

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2015
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ron Skirving, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, June Keddie, Frank Mustard, Kim Vance; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Sergeant Iain Wells

Apologies: Ian Brown, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell; Superintendent Kevin Kerr

Residents: Roger Harper, Lisa Quinn, John Stansfield

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 11 June 2015:

Acceptance of the minutes of the regular meeting on 11 June with a minor change was proposed by Tania Armstrong and seconded by June Keddie. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported. There has been no expenditure and finances are as reported at the previous meeting.

5. Community Policing:

Sergeant Iain Wells joined us tonight as the new community police representative for Livingston South.

He will try to attend each of our meetings and, if unavailable, arrange a deputy to attend.

6. Traffic Calming on Murieston Road:

There are concerns about increased traffic and speeding on Murieston Road when the rail bridge is closed. Roger Harper explained he had reported an incident to Police Scotland on 4 September (I1392 4/9/15).

Concerns were expressed about trucks travelling through Murieston to the rail bridge, with a particular concern that HGVs may speed on Murieston Road. Trucks have also been parked down Newpark Road towards Bellsquarry.

There was a recent incident when a low loader with JCB had become stuck under the road bridge at 8.15 am. The JCB was unloaded to get under the bridge and the bridge was scraped. This led to a large traffic jam during the morning rush hour.

The Community Council has also received an email from a resident on Murieston Road about persistent speeding, sometimes in excess of 60mph, with cars even overtaking and skidding.

Sergeant Wells will speak to the Traffic Department and obtain a report. Roger Harper requested that an officer from Police Scotland would attend the next meeting to report back regarding the incident I1392 and the various concerns which were raised.

7. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The build tender for the new Murieston Medical Practice has been accepted. Work will start at the end of September. There will be engagement with pupils from Williamston Primary during the building process.

Ron Skirving noted that vans were stopping and parking outside the Practice, although it is acknowledged there are no parking restrictions along Alderstone Road.

The meeting agreed that the Secretary will invite Dr. Ed.Russell-Smith to a future meeting to advise his plans for the new Practice.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has recently been a judge in the school's Young Writers Awards, Lawrence attended West Lothian's 70th anniversary commemoration of the Victory over Japan in August.

The recent examination results are the best ever achieved by schools across West Lothian.

Arlene Black, the head teacher at Williamston Primary has been appointed head at Simpsons Primary in Bathgate. Fiona Hollands has been appointed temporary head at Williamston. The work to extend the Almondvale Park skate park is now complete. Work is starting on installing high speed broadband in Murieston. Network cabinets will be installed by the Spring. West Lothian Council has invested £2.5 million to extend the rollout by BT Openreach.

Kim Vance noted that there had recently been an extended outage in Murieston Valley when broadband and phone lines were down.

The Council has passed the Budget. West Lothian is required by the Scottish Government to take on extra teachers to meet the required pupil ratio.

There is no progress to report on the request for lighting on the M8.

On Monday Lawrence attended a presentation on the Children of Chernobyl Charity which is supported by West Lothian Council.

The NETs Team have a new mascot, ERIC – Environmentally Responsible In Carrying.

The Adambrae Roundabout has been resurfaced to improve tyre grip.

Under the Scotpass scheme rail travel within West Lothian has been £1 each way for a number of years. The Council subsidy has now been reduced and the fare within West Lothian will now be £2 a journey.

No response yet from Abellio about the need for an extra carriage on morning commuter trains on the Shotts line.

The rail bridge is being removed this weekend. The contractor BAM Nuttall will have possession of the line from Saturday night to Monday morning.

Buses will now run hourly until the bridge is opened in February. Collections at the Royal Mail postbox at the top of Murieston Valley are suspended while the bridge is closed.

Kim Vance asked that priority for road gritting in the area should be given while the bridge is closed as distributor roads in Murieston are restricted.

Engineers are working on the proposed pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road beside the new Cala estate at West Cairn View.

Nick Lansdell, who is unable to attend tonight, has emailed Lawrence on the need also for a pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road at Murieston Court. Lawrence has passed the request to the Council's Roads Service.

The draft Local Development Plan has been approved by the LDSP.

Linhouse Glen remains zoned for industry. Wellhead Farm and Murieston Castle remain green belt. The top of Murieston Valley remains zoned as before.

The draft Plan is now out for consultation and is published on COINS.

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

Kim Vance reported.

£370 was raised at the Livingston Cricket Club Gala Day.

The committee of MEG now has 3 members and would welcome more volunteers to join.

This will be the last meeting that Kim will be attending as she is moving abroad.

Murieston Community Council places on record our gratitude and appreciation for the work Kim has done within the Community Council and Murieston Environmental Group for the community for over ten years.

9. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

10. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

Ron Skirving reported.

Ron has been producing a monthly newsletter.

There are 393 subscribers, of which 75% read the newsletter. 122 have viewed the AGM minutes. The Facebook has now 900 likes.

Arthur Marris will be an administrator in community Facebook page.

12. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown has advised funding will not be available from West Lothian Council's special grants committee for a habitat survey at the proposed community garden, and he is now looking at alternative funding sources.

13. Planning Consent to build one house in Murieston Valley beside Moriston Drive (0264/FUL/14):

The applicant won her appeal and therefore can go ahead with the development as long as she complies with the Council's conditions.

14. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown will advise our planning consultant, Malcolm Inkster regarding the endorsement of the status quo for Murieston in the draft Local Plan.

15. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown submitted a report by email.

The revamp of the former Co-op is pressing ahead, six windows are installed and interior work ongoing.

We have not engaged with the Wallace Land Development at Wellhead Farm and the developer has held a Public Consultation meeting at Bellsquarry on the 10th September.

16. Correspondence:

None.

17. Any Other Business:

We will be attending the Terrace Restaurant at West Lothian College on Thursday 1 October.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8 October 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School