

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10 APRIL 2014
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://www.muriestoncommunity.com>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Kim Vance, Ron Skirving, Davidson McQuarrie, Ian Brown, David Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick;

Other Attendees: PC Alan McMahon

Apologies: Frank Mustard, Tania Armstrong, Lorna Cooper, Chris Dryden, June Keddie; Councillor John Muir; Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr, PC Alan James

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 13 March 2014:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 13 March 2014 was proposed by Ron Skirving and seconded by David Cooper. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

Kim Vance reported that the trout in a classroom project at Williamston School has been completed, with trout fry having been released into Murieston Water. Funding has not been fully secured as previously intimated and the Community Council will be asked for the £100 donation previously agreed.

4. Finances:

The bank account now stands at £1,427.53.

Ron Skirving is arranging for the fee of £35 for renewing our registration with the Information Commissioner to be paid by direct debit annually.

5. Community Policing:

A report was given by PC Alan McMahon who was attending the meeting as PC Alan James is unavailable.

PC Alan James had asked for the monthly crime stats from the analyst but these were not available by the time of this meeting.

There have been some arrests following the recent spate of car break-ins.

There have been some calls about youths on the paths behind the School and down to Dedridge Pond.

There will be behaviour patrols this weekend as part of Operation Floorwalk. Youths when found drinking alcohol are being taken back to the Police Station as a place of safety. Parents are called to collect their children and the families are given counselling advice.

Kim Vance noted that the 'bandstand' beside Murieston Water is a place where young people regularly congregate. PC McMahon said this would be followed up.

Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that there had recently been mopeds / motor bikes used on the paths at night.

Ron Skirving suggested problems often occur when young people get bored and suggested a leaflet could be produced with details of suitable activities which are available in the area.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick made a report :-

The Hickory House playgroup facilities at Crofthead Centre will be upgraded by the end of April.

Councillor Fitzpatrick outlined details of the anticipated pupil intake statistics at local schools :-

Williamston Primary operates double stream classes with an intake capacity of 66 pupils.

Current information is that there will be a reserved intake from within the catchment area of - August 2014 – 41, 2015 – 34 and 2016 – 34 pupils respectively.

Bellsquarry Primary has an anticipated intake from its catchment area of -

August 2014 – 7, 2015 – 5 and 2016 – 10 pupils respectively.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended a national conference on 11 March at Murrayfield organised by

Virtual Staff College Scotland in conjunction with Association of Directors of Education in

Scotland. The morning began with music from West Lothian school pupils; piping and drumming

the attendees in to Murrayfield. There was a video message from Nicola Benedetti on the importance of instrumental tuition. Professor Sue Hallam from the Institute of Education delivered a fascinating speech on the benefits of instrumental music tuition for attainment / cognitive development (see website www.ioe.ac.uk). Dr Alasdair Allan, the Minister for Learning also delivered a talk on the place and contribution of music in modern Scotland. There is concern at the incidence of speeding at the bend at play park by residents of Murieston Valley.

Roadworks are planned for the A71 between Newpark Roundabout and Crofthead Interchange from the end of June for up to 8 weeks. Councillor Fitzpatrick showed to the meeting, a map indicating the planned work. Diversion will be via Alderstone Road to the Murieston Medical Practice then via Murieston West and Bankton Mains to the A71. Ian Brown asked if he could discuss the suitability of the diversionary route with the traffic engineers and Lawrence will arrange a meeting. Councillor Fitzpatrick has asked for projected traffic volumes. Outline planning permission has been sought by developers for sites at Brotherton Farm and Murieston Castle Farm.

A free orchestral performance is being given at St. Michael's Church, Linlithgow on Thursday 17 April by the Youth Orchestra from Hochsauerland, West Lothian's twinning partner in Germany.

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

Kim Vance reported.

The volunteer day in March was a success.

There will be another volunteers' day this Sunday between 10 and 2pm to plant several thousand plants in, and at the margins of, Campbridge Pond. An environmental group from Edinburgh and Livingston Round Table will be attending. A barbecue will be provided at the Park for the volunteers.

A Gala Fun Day is being held at Livingston Cricket Club on Sunday 8 June. MEG is a partner. Kim suggested funds could be raised for MEG by registering with Google Easy Funding at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/2NBRT7/. Just by shopping online, a percentage of sales will then go to MEG at no extra cost for purchases.

The Livingston South Blue Green Network group presentation at the Scout Hall on Saturday 15 March re. Phase 1 of the community environmental project covering Bellsquarry to the confluence of Dedridge Burn with the River Almond was well attended by local residents. Volunteer days are being held on Saturday 22 March and Sunday 13 April at Campbridge Pond.

A Gala Fun Day is being held at Livingston Cricket Club on Sunday 8 June.

By signing up to the Council's Paws for Thought scheme, you get a welcome pack including an armband. More dog bins are needed.

8. Litter Pick and Cleanup:

Tania Armstrong and Carol Hallesy will be organising our next Litter Pick and Cleanup, which is planned for May.

9. Windfarms:

No decision yet from the Scottish Minister regarding last year's Harburnhead and Fauch Hill Public Local Inquiry.

10. Community Website - www.muriestoncommunity.com :

Copies of minutes for all meetings and the current agenda are being posted there.

11. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

Killandean Allotments Group applied for planning permission on 13 March.

The Environmental Impact Assessment was very thorough. Japanese knotweed was identified. There is evidence of badgers, otters and bats.

Only 8 plots remain to be let from the 32 plots which are planned.

12. Single Outcome Agreement:

There is no report this month.

13. SESplan Strategic Development Plan:

The SESplan is running late.

Ian Brown handed out maps showing the current Expressions of Interest from developers made under the the Council's Call for Sites.

14. Planning Applications:

Another planning application has been made to build at Bankton Retail Centre beside the new Co-op store (0201/FUL/14). We will consider making a submission.

An application to renew planning consent for a site behind Balmoral Gardens has been made (0213/FUL/14).

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

Livingston Cricket Club is holding a beer festival with Livingston Round Table from 18 to 21 April. Annual membership fee for the Cricket Club is now £5.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8 May 2014 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School