

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 JUNE 2014**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://www.muriestoncommunity.com>**

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

**1. Present:**

Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, Ian Brown, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Chris Dryden, Alex Hendry, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell, Ron Skirving;  
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr, PC Alan James  
Guest: Mrs. Joyce Morrison

**2. Apologies:**

Kim Vance, Frank Mustard, Tania Armstrong, Carol Hallesy

**3. Minutes of the Meeting on 8 May 2014:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 8 May 2014 was proposed by Chris Dryden and seconded by Nick Lansdell. Carried.

**4. Matters Arising:**

Ian Brown has been to another meeting with officers from the Roads Service regarding the closure of the A71 and diversion of traffic through Murieston. The Council has now agreed to divert heavy traffic eastbound via Almondvale Roundabout to the A899 dual carriageway from 5pm to 9am each day. The closure will start on 7 July for 6 weeks.

Councillor Fitzpatrick stated there are safety reasons why the A71 could not be kept open with single lane contraflow operation. The hours of work can be extended if the repairs fall behind schedule. A mobile pelican crossing will be provided at the Vets. Murieston West road at Bankton Mains will be a no parking zone for the duration of the traffic diversion. New signs will be erected warning the height restriction under Murieston rail bridge. Hours of repair work on the A71 can be extended if necessary to ensure that the closure timetable is maintained.

General advice to local residents is to drive carefully on affected and adjacent roads.

**5. Finances:**

As stated at the AGM earlier.

**6. Community Policing:**

A report was given by PC Alan James.

Anti-social behaviour calls are 21 for this year, 17 for last year, 5 this May and 5 in May 2013.

Youth disorder calls are 12 this year to date, 5 for last year, 2 this month and 1 in May 2013.

Alan reported on the recent vandalism at the Campbridge Pond. 8 persons had been camping and drinking there. Trees were cut down and put in the Pond. Tyres and cans were dumped in the Pond. Handrails were pulled down.

The Council sent in a team to remove the trees and have now replaced the handrails.

No swimming signs may be put up around the Pond.

There was a robbery at the Co-op store on 20 May.

There have been two breakins and two car thefts in the area.

**7. Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick made a report :-

The roof at Bellsquarry Primary School will be renewed this year. The bell tower will be taken down as it is non-functional and is not economic to maintain it.

The headteacher at Bellsquarry Primary has left recently. Arlene Black of Williamston Primary is covering in the interim.

Councillor Fitzpatrick is trying to get extra carriages for the 07.44 train. The ScotRail operations director has advised that their timetable is planned 77 weeks ahead. All carriages are leased. Advice is that passengers should not expect to stand for more than 11 minutes on a journey.

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

Mrs. Joyce Morrison gave a report on behalf of MEG.

MEG raised £500 at the Gala Fun Day held at Livingston Cricket Club on Sunday 8 June.

The MEG AGM is next Thursday at the Cricket Club.

**9. Litter Pick and Cleanup:**

Our Litter Pick and Cleanup organised by Carol Hallesy and Tania Armstrong took place on Sunday 25 May. Unfortunately the weather was poor but there were still forty adults and children who gathered 36 bags of rubbish. Thanks to all the volunteers participating in the cleanup, providing catering at Murieston Village Hall afterwards and to the local Co-op store for providing biscuits, cakes and refreshments.

**10. Windfarms:**

Nothing to report.

**11. Community Website - [www.muriestoncommunity.com](http://www.muriestoncommunity.com) :**

Copies of minutes for all meetings and the current agenda are being posted there.

**12. Community Allotments:**

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

Killandean Allotments Group now has planning permission. Fencing will be erected in two weeks time. Eight allotments are still available.

The Community Empowerment Bill is now law. Once the Killandean Park allotment scheme is full the Council will be obliged to find a new site.

**13. Single Outcome Agreement:**

There is no report this month.

**14. SESplan Strategic Development Plan:**

A presentation was held at Bellsquarry Village Hall by David Wilson Homes which have an expression of interest to build houses at Murieston Castle.

Presentations on the housing need and demand are being held at the Edinburgh City Chambers on 2, 9 and 17 July.

**15. Planning Applications:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this item was discussed.

An application has been made to build one house in Murieston Valley beside Moriston Drive (0264/FUL/14). The land in question is covered by a TPO. The Council Planning Service had refused planning permission but the application was referred to the planning committee by a councillor in support of the application. At the subsequent Development Management Committee meeting it was pointed out by the Development Management Manager that four persons who had purportedly submitted letters in support of the application had no knowledge of submitting these letters. The councillors on the Development Management Committee then voted by four votes to three to approve the application and grant planning permission.

The Community Council agreed that there was material concern about the circumstances and determination of this planning application and decided that the office-bearers would be empowered to take this forward in regard to pursuing further action.

**16. Correspondence:**

None.

**17. Any Other Business:**

The Secretary advised that Carol Hallesy has indicated she may be sponsoring a youth member to join the Community Council after the summer break.

**The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm**

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

