

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 MAY 2017
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Kevin Kerr, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard;

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Ron Skirving, Carol Hallesy, Alex Hendry; PC Alan Hodge, PC Alan James

Residents: Roger Harper, Andrew White

2. Introduction:

Chris Dryden welcomed our two new councillors, representing Livingston South Ward. Chris explained that Community Council represented the community and conducted business in a non-partisan manner.

3. Minutes of the Meeting on 13 April 2017:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 13 April was proposed by Kevin Kerr and seconded by Lorna Cooper. Carried.

4. Matters Arising:

None.

5. Finances:

The account balance is now £1,556.17. The accounts will be ready for assessment at the end of April in preparation for the AGM in June.

6. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a brief report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick outlined the result of the Council Election on 4 May. No party has a majority. The full Council met today and decided to defer action on appointing office-holders and forming an administration until the next Council meeting to be held on Thursday 18 May.

Councillor Heggie and Councillor Shemilt said they had started their councillor induction training.

Andrew White stated that the Fire Service had been called out to deal with bins in Murieston Vale set alight as acts of vandalism.

7. Community Policing:

PC Alan James and PC Alan Hodge are unable to attend and have forwarded a report.

The monthly crime stats for Livingston South ward are :-

<u>Calls</u> <u>change</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>2016 to date</u>	<u>%</u>
Youth	42	48	-13%	42	48	-13%
Anti-Social Behaviour	162	195	-17%	162	195	-17%
Hate Crime	6	7	-14%	6	7	-14%
Vandalism	28	25	12%	28	25	12%
Fire-raising	1	0	-	1	0	-
Public Space Assaults	21	20	5%	21	20	5%

There have been 69 incidents from 1st April till present, mostly alarm calls, road traffic matters and nothing significant.

Youths stealing bins again features during the school break in April.

3/4/17 – Murieston Way, theft of bins

5/4/17- Murieston Vale – theft of bin

7/5/17 – Theft of racing bicycle overnight. Described as a Black Merida, 16 inch wheels, Merida written in white on both wheels, green stickers on rims.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

Work has started on installing the stone bench on Murieston Trail. This will replace the 'bandstand' damaged by fire last year and had been the preferred option in the community consultation following the fire.

The next meeting of MEG is on Thursday 18 May at the Cricket Club.

9. Broadband Rollout:

Nothing to report.

10. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

11. Windfarms:

Ian Brown reported that a planning application is being made for 12 wind turbines at Fauchs Hill.

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

Our new Community Matters banners, publicising our website, have been put up at the Co-op store and beside the station at Du Beau's.

13. Community Development Trust (CDT):

There have been some 291 Likes on Facebook expressing approval for setting up a community development trust as a medium to channel grants and funds for Murieston.

Davidson McQuarrie reported that there have been 23 responses to the website consultation, with several consultees indicating they would be interested in participating in the trust. There have also been a large number of Facebook correspondents suggesting community projects, with some 44 promoting a new community café.

As part of the public consultation it was agreed we will develop the case for a CDT and will arrange a public meeting soon to present this and gain approval to set up the trust, which would be established as a charity.

14. Community Garden and Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

The Council has sampled soil to analyse for contamination as the Land Contamination Officer had raised some issues. The analysis report states that the soil is suitable for growing food.

15. Bankton Mains Upgrade:

The Council is proceeding with the planned £105,000 upgrade of facilities. There will be a training track with outdoor gym equipment and also a wildflower meadow. The work will take place in the summer over 3 months. There are no proposals to increase the capacity of the car park.

16. Edinburgh Airport Flight Paths Consultation:

Davidson McQuarrie reported that he had attended with Chris Dryden and Ian Brown a round table briefing at Holyrood on 20 April organised by Edinburgh Airport Watch, hosted by Mark Russell MSP.

The overwhelming view was that the consultation exercise was flawed as information provided by Edinburgh Airport was incomplete and sometimes inaccurate. The online consultation only allowed comments on the options presented by the Airport and offered no opportunity to propose alternatives etc. The relevant airspace route preferred in the consultation document bisects between Kirknewton and Oakbank, instead of beyond the far side of West Calder.

Certain aircraft types would be mandated to maintain 100% of engine power while making this sharp turn, with a corresponding increase in engine noise.

A major concern is that Edinburgh Airport has no enforceable restrictions on night flights, unlike at the main London airports.

A CAA review of airspace management is currently underway and Edinburgh Airspace Watch has asked that the consultation exercise be postponed until the review is published.

17. Spring Cleanup and Litter Pick:

The litter pick on Sunday 23 April in Murieston and Bankton had been a great success. 56 residents and staff from McDonalds and the Co-op had participated and collected some 70- 80 bags of rubbish. The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Community Council to Tania

Armstrong for organising another so successful litter pick.

18. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

A Reporter has now been appointed to determine the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse the Wellhead Farm planning application (0918/P/15). The public hearing will be held from 7 to 9 June, with the venue still to be confirmed. The Reporter originally requested submissions on two matters - Housing Land Supply and Education Infrastructure (Capacity & Planning) and has now asked for submissions about Transport Accessibility. Ian confirmed we have made a submission and will be participating at the

Public Hearing.

Roger Harper noted that soil samples were taken yesterday at the Wellhead Farm site, presumably to be analysed for contamination.

The determination of the Reporter regarding the appeal on housing development at Murieston Castle is due and will then be considered by the Scottish Ministers before promulgation.

Some trees have been cut down in the woodland strips at Rothes Drive and Roy Drive in Murieston Valley.

The former B&Q Warehouse will be split into three retail units, including a Matalan outlet.

19. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

The Draft LDP has been submitted by West Lothian Council to the Scottish Government for finalisation.

The major site in Linhouse Glen previously earmarked for strategic industrial use is now re-zoned for light industry or housing development. The inclusion of a distributor road through the site from Murieston to Oakbank remains in the LDP and its requirement is questionable.

20. Livingston South Station:

Chris Dryden advised he has not received any further information although Network Rail had advised more information about proposed programme of work would be available in April which they intended to share with the wider community, including the community council.

21. Correspondence:

The Secretary circulated the latest edition of the Spokes cycling newsletter.

22. Any Other Business:

Councillor Shemilt expressed her thanks for the invitation to attend the Community Council meeting as a new councillor representing Livingston South ward.

Chris Dryden said that we would appreciate the input of our councillors at each meeting concerning issues relevant to Murieston. Arthur Marris noted we aim to build and maintain links with the local community. Nick Lansdell added that we represent the community of Murieston with a consistent and impartial view, which as a statutory body should carry weight.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, re-arranged for Thursday, 15 June 2017 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School