

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10 MAY 2018
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Frank Mustard, Ron Skirving;
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Peter Heggie

Residents: Roger Harper, John Sharp

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 12 April 2018:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 12 April was proposed by Carol Hallesy and seconded by Lorna Cooper, subject to minor changes. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

Chris Dryden has written to our Police community representatives to confirm that they will provide reports for our meetings.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

Finances remain at £1,840.82.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

The recent severe weather has led to a deterioration in road surfaces. The Council has received £300,000 from the Scottish Government as a contribution to road maintenance and repairing potholes.

There have been complaints about a large pothole at the entrance to the Co-op. This is on land owned by the Bankton Retail Centre and is, therefore, outside the responsibility of the Council, and the owners have been asked to repair it.

A consultation is currently underway with parents on changes to the Schools Instrumental Music Service. The result of the consultation is due on 22 May. There has been an overall cut in funding of 9.7% from the Scottish Government over the last 5 years.

The X51 bus service between Dunfermline and Glasgow, via Livingston will resume from 14 May. This bus service had stopped in April 2017. The new service will operate via Kirkton Campus, Harthill and Eurocentral 7 days a week, with a journey time of about 1 hour from Livingston to either Glasgow or Dunfermline.

ASDA have a community scheme which can provide up to £500 for local projects.

NHS Lothian will now arrange a taxi when children are discharged out of hours from the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. A service by people carrier is provided up to the early evening.

The community police team in West Lothian has now reduced from 45 to 24 officers. There will be a reduction in community police officers assigned to each locality area, Livingston South / North Wards being a single locality.

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Oakbank waste recycling centre is often very busy and sometimes traffic is queueing back round the Oakbank roundabout.

Carol Hallesy noted there was fly-tipping outside the Oakbank Recycling Centre.

The Centre had been closed on the May Day Bank Holiday which may have led to some fly-tipping.

A report on the review of library services at the three libraries in Livingston will be provided to the Culture and Leisure Committee in July. Petitions have been started about saving the libraries.

Roadworks for concrete repairs are planned from 21 July to 19 August on the A899 River Almond Bridge which will require lane closures. The Secretary said he would forward the TTRO, just received from the Council's Road Maintenance Service.

The recent 'Beast from the East' pattern of severe weather has led to the uplift of brown garden refuse bins being delayed for several weeks in some streets.

6. Community Policing:

There were no community police officers present at tonight's meeting.

Chris Dryden has written to the Chief Constable requesting that we have updates at our meetings; response awaited.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that the Council has asked to meet the Chief Constable.

Councillor Shemilt advised that the Area Commander in West Lothian has written to elected members to inform

them of changes to the Police team. The Community Action Team will cease and there will be four locality areas in West Lothian, two covering Livingston.

There has been an anti-social behaviour incident in Bellsquarry and Wilderness Woods.

Tania Armstrong noted that the sign for Bellsquarry Wood is missing.

There has been a fire-raising incident at Campbridge Pond.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

A pond dipping event has been arranged for 27 May. The event is already fully booked.

A volunteer day for laying a path in Williamston Wood is being organised with the Woodland Trust in the Autumn.

Arthur has met with West Calder and Harburn Development Trust to discuss the possibility of extending Murieston Trail towards Cobbinshaw Reservoir.

8. Murieston Local History Group:

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

Ron Skirving reported.

Ron will be publishing the next community newsletter shortly.

There are now over 500 subscribers to the newsletter. There were 748 views of the website last month. The Minutes page was most popular, followed by the Livingston South station redevelopment, then the Facebook link and the proposed Murieston Development Trust.

Ron has posted three new articles on the website.

11. Murieston Development Trust (MDT):

Chris Dryden reported.

A meeting of the new steering group has been held recently at Livingston Cricket Club. The Chair of the group has still to be appointed.

Ron Skirving confirmed he will attend initial meetings to provide support for the steering group.

Chris Dryden suggested inviting some members of the group to the next community council meeting.

Arthur Marris recommended that the steering group engage with the West Calder and Harburn Community Trust, which is now well established.

12. Livingston South Station and Rail Bridge:

Ian Brown reported.

The extensive work on replacing Livingston South station was completed in 10 days on 9 April as scheduled.

The stairway and lifts are still to be built, and access to the platforms is currently via ramps.

Ian Brown has spoken to the Council's Property Management Service about plans for landscaping at the station.

The Community Council want re-planting of semi-mature trees and bushes. Ian has also asked Network Rail to provide a community noticeboard, to be sited at the foot of the new stairway.

Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that there will be a Park and Ride facility as part of the new Gavieside housing development.

John Sharp asked whether a multi-storey car park was feasible at Livingston South station.

Network Rail have been invited to send a representative to one of our meetings soon.

13. Community Garden and Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

There are vacancies on the organizing committee and for allotments.

14. Local Development Plan:

Nothing to report.

15. Planning:

Ian Brown reported.

The new Planning Bill is progressing through the Scottish Parliament. Despite representations, there is still no third party right of appeal. Stage 2 of the Bill will begin in July.

It was agreed we will write to our MSPs regarding issues on the new provision for a Local Place Plan.

Wellhead Farm Appeal (LIVE/0918/P/15)

The site is being marketed by Savills as a single parcel of 41 acres (16.6 ha) with outline planning permission for 280 houses.

16. Proposed Footway at Rail Bridge on Murieston Road:

Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed that officers will be providing a report on additional measures to improve

pedestrian safety to the Council Executive next week.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

Lorna Cooper said she had to walk on broken glass at the bottle bank at the Station. The bottle bank at the Cricket Club is also full. Councillor Fitzpatrick intimated he will arrange for the skips to be uplifted.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that the new £32 million West Calder High School will be opening in August. The inaugural meeting of the bi-annual conference of the joint forum of community councils in West Lothian was held at the Civic Centre on Friday 27 April. Officers of the new forum were appointed.

There were also four training sessions provided for community councillors on planning, Council structure, enhancing communications and empowering communities. The Secretary will circulate the sets of presentation slides to the community councillors.

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next Community Council meeting will be the 2018 Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 14 June 2018 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.