

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 JUNE 2015
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

An Ordinary meeting of Murieston Community Council continued after the AGM was concluded.

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Chris Dryden, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, June Keddie; Superintendent Kevin Kerr, PC Alan James

Apologies: Kim Vance, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor John Muir

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 May 2015:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 14 May was proposed by Tania Armstrong and seconded by Arthur Marris. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

As reported for the AGM above.

5. Community Policing:

PC Alan James gave a brief report.

In April and May -

Anti-Social Behaviour calls were 10 (21 for this period last year)

Youth Disorder calls were also 10 (14 for this period last year)

PC Alan James confided he may not be able attend future meetings due to reassignment.

6. Councillor's Report:

No councillors are present and no reports are available.

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

Kim Vance is unable to attend tonight and there is no report for MEG.

8. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

Ron Skirving will add an item re. web safety to the website.

Ron wants to send one email each month to subscribers, ideally a monthly newsletter. 300 residents are on the email subscription list and the Facebook page has 500 likes. Ron has been editing the initial newsletters and asked if someone would be able to take on the role of editor for future editions.

One objective of the website is to encourage Murieston residents to join the Community Council and we need to consider how best to approach that.

The need for publicity was discussed.

It was agreed that officers should have a generic email address which will be publicised on the website.

11. Bridge closure for major rebuild by Network Rail / BAM Nuttall:

Work is underway on preparing the site and the plant compound is now ready. Hard core is now down for the heavy lift crane.

The road will be closed on 27 and 28 June. Traffic lights are installed and will be in operation in July and August.

Ian Brown has written to the Council's Chief Executive, Graham Hope to confirm that actions agreed at the recent joint meeting will be implemented.

It was noted that overhanging trees are obscuring the approach from Bellsquarry to Murieston which impedes visibility of the bridge works. Ian will pursue this issue with the Council.

12. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

The Scottish Agricultural College has now lowered its quote to £3,000 for the soil analysis at the meadowland behind Murieston Grove. Ian has been advised by the Climate Change Fund to obtain an environmental habitat survey first, which will cost £1,200 to £2,000.

Following discussion, the Community Council approved Ian Brown's action in seeking funding from external sources.

13. Local Development Plan:

Nothing to add to last month's report.

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

Ian Brown has made a submission to the Reporter objecting against the appeal by the second applicant to build on that site.

The meeting debated what further action was appropriate. The proposal by Tania Armstrong and seconded by Arthur Marris to go to the Standards Commission was agreed.

15. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

An application has been made to build a service road for the Harburnhead Wind Farm.

Ian noted that the boundary fence at Easter Murieston bordering on the Murieston Trail still needs planning consent as it was erected in July 2012 without the required planning permission.. Ian has submitted an objection to the application to build a housing estate at Murieston Castle as the land is not designated for development.

16. Correspondence:

The latest edition of Spokes was circulated.

17. Any Other Business:

David Cooper asked if a pedestrian crossing could be provided on Murieston Road at Robin's Lane.

Chris Dryden noted there is a need for pavement bins on Murieston Valley from Rothes Drive to the roundabout.

We will invite Dr. Ed Russell-Smith back to a meeting in the autumn to ask for an update on the construction of the new Murieston Medical Practice.

It was agreed that the Secretary will book the Terrace Restaurant at West Lothian College for a Thursday later June.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

The date of the next meeting after the summer break will be confirmed.