

Fencott & Murcott Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting – 6th April 2016 Fencott and Murcott Village Hall

Present:

J Lewis (Chairman)
J Wylie
K Bott
D Rawlinson

1. Declaration of Interest

None

2. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of the previous meeting held on 14th January 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Public Questions and Comment

The meeting was adjourned to receive comments from the public:

- None were received

The meeting was re-convened.

4. Chairman's Announcements

- Chairman relayed a government directive for Parish Councils to work along side churches in marking the celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday in June 2016. The existing plan for a Street Party on Saturday 11th June 2016 in Charlton on Otmoor (devised in conjunction with Charlton on Otmoor Parish Council) was discussed and it was noted that a request for posters for the event to be placed around Fencott and Murcott be made. A request will be made to CoO PC to distribute posters.

5. Finance

a) Accounts at the end of March '16:	Current Account:	£9,302.06
	Deposit Account:	£8,012.24
	Total :	£17, 314.30

- b) Payments for approval/ cheques to be signed.

OALC Subscription:	£133.07
Charlton PC (Cemetery):	£366.30
Grass Cutting:	£891.00

Payments were approved and cheques signed.

c) Forecast and Budgeting:

Forecast cash position at 31 March 16: £15, 924

Anticipated expenditure to end of May 16: Village Hall Hire:	£20
Clerk Pay:	£190
Total:	£210

Budget 2016/17:	Total Income:	£3, 605
	Total Expenditure:	£15, 970

The above takes in the potential significant contributory costs towards Speed Limit Sign relocation a plan for which is under consideration. Also costs associated with employment of Parish Clerk (£9.50 p/hr – 12 hours a month)
The Budget was approved.

d) Financial Risk Assessment: None

e) Annual Return:

Documentation and forms for the 2015/16 Annual Return have been received. It was noted that the 2014/15 return had been “qualified” due to the Chairman performing the role of RFO and that this problem had now been resolved by the appointment of a Parish Clerk to take on this duty. It was noted that completion of this year’s Annual Return should be straightforward.

6. Parish Business

a) Planning applications were reviewed

- 16/00380/OUT: Outline planning application to build two small houses on a piece of unused land between Ivy farm and Murcott Mission room was reviewed. One would be close to the road and one further back. A concern expressed by neighbours was that building one house further back may set a precedent for building behind other properties in the village which the Parish Council considers would be detrimental to the area.
- 16/00328/F: Planning application for a two-story extension to Fir Tree House was discussed. Input from neighbours suggests that planning applications from neighbouring properties for similar extensions have in the past been rejected. The Council has no evidence of this, but expects consistency in planning decisions.
- 16/00460/F: Plans proposing to put a stables building along with hard standing area in field to the rear of Fir Tree House were discussed. Concerns had been put to the Parish Council by neighbours that it appears to be a very large stable block (provision for

8 horses) in proportion to the size of the land, implying consideration of commercial use. It was also noted that neighbours may be affected by odour and run-off, and the process of disposing of manure.

It was resolved that feed-back would be offered to CDC Planning on each of the above Proposals to ensure that residents' point of view were being considered.

b) Traffic Calming

It was noted that after further consultation with CDC Highways, advice had been received in response to the enquiries by Fencott and Murcott Parish Council into improved road safety in our villages through extending lower speed limit zones. The advice was that the most effective and enforceable method would be to reduce the speed limit over the whole of the stretch between the villages to a speed that is lower, but still practical. This scheme would also be cost-effective, requiring only the replacement of signs on existing posts rather than placing new posts. A mark-up of the definitive map showing proposed speed limits through the parish was reviewed, and considered to be of benefit to the entire community and other road users including walkers, cyclists and riders. It was agreed that firmer figures regarding costs should be obtained from CDC Highways and then to present the plan at a public meeting to gather feedback in order to inform further decision by the council.

c) Flooding

It was noted that water levels in ditches and the River Ray seemed to be going both up and down quicker than in previous years. As the contribution to, and effects of flooding on all user of Otmoor land is still under review it was agreed that the council would approach district councillor Timothy Hallchurch to support us in our efforts to understand the implications for this Parish Council and that he should be invited to the next parish council meeting.

7. Items for urgent consideration not on the agenda.

a) Website

A proposal for a Parish Council website was submitted and then discussed. The of such an online space for the sharing of dates, documents, minutes and also links to other helpful sources of information were highlighted. It would also be a repository for private documents too. Initial set-up of a domain is free of charge so it was resolved that a domain be procured in preparation for the web site to be set up forthwith.

b) Alice's Meadow

There was further discussion on the subject of Alice Meadow and how requests relating to plots of the deceased might be dealt with. Objectives of the parish council were discussed. Further clarification would be sought as to legitimacy and ways that plots could be easily transferred to the Parish Council if requested by the executors for deceased holders. It was also noted that a website could be of great us in sharing information on processes regarding Alice's Meadow with the public.

8. Date of Next Meeting.

Annual Meeting of Parish Council:
Annual Parish Meeting:

3rd May at 7.00pm
3rd May at 7.30pm

Chairman :