

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10 MARCH 2016
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Kevin Kerr, PC Peter Robertson

Apologies: Ron Skirving, David Cooper, Alex Hendry, June Keddie

Residents: Roger Harper

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 11 February 2016:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 11 February was proposed by Carol Hallesy and seconded by Tania Armstrong, subject to a resequencing to reflect the meeting's altered order of business on the night. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

The bank balance is £1,354.03. The annual fee of £35 has been paid to the Information Commissioner's Office by direct debit. A payment of £1,100 to Brindley Associates for the Community Garden Habitat Survey transited through the account.

5. Community Policing:

PC Peter Robertson attended tonight. Sergeant Iain Wells has moved to other duties in Broxburn. The new community policing structure started on 2 March. PC Robertson and a colleague are the two dedicated community officers covering the Livingston South Ward. There are twelve officers in the community action team covering Livingston and the east of the county; headed by Sergeant Colleen Hope and Inspector Myles Marshall.

PC Robertson reported that there had been 2 acts of vandalism, house break-in, and 3 calls today about a motorbike ridden on paths. Calls have been made about two motorbikes riding on the Murieston Trail and parkland this afternoon and at the weekend.

Roger Harper asked why the Police had not responded initially to the call made by a resident on Saturday about the motorbikes on the Trail. PC Robertson said an Inspector would normally answer questions of delayed response.

PC Robertson reminded the meeting that if you see anyone or a vehicle acting suspicious, please phone the Police with a description.

6. Traffic Calming on Murieston Road:

PC Robertson reported recent speed checks have resulted in 60 drivers being caught speeding and some seizures.

Sergeant Wells has had confirmation from the Council Roads Service that there are no plans for further road calming in Murieston.

7. Councillor's Report:

The Council has now passed the 2016/2017 Budget.

The budget allocated for the Instrumental Music Services is being maintained. The Council will continue funding 22 community police officers.

There is a new walking and cycling initiative – see www.westlothian.gov.uk/smarter-travel-news

The work on the footpath under the rail bridge has been postponed until May after Scottish Power has completed the installation of the cables for the new windfarms.

The drain on Williamston footpath has been cleared.

BT Openreach are installing fibre at Cabinet 27 to provide high-speed broadband. An announcement will be made in due course when the new broadband provision is available.

The pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road at West Cairn View has now been completed.

Details of attendance of meetings by elected members for 2015 have been published.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended 32 out of 37 meetings (86%).

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended several concerts in the West Lothian Schools Spring Concert Series at Inveralmond Community High School last weekend where primary and secondary school pupils ably demonstrated the wealth of musical talent fostered in West Lothian schools. Planning appeals for housing developments of more than 100 units are now to be recalled by Scottish Ministers. The Scottish Government states this is to ensure that housing land supply issues are given ministerial scrutiny and for each appeal, the Reporter will make recommendations to Scottish Ministers, which they may either accept or reject, and either uphold or dismiss the appeal.

Councillors have been reminded that the national threat status remains at Severe – a terrorism attack is highly likely.

Council road engineers have made adjustments to traffic signals to alleviate the congestion on the A71. A review of the configuration will be made.

The Roads Service have advised that an independent traffic audit has confirmed a traffic island can be used by pedestrians crossing the A71 to the bus stops at Oakbank. A further traffic audit will be conducted after the traffic island is installed.

Roger Harper asked about the damaged Keep Left sign at the traffic island at the Nursery. This has now been fixed.

Arthur Marris stated that the new rail bridge needs swept after completion of the recent works. Councillor Fitzpatrick outlined the provisions for installing road safety cameras. These are provided only when nationally set criteria is met. There must have been a minimum number of collisions over a 1 kilometre stretch over a three year period. The Council Roads Service and Police must agree on the requirement.

There has been one slight accident on Murieston Road in 3 years, equating to a 0.3 accident rate which is much less than the requirement.

The Council will only install a speed activated sign where it is considered to be the best solution.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

MEG will be holding a litter pick in late April. It was agreed that, as the Community Council normally holds a Spring cleanup, we would combine to hold a joint litter pick throughout Murieston. Tania Armstrong agreed to make arrangements with the Council NETs Team and booking of Murieston Village Hall.

9. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

10. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

11. Community Website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Nothing to report.

12. Community Garden and Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

The payment of £1,100 to Brindley Associates for the Community Garden Habitat Survey has been paid.

Ian has emailed the Council's Community Council Liaison Officer, Lorraine McGrorty regarding our application for funding from the Community Council Special Projects Grant Fund.

Our application for funding for the Larder Project does not meet the criteria of the Climate Challenge Fund.

The officers are going to investigate what is required to set up a Community Benefits Trust for Murieston. Other areas such as Kirknewton and West Calder & Harburn have set up trusts and received community funds from windfarm schemes.

No feedback yet on the public survey about facilities at Bankton Mains Park.

Ian is obtaining traffic flow data for the area.

13. Local Development Plan:

Nothing to report.

14. Planning Applications:

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this agenda item was discussed.

Ian Brown reported.

No date has been announced yet for the hearing of the Wellhead Farm Planning Application.

15. Health and Social Care:

June Keddie is unable to attend tonight.

June has asked for stats on ambulance response times.

There have been two public meetings this week on the future of the children's ward at St. John's Hospital.

16. Correspondence:

The Spring edition of the Spokes cycling magazine was circulated.

17. Any Other Business:

Lorna Cooper said that parking at Murieston Medical Practice is now difficult as extra cars are parking there, possibly due to an overspill from the station car park which is an ongoing problem.

Arthur Marris raised concerns about the number of potholes on local roads.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 14 April 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School