miller / Laura Gordon about flooding forum.

Are there other ways to communicate with residents such as the Next Door site.

Panshill Road discussed, whilst this is in Buckinghamshire it has a significant effect on the local area. Consider a media campaign to get the road properly resurfaced.

Look into doing a Parish survey to see what is important to residents.

Information needed for the two new noticeboards:

1. Alices Meadow History and Access
2. The Splash Rights of Way around the Otmoor

8. Governance

Approved proposal to move meeting time to 7pm from February 2026 onwards. Clerk to post dates and times for 2026 in the noticeboards.

Approved quote from OALC for whole council (Roles and Responsibilities) training for £425 on an evening or Saturday morning. Clerk to get dates and book this in.

IT

Councillors voted to move email addresses and management to Cloud Next at a cost of £60 per year. Clerk to cancel current contract with Navitas, enrol with Cloud Next and arrange setting up of new email addresses.

9. Finances Report - see attached

PRECEPT FOR 2026 – 2027 APPROVED AT £11,000

NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR. Clerk to advise Cherwell District Council.

10. Planning Applications

New:

25/03284/AGN Murcott Meadows SSSI, Prior approval application for fertiliser storage tank

25/03166/F Construct a wooden stable block, provision for a small area of reinforced grass for parking and turning and change of use to equestrian (re-submission of 24/01336/F)

Awaiting Decision:

25/03039/F Inchmere Farm, Murcott, Part retrospective Change of Use from equestrian to agricultural.

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

25/03022/LB Pigeon House Farm, Temporary works to safeguard structure through winter.

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: None

11. Items for next meeting: Wednesday 4th February 2026 7.00pm Murcott Village Hall

Council noted that there will be items because of the Parish Walk.

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm.