

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 4 JUNE 2020
held online via Zoom at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

An Ordinary meeting of Murieston Community Council continued after the 2020 AGM was concluded.

This meeting was held on Thursday 4 June by community councillors online using the Zoom video app.

Meetings at Williamston Primary have been cancelled by West Lothian Council until after the school summer holidays due to COVID-19.

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell: Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (attending COSLA meeting)

Residents: John Sharp

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 7 May 2020:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 7 May 2020 was proposed by Kevin Kerr and seconded by Carol Hallesy. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank balance is £30,042.22 as of 31 March 2020. This includes publicly derived grants, funded from the Town Centre Fund for two community projects to provide community gardens and a noticeboard (£32,845).

We recently purchased Scottish Environmental Law Essentials book by Professor Francis McManus (£19.94) to inform us in responding to planning matters.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt gave a report.

Normal councillor business has been impacted since March when Moira started working from home. Receives a daily operational update from the Council.

The recycling centres are now open 7 days a week.

Cleaning staff are receiving a gratuity of £230 in recognition of their work during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Council has bid for £600,000 to fund changes to make open spaces and paths etc. safer.

The Council Executive met last Tuesday via a Cisco Webex online meeting. The Council is operating a number of online meetings via Webex such as Community Education, Licensing and Audit.

The school clothing grant has been paid earlier to enable parents to purchase clothes during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Councillor Peter Johnston has recently retired from the Council, which will require a by-election in the Livingston South ward in the autumn.

Nick Lansdell asked whether West Lothian Leisure is furloughing staff. Councillor Shemilt noted that West Lothian Leisure operates as an arms-length organisation and manages its own commercial strategy.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick is unable to attend tonight as he is at a COSLA video conference (see email copied below) :-

My apologies for Thursday.

Please explain that every Thursday at 7pm I have a Zoom meeting with Council Leaders across Scotland on the pressures and costs we face arising from the Covid-19 Emergency.

Scottish Government issues edict and guidance on a regular basis changing or updating regulations etc

We continue to deliver our statutory services and are grateful to the army of volunteers who do so much to

aid those in need
Keep safe and best wishes
Lawrence

6. Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - <http://meg.btck.co.uk> :

Nothing to report.

7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Davidson McQuarrie provided an update.

The Community Action Plan was produced by our consultants, Community Enterprise at the end of March as planned. Payment has been made in full for this work to Community Enterprise Limited, courtesy of a CARES grant from the Energy Saving Trust operated by Local Energy Scotland.

We are not able to promote the Community Action Plan and formation of the Murieston Development Trust as we had previously intended while the current COVID-19 lockdown continues. Until we can, we are publishing the Plan on digital media outlets, along with the comprehensive research report which sets out the background to the consultation.

When circumstances permit, we will be actively promoting the Community Action Plan, and also progressing actions to set up the Murieston Development Trust at public meetings and events etc., and move forward with adopting the Community Action Plan as a blueprint for making changes which will benefit all in Murieston. Meanwhile we want to give everyone the opportunity on digital media to read the Community Action Plan and background information, and give some initial feedback.

<https://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk/news/consultation-community-action-plan-for-murieston/>

8. Town Centre Fund for 2019/20:

Ian Brown reported.

We have commissioned architect, DBC architecture, to prepare and submit the planning applications for consent to create the three community gardens and the community noticeboard at the station.

The Council Planning Service has now been granted both planning applications (planning ref. 0260/FUL/20 and 0272/A/20).

Contracts for materials and work should be placed in the next three months.

9. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Community advice concerning Coronavirus continues to be posted on the community website.

<https://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk/news/assistance-during-coronavirus-crisis/>

10. Livingston South Station:

Ian Brown reported.

ScotRail have now advised that the power supply required for the defibrillator will cost £645, which they will not fund. Ian has written to the ScotRail Alliance on the matter and will contact Angela Constance, MSP.

11. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

The Council is now holding meetings online via Cisco Webex, including statutory planning meetings.

Wellhead Farm

No building work is being carried out currently during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The developers have lodged two new applications for planning consent to change the flat types on 8 plots (0186/FUL/20) and to modify condition 11 by delaying the start of the tree belt on Murieston Road to planting season 2020/21 (0065/FUL/20). It will be the autumn at the earliest before the work on the tree belt can proceed, given the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

The applications will be considered at the next planning meeting on 17 June. We intend participating.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 0927/FUL/18; DPEA case re. PPA-400-2107)

As reported at last month's meeting, the Reporter has now made a Notice of Intention that he is minded to allow the appeal and grant planning permission to build 18 houses, subject to a "Section 75 agreement" between the developer and the Council to agree a financial contribution for public infrastructure.

A residents group has been formed and we will be meeting with the group next Monday to consider what action can be taken.

12. Correspondence:

None.

13. Any Other Business:

The consultation on reviewing the community council scheme continues to the end of July.

The Secretary will email the community councillors to arrange a date for an online Zoom meeting of

the Community Council in July.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

The date of the next Community Council meeting will held *online*, date to be confirmed.