

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 APRIL 2019
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Kevin Kerr;
Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Tania Armstrong, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard;
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Residents: Ian Boyd-Livingston, Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, John Sharp

Arthur Marris assumed Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unable to attend

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 March 2019:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 14 March was proposed by Kevin Kerr and seconded by Arthur Marris, subject to a minor change. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank account now stands at £2,128.58.

5. Off-road biking at the Murieston Trail:

In the past two weeks several young people have been adapting an area of the Murieston Trail for off-road biking. The Council has had to intervene to stop the activity as this is potentially dangerous for pedestrians and bikers alike.

Jamie, Lewis and Scott attended tonight's community council meeting to make the case for having a permanent off-road biking facility in the area. It was agreed that the Community Council supports their objective and that details of tonight's discussion will be minuted.

The young people argued that the Murieston area is lacking leisure facilities and there is a need for outdoor activities for younger people. Biking is a growing recreational sport and the area would benefit from a safe riding space for off-road and mountain biking. This could be on a small section of land, providing a small bike trail/track. Even a short distance of just 50m might be enough. The Livingston Skatepark at Almondside can be used for BMX biking but does not cater for off-road biking.

The bike track and trails at the Cathkin Braes exemplifies the type of facility that is wanted.

It was agreed that the Linhouse Trail may be the best location to site a local facility.

Options and safety issues were discussed. Kevin Kerr suggested there may be an existing template or framework.

Councillor Shemilt said she would discuss with the Council's Open Space Officer, Becky Plunkett with a view to finding some suitable Council-owned land as a first step to achieving a properly funded, designed and constructed bike track/trail.

Arthur Marris confirmed that the Community Council endorse their initiative and support the development of this project. It was suggested they try and find out what other cycling groups had achieved in doing a similar project with a view to using them as role models. We will offer further guidance where we can and the young people will be welcome to come back at a future meeting as their project develops.

6. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick is away on holiday and has sent the following report, which was read out by the Secretary :-

- Councillor Fitzpatrick has attended :
 - West Lothian Bowling Awards - our County's talent in this sport at national and international level is renowned
 - Women's Suffrage – Council had a superb celebration
 - Judged Euroquiz - the erudition of our young primary school pupils was incredible
 - Opening of Alzheimer's Scotland's new Livingston office at Grampian Court
- Teachers enhanced increase finally approved by COSLA Leaders on 29th March
- 3 of our secondary schools in Scotland top 50 for attainment (5 Highers +) – Linlithgow Academy, St Margaret's Academy and West Calder High School

- Lisa Marie Purdie, Head Teacher at St Ninian's Primary School has achieved the accolade of being selected as one of 3 finalists in Scottish Head Teacher of the Year ... finalist even this June
- Lothian Buses have purchased the Council's former Deans Depot and envisage 120 jobs, Lothian Country - West Lothian brand having its own livery are now to roll out new services
- Sad news - Nancy Muir West Lothian Women's Aid passed away - huge funeral turnout - carried out wonderful work in our area

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt said she had also attended the opening of Alzheimer's Scotland new Livingston office at Grampian Court.

Also attended the Women's Suffrage Centenary celebration at Howden Park Centre.

The Council budget cuts have started to bite.

The GMB is protesting the cuts in opening hours and days at the recycling depots.

Angela Constance MSP is talking to the Centre management concerning the cut by the Council in funding for Shopmobility.

Eligibility criteria has changed for social care and new charges have been applied. Councillor Shemilt is supporting a petition against the significant increases in charges.

Councillor Shemilt praised the achievement of Lisa Marie Purdie, Head Teacher at St Ninian's Primary School as a finalist in the Scottish Head Teacher of the Year awards.

7. Community Policing:

No report is available tonight.

The Secretary will confirm if a general report can be provided when a police officer cannot attend.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

A bat walk is being held on the evening of Friday 3 May.

MEG is considering organising a litter pick on Sunday 5 May.

9. Murieston Development Trust (MDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Helen Mackie is drafting the bid proposal form for a CARES enablement grant from Local Energy Scotland to provide funding to develop and produce a community action plan for Murieston. The MCC officers will be meeting with the Trust steering group in the next week or so to finalise the application.

10. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

The Secretary will consult Ron Skirving on producing the regular newsletter.

12. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

13. Livingston South Station:

The banks at the sides of the station have been landscaped with white chips. Chips have been sliding down onto the carpark when there is wet weather.

Barriers are now erected on the platforms above the underpass.

The second shelters have now been installed on both platforms but are not open yet.

The lifts appear to have been completed but are not in use yet.

Two ticket machines are installed on the Edinburgh bound platform but none on the Glasgow platform.

Lorna Cooper noted that there was broken glass beside the recycling bins. Councillor Shemilt suggested that the bins may have become full before being emptied.

14. Litter Pick:

As MEG may be holding a litter pick in early May, it was agreed that we will organise a litter pick on Sunday 22 September, starting at 1pm. The Secretary will book Murieston Village Hall for volunteers to congregate.

15. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 0927/FUL/18)

Additional soil testing was carried out on behalf of the applicant last week. There was no sign that health and safety precautions were followed on or off site. For instance, soil was deposited along Tarbert Drive from the tyres of plant traffic.

Bankton House (0955/FUL/18)

The applicant has been advised to provide an engineer's report on flood risk at the proposed site.

Wellhead Farm (922/MSC/18)

We have not been informed if the application will be heard at the planning meeting next week.

Objectors are advised to request to speak at the meeting.

Kevin Kerr noted that postal objections were not appearing in the Documents section on the Council planning website. Ian Brown said he has written to the Planning Service for clarification.

16. Community Council Meetings in 2019/2020 Session:

The Secretary reported that we are invited to apply for room lets for the 2019/2020 session of meetings. It was agreed we would book the Staff Room at Williamston Primary again on the second Thursday of each month from September to June 2020.

It was suggested that the Secretary should request an entry card for access at the time of the meetings. The Secretary will raise with Education Services.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

Frank Mustard is retiring from the Community Council after some twenty years as a community councillor. Murieston Community Council places on record our gratitude and appreciation for the work Frank has done within the Community Council for the community of Murieston over twenty years.

It was agreed we will organise a dinner with Frank soon at our personal expense.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday 9 May 2019 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.