

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 FEBRUARY 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, David Cooper, Carol Hallesy, June Keddie, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (*arrived at 8.15pm*)

Apologies: Ron Skirving, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell; Superintendent Kevin Kerr, Sergeant Iain Wells

Residents: Roger Harper

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 January 2016:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 14 January was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Carol Hallesy. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

The bank balance remains at £1,389.03. The annual fee of £35 payable to the Information Commissioner's Office will be made in February by direct debit.

5. Community Policing:

There is no report this month as Sergeant Iain Wells is not on duty today.

6. Traffic Calming on Murieston Road:

No Police officer is available to attend tonight.

Roger Harper noted that there had been no further feedback from Police Scotland.

Arthur Marris reported that police had been carrying out speed checks on Murieston Road at Bankton Court.

Roger Harper asked what action can be taken now and requested that the issue of speeding should be raised by the Community Council with West Lothian Council as it has responsibility for the roads.

It is noted that West Lothian Council can facilitate the installation of a speed camera at locations with a history of speeding. An alternative is an active feedback sign displaying mph.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

A local resident has raised concern about the proposed stone bench at the 'bandstand' on the Murieston Trail as it could be a focus for youth anti-social behaviour. The resident has questioned whether anti-social behaviour has reduced since the 'bandstand' was burnt down.

Arthur confirmed that it is now proposed to situate the stone bench on the Trail path and not at the former site of the 'bandstand'.

8. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

Ian Brown gave a report.

Camilty Wind Farm operated by Forestry Commission, has now been approved by the Scottish Government. The Community Council should decide whether they wish to be involved in any Community Benefit scheme put forward by the developer. The Community Council has tentatively registered interest and received a guidance note from the Forestry Commission.

Based on the Scottish Government's recommended rate of Community Benefit of £5,000 per Megawatt (MW) and a total installed capacity of 20.4 MW there potentially could be a £102,500 pot of benefit per annum available to all parties registered with the wind farm developer.

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

Nothing to report.

11. Community Garden and Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

Although previously rejected by West Lothian Council, an additional grant for a wildlife camera survey has been sought via Community Council Special Projects Grant Fund.

Expression of interest for funding of the Community Garden will also be raised with the Climate Challenge Fund who are currently seeking applications.

12. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

Consultation period for comments on the proposed development at Wellhead Farm (planning application 0918/P/15) has now closed. 104 online and 6 letters of objections were made. The planning application will now go to a full Council review where objectors can put their concerns direct to Council Elected Members. There is no date announced at present for this Council meeting and all objectors will be notified beforehand and can ask to be heard at the meeting. Planning Application 0355/P/15 (Murieston Castle), for 100 to 120 houses went to a full Council meeting on 3rd February. Chris Dryden and Ian Brown from Murieston Community Council, and Peter Jeppesen from Bellsquarry Community Council, made representation to the Council. On a unanimous decision the Council voted to refuse planning permission.

13. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported. Councillor Fitzpatrick was not present during this report.

No significant applications have been made during the past month.

There was a poor turnout to the Greenspace Initiative Consultation at Bankton Mains Park on Saturday 16 January. West Lothian Council were seeking ideas for additional work on Bankton Mains Park and have initiated an online consultation (<http://banktonmains.eventbrite.co.uk/> / <https://www.facebook.com/banktonmains/>).

14. Health and Social Care:

June Keddie gave a report.

June attended Monday's meeting for community councils with NHS Lothian at St. John's Hospital. The meeting had concentrated on the proposed closure to the paediatric ward.

There is concern that ambulance response times are unsatisfactory but the meeting was advised that this is not within the remit of the meeting. The Chief Executive will send details of the contact regarding the Scottish Ambulance Service.

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick arrived at 8.15 after Council duties and gave a report following the preceding community council business.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended the commemoration in West Lothian of the National Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January.

Lawrence has attended Voice Rocks; a free weekly Pop/Rock choir experience for young people in West Lothian. Lawrence also attended the recent Scottish Opera performance of Cosi fan Tutte in Linlithgow.

The defibrillator training was attended today by 22 persons from the community and staff at Bankton Mains Retail Centre. The defibrillator is now held in a box on the front wall of Murieston Village Hall. The local shops hold a key to gain access in an emergency.

Work on footpaths in Bankton will be completed in the next two weeks.

A ground breaking ceremony for the new extension has been held at Toronto Primary School. Expenses of councillors for 2015 have now been published and Councillor Fitzpatrick has claimed £587.

The pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road at West Cairn View will be ready soon.

The Council will be setting the Budget next month for 2016/2017.

Tania Armstrong raised an issue about the litter behind the Co-op and Supper Bowl. The shop bins appear to be overflowing. Councillor Fitzpatrick will follow this up with the Council's Environmental Health Service.

17. Any Other Business:

Those who did not go to the "Made in My Toun" programme featuring Livingston which was shown at Howden Park Centre on Sunday 17 January did not miss anything. This BFI Britain on Film programme had been publicised as a screening of archive films of Livingston New Town but failed to meet expectations. A number of complaints have been made to the Council about the quality of the event.

Damage has occurred to woodland trees due to wet weather and strong winds. Ian Brown reported to the Woodland Trust a damaged tree which was now unsafe and it has now been chopped down. Residents are asked to report any trees that look like they are becoming dangerous.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10 March 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School