

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13 FEBRUARY 2014**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://www.muriestoncommunity.com>**

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**1. Present:**

Arthur Marris, Kim Vance, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, Ian Brown, Carol Hallesy, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor John Muir; Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr, PC Alan James

**Other Attendees:** Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer for Livingston South; Simone Gupta

**Apologies:** Frank Mustard, Ron Skirving, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Chris Dryden, Alex Hendry

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 9 January 2014:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 9 January 2014 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by June Keddie. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

Minor changes were agreed.

**4. Finances:**

There has been no expenditure since the 2012/2013 accounts were finalised. The bank account now stands at £1,427.53. Ron Skirving is obtaining the mandate form from the Bank to change the authorised cheque signatories as agreed at the December meeting. The annual fee of £35 for renewing our registration with the Information Commissioner under the Data Protection Act is due shortly.

**5. Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer Livingston South and North:**

Michelle Kirkbright introduced herself and explained she had started in January at West Lothian Council on this new programme, having previously had a background in neighbourhood management.

The community regeneration programme is targeted at the top 20 per cent of most deprived communities in Livingston South and North electoral wards. This involves parts of Ladywell, Howden and Dedridge. A map was circulated showing the target areas and streets covered by the programme.

Michelle is working with the Enable Club at Newyearfield Farm, Ladywell East which provides support for children and adults with learning disabilities and other special needs. The programme is also working with Optima (formerly called The Federation of West Lothian Voluntary Sector Day Support Services) which provides day support services at the five voluntary sector Day Care Providers in the county, including Braid House and the Rosebery Centre.

Michelle is keen to work with local community groups and community councils.

Michelle Kirkbright with Clair Patullo are our contacts for the Single Outcome Agreement.

**6. Community Policing:**

PC Alan James with Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr gave a report.

Anti-Social Behaviour calls have risen from 69 to 79.

Youth disorder calls have increased from 15 to 31.

There has been an increase in youths drinking and also pestering and singling out vulnerable people.

There has been a re-emergence of problems with motorbikes being driven by youths on paths. Previously an offender had been apprehended and the bike confiscated.

The public should be aware that it is possible that car doors may be opened by third parties using code grabber technology which captures the locking code when the car was originally locked.

There are four local priorities in the Livingston South policing plan which have been agreed with

the community – reducing anti-social behaviour, tackling substance misuse, making our roads safer, tackling acquisitive crime. The policing plan covers three years and the Police would welcome feedback and views of the community.

Acquisitive crime remains a problem and Police Scotland is now reviewing its response to burglaries.

There have been arrests following the burglary at the Co-op.

Although traffic wardens are being withdrawn in Scotland generally in February funding is in place to retain the local warden in post until June.

Under the national review of public counters at police stations, Linlithgow desk has been re-instated from 9 to 5 each day. The Livingston counter will continue to be open 24 hours a day.

There was a traffic accident at the junction at the Murieston Medical Practice on 20 January.

Speed checks have since been carried out there.

## **7. Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick made a report :-

A deer was killed on Alderstone Road recently. Scottish Natural Heritage confirm there is an increasing deer population. SNH advise that juvenile roe deer will be moving habitats in May and the Council's electronic road signs will convey the danger of deer crossing.

The Reporter at the Harburnhead and Fauch Hill Public Local Inquiry has now submitted his report to the Minister who will make the decision. If approved, power transmission cables may be routed via Murieston Road to connect to the National Grid at the Lizzie Brice Sub-station.

West Lothian Council's executive committee has approved a suggestion from Councillor Fitzpatrick in response to the Scottish Government's consultation that Community Benefits from renewable energy developments should be £7,000 per MW per year or 5% of annual income before deductions, whichever is the greater.

The Council's executive committee has also approved a motion from Councillor Fitzpatrick to extend community right for residents to buy and then maintain open space, amenity land and landscaped areas which have been retained in ownership by the developer or by a factoring company. This is in line with the tenets of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill.

The penalty for fly tipping will be £200 and for litter dropping will be £50 with effect from 1 April. Rubbish tipped in the open ground between Wester Bankton and East Bankton Place is being uplifted.

The 20mph road markings are being repainted at East and West Bankton Place.

Tailbacks on Alderstone Road have been caused by the parity phasing of the traffic lights at the Lidl junction. The lights have now been re-phased to match traffic volumes on the main road.

The 7.44 commuter train to Edinburgh typically has standing room only and Scotrail have promised to carry out a head count.

The TPO for trees on Murieston Valley at Moriston Drive was referred to the Council's Development Management Committee by Councillor Johnston to the planning committee and was approved yesterday. The TPO would have been automatically granted in the absence of being called to committee.

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

Kim Vance reported.

The Livingston South Blue Green Network group are holding a public meeting at the Scout Hall regarding Phase 1 of the community environmental project, funded from an award of £150,000 from the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund.

£50,000 will be available for work in Murieston. For Phase 1, woodland patches at the side of paths on Murieston Trail will be cleared. Poplar trees will be felled to open up areas of woodland.

Phase 2 will start in the Autumn. The stairs on the Murieston Trail will be renewed.

The fish in a classroom project, previewed at the November meeting, is now being funded directly by Williamston Primary.

A volunteer day is being held this Saturday from 10 to 1pm to carry out a general tidy up around Cambridge Pond.

There will be a volunteer day in April for planting.

The work at the viewing platform is complete and has been paid. The new log seat at Campbridge Pond was a donation.

MEG won the Livingston Round Table Lion's Den competition and was awarded £1,000.

The next management meeting is on the third Thursday of the month at the Cricket Club.

**9. Environmental Matters:**

The Paws for Thought campaign has been running in Murieston to encourage dog owners to take the 'Paws for Thought' promise and to be a responsible dog owner by picking up after their pet.

**10. Windfarms:**

The Reporter at the Harburnhead and Fauch Hill Public Local Inquiry has now submitted his report to the Minister who will make the decision.

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

Copies of minutes for all meetings are being posted there.

**12. Community Allotments:**

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

Killandean is going ahead in the Spring and other sites may be considered afterwards.

West Lothian Council is waiting for the Call for Sites before finalising the allotment sites. They are also waiting for the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill to be enacted which will include in Part 6 updated and simplified legislation on allotments

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/5740>

Livingston Village Community Council has adopted the Killandean Allotments Group which, as a result, will reduce the planning fee payable by the Group by 50%. West Lothian Council will now pay the balance of the fee and will also fund the required wildlife survey. The allotment scheme should be ready by the Autumn.

**13. West Lothian Development Trust:**

Ian Brown noted there was nothing further to report. No changes to community benefits are proposed although the practice in West Lothian differs from the Scottish Government's new guidance - Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments. We need to raise this with West Lothian Council.

**14. Single Outcome Agreement:**

There is no report this month although SOA issues were broadly covered in Michelle Kirkbright's presentation earlier.

**15. SESplan Strategic Development Plan:**

The Community Council's response to the consultation by the Scottish Government on the SESplan Supplementary Guidance – Housing Land -

<http://sesplan-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/sq/hsqland> has been circulated.

**16. Planning Applications:**

The Council's Planning Service is holding a series of training sessions for community councillors. We have suggested topics to be covered at future sessions. The first workshop will be on 12 March.

An email has been received by the Secretary from the unsuccessful applicant for planning permission to build houses beside Moriston Drive in which an offer was made for providing land for community purposes. It is noted that the TPO covering this land has been approved. It was agreed that the local residents will be consulted.

**17. Correspondence:**

None.

**18. Any Other Business:**

Ian Brown noted reports that the forthcoming Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill will establish a system of appointing a guardian drawn from a list of specific named persons from the NHS and local authorities to monitor every young person's well-being from birth to adulthood.

The status of the former Co-op site at Bankton Retail Centre was discussed. One option is for a restaurant and we can move on the debate by inviting suggestions via our community websites and Facebook.

**The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13 March 2014 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School**