

MURIELSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14 MARCH 2019
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell;
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Ian Brown, Frank Mustard

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 February 2019:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 14 February was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Kevin Kerr. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank account now stands at £2,128.58.

The annual fee of £35 for renewing our registration with the Information Commissioner under the Data Protection Act has been paid by direct debit.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt said she had taken two issues which had been raised at the last meeting to the Local Area Committee.

Tree and woodland management

The Council NETs, Land & Countryside Services are working on a tree health management report with the Woodland Trust. This will be go before the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDSP) for approval.

The Council is also working with the Woodland Trust on updating the Tree and Woodland Management Plan in Livingston.

Domestic garden waste

The collection of brown bin garden waste is taken to the new Whitehill Service Centre in Bathgate then moved to Levensat Landfill where it is composted to the required ecological standard.

Advice on handling and managing garden waste is to be incorporated in the Tree and Woodland Management Plan. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted there are 300 varieties of *phytophthora* disease, and postulated that the disease could be spread by domestic plants brought in from abroad which carried the pathogen.

Councillor Shemilt has met with Becky Plunkett, the Council's Open Spaces Officer who is developing a food growing strategy for 2025.

The work to repair the traffic island at Skivo will be done by the end of April. Roger Harper asked if the current temporary arrangements are fully compliant with the highway regulations and Councillor Shemilt said she would get confirmation from the Council's Roads Services.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

In the past week a number of young people have been adapting an area of the Murieston Trail for off-road biking. The Council has had to intervene to stop the activity as this is potentially dangerous for pedestrians and bikers alike. A bike track would need to be properly approved, designed and constructed.

Branches have been cleared on the paths beside the football pitch at Murieston Valley.

The Woodland Trust will be planting tree whips to replace the diseased trees felled in Williamston Wood. An invitation is being extended to Williamston Primary for pupils to be involved in the replanting.

Action is being taken to deal with the current issues with overflow parking from the station into Bankton Wood.

Raytheon UK have announced that they will be setting up a manufacturing facility in Livingston.

Lothian Country buses will be setting up a large bus depot at the former recycling centre at Deans.

The Council is raising council tax by 4.9% for 2019/2020 financial year, which will avoid the need for further budgetary cuts.

The Scottish Government has passed legislation recently to enable local authorities to levy charges for parking at workplace car parks, but the Council does not propose to introduce this scheme. The Council has adequate stocks of rock salt in readiness for the cold spell of weather which is forecast for the next week or so.

6. Community Policing:

No report is available tonight.

The Secretary will confirm if a general report can be provided when a police officer cannot attend.

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

Nothing to report.

8. Murieston Development Trust (MDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Helen Mackie is drafting the bid proposal form for a CARES enablement grant from Local Energy Scotland for funding to develop and produce a community action plan for Murieston. The MCC officers will be meeting with the Trust steering group soon to review what is required to complete the application.

The Cricket Club is considering whether to make a CARES application in their own right to fund a renewable energy scheme at the clubhouse.

Arthur Marris noted that there is considerable support for a community garden as a funded project.

Becky Plunkett will be in touch with our Planning Secretary, Ian Brown.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

The Secretary will consult Ron Skirving on producing the regular newsletter.

11. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

12. Livingston South Station:

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that Network Rail have confirmed that the work on the station will be completed by the end of March. .

13. Spring Clean and Litter Pick:

Arthur Marris outlined details of last year's litter pick, held in late October.

It was agreed that we will organise a litter pick this Spring. The proposal for the Spring Clean will be included in next month's meeting agenda for a decision on the date and arrangements.

Councillors Fitzpatrick and Shemilt left the meeting at the end of this item of business.

14. Planning Applications:

None of the planning applications currently being followed by the Community Council will be considered at the Development Management Committee meeting next week.

15. Correspondence:

The latest Spokes cycling newsletter was circulated.

16. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday 11 April 2019 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.