

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13 JUNE 2019
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

An Ordinary meeting of Murieston Community Council continued after the 2019 AGM was concluded.

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper

Apologies:

Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Tania Armstrong, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard, Ron Skirving; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Residents: Ian Boyd-Livingston, Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 9 May 2019:

Acceptance of the minutes of the regular meeting on 9 May was proposed by David Cooper and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

The bank balance now stands at £2,128.59.

5. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick:

Councillor Fitzpatrick is unavailable tonight as he is attending a function in Linlithgow. He has provided the following report, which was read out by the Secretary at the meeting.

“ Sorry I cannot be with you tonight, committed to attending a Civic engagement as Patron of West Lothian Guides at Linlithgow.

- Lisa Marie Purdie, Headteacher at St Ninian's Primary School – has been awarded Scottish Head Teacher of the Year for Scotland – now goes forward to the UK finals.
- St Ninian's Primary School - over the summer break the Primary is to undergo roof replacement and toilet refurbishment at cost of £385,000.
- The James Young High School – over the summer break 3G pitch resurfacing/TRV replacement, pool filtered at cost of £150,000.
- Town Centre Fund Capital Grant 2019/20 - £1.826m has been awarded to West Lothian to be spent on, or contracted by, 31st March 2020: Murieston Community Council area awarded £31,350. Criteria on eligible projects now advised to Murieston Community Council **work with WLC officer ASAP.**
- School session dates for 2020/21 agreed – 2 additional in service days agreed, being Tuesday 20th August 2019 and 6th January 2020. Agreed by Scottish Government and Trade Unions.
- Instrumental Music Service – change in concession criteria. Eligibility for school clothing grant now replaces free school meals as baseline for free tuition. Outcome is 23.48% of families, as opposed to 16.3% formerly, now qualify.
- SUDS at West Cairn View – Cala Homes have reconstructed – visual amenity and safety vastly improved.
- SESPLAN – Planning Minister has rejected the SESPLAN on grounds of failure to have a Transport Strategy!
It is incredible as Transport Scotland holds the capital purse strings (extensive capital spend still ongoing on Queens Crossing) – Question is how does WLC now retrofit transport into extensive, on the ground housing developments! This decision has a clear link, in my view, to The Planning Bill. Stage 3 of the Bill this week with 160 amendments. Scottish Government is not favouring 3rd party right of appeal. The WLC agreed policy view is that there should be no right of appeal. We still have LDP as our defence.
- Role of Councils as Strategic Planning Authority is being greatly diminished more to pan out on this critical issue. “

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

Nothing to report.

7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Helen Mackie has been liaising with Local Energy Scotland on finalising the bid proposal for a CARES enablement grant to provide funding to develop and produce a community action plan for Murieston.

The MDT steering group has agreed with Local Energy Scotland to issue a tender to commission a consultant to produce the community action plan, funded by the CARES grant. Davidson McQuarrie is preparing the tender which will be sent out to consultants/consultancies in July. It is expected that a shortlist of tenderers will be interviewed in September and the contract for producing the community action plan will be awarded in October.

8. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

9. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Nothing to report.

10. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

11. Livingston South Station:

Ian Brown reported.

The lift on the car park side broke down last week. The Fire Service had to force the doors open to release a member of the public. The lift remains out of service.

The second shelters on the platforms are now open for passengers.

The flower planters are still to be replaced on the new platforms.

The new electric trains generally have 3 carriages although the platforms are designed for trains of up to 6 carriages. The commuter train at 07.45 to Edinburgh now operates with 3, rather than formerly 4, carriages which is creating overcrowding.

The chips on the station embankments have been sliding down onto the paths as a result of wet weather. Temporary lights remain in place on the staircases. These issues will be taken up via West Lothian Council.

12. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Wellhead Farm (ref. 922/MSC/18)

The Development Management Committee at the meeting on 17 April had requested that the Planning Service arrange a meeting with the developer, community council and the objectors to resolve issues on the travel plan and an enhanced tree line along Murieston Road frontage.

At the meeting arranged on 28 May, representatives from the Community Council and local residents made a number of suggestions on improving the travel plan which the developer will be providing to prospective house buyers. An outline plan was agreed with agents of the developers to re-design the driveways for the houses fronting onto Murieston Road to use an access road to the rear and thereby enable a full screen of trees and shrubs on the Murieston Road frontage. This would be in keeping with the existing tree screen in front of West Cairn View. Planting of the tree screen will occur at the start of development.

The representatives of the developer also agreed to consider the Community Council's proposal for an additional traffic refuge on Murieston Road beside Murieston Court.

Conditions were also agreed on limiting the hours of work, which will be confined to between 8am and 8pm.

Roger Harper suggested that the Community Council should complain directly to the Council Chief Executive if the planning conditions are breached.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 0927/FUL/18) and Bankton House (0955/FUL/18)

Ian advised that there were no updates on the planning website for either of these planning applications.

13. Correspondence:

The Council has announced that money will be available from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund for 2019/20 across West Lothian. Applications for grants for eligible projects have to be presented by 27 August. Officers of the Community Council will be meeting soon to decide on submitting a proposal for funding appropriate community projects in Murieston.

14. Any Other Business:

Chris Dryden reported that Barden House was nearing completion and we will invite Dr. Ed. Russell-Smith to our September or October meeting to advise us on progress in letting the commercial units.

Chris noted that there were issues with the bottle bank relocated to the fence line at the Cricket Club. There is frequently broken glass on the grass verge and on the road.

Ian Brown advised there are sometimes problems with buses passing the taxi rank at the station. Taxis have parked on the inner circle outwith the taxi rank, preventing the bus negotiating the turn. The solution, which will be put to the Council, is to extend the double yellow lines at both ends of the taxi rank.

It was agreed that we will arrange another litter pick in the autumn, with date to be confirmed at the September meeting.

The Secretary confirmed meetings are booked for the forthcoming 2019/2020 session on the second Thursday of each month from September to June 2020 at the Staff Room in Williamston Primary. A door entry keycard (costing £40) has been provided to enable us in future to gain entry before 7pm on meeting nights.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12 September 2019 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.