

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

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Ian Brown, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Lorna Cooper

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, Helen Mackie, John Sharp

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 12 September 2019:

The community council meeting on 10 October was not quorate, so could not proceed.

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 12 September was proposed by David Cooper and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

The bank balance now stands at £2,518.39. This includes the annual administration grant of £473 for the year to 31 March 2020.

Davidson McQuarrie explained that the CARES grant (as in Item 8 below, totalling £9,912) and the Town Centre Fund grants (as in Item 9 below, totalling £32,845) will be paid into the Murieston Community Council account and will then be disbursed to the approved consultancy / contractors when payment milestones are achieved, all of which must be fulfilled during this fiscal year.

5. Dr. Edward Russell-Smith, Murieston Medical Practice:

Chris Dryden welcomed Dr. Russell-Smith who was attending tonight to update the Community Council regarding Murieston Medical Practice and Barden House.

Dr. Russell-Smith is the sole practitioner of Murieston Medical Practice.

The new practice manager is Kevin Kerr who has taken over from Sue Brown on her recent retirement. Dr. Russell-Smith put on record his thanks for her contribution to building up and running the Practice.

The Practice now has 8 GPs working part-time and 15 staff. The GPs are the expert medical specialists and are now devolving appropriate duties to nurse practitioners and prescribers. A new position, Physician Associate is being introduced. A physiotherapist and a Community Psychiatric Nurse (1 day a week) will be starting soon.

A branch of Lloyds Pharmacy is attached to the Practice.

There is no waiting list for new patients to register.

Barden House had been built specifically employing local architects and trades persons. Derek McAllister had been the project manager.

Tenancies are now available for Barden House. Fabulous Face & Nail Studio recently leased a unit and has increased business following their move from Livingston Village. Units are available from 50m² to 200m² and are being actively marketed by an estate agent.

6. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt:

The national education virtual comparator, which measures performance of pupils with comparable backgrounds across Scotland, has assessed that the performance of some West Lothian schools has made a great improvement.

At the Local Area Committee today, issues were discussed concerning overflow parking in streets around St. Johns Hospital. There are now fewer spaces reserved for hospital staff and more available for the general public. There was a discussion with the NETs Manager on the frequency of grass cutting.

There have been more incidences of fly-tipping in the area.

A new transport bill will be before the Scottish Parliament next year, which will include a provision to make parking on pavements illegal.

Councillor Shemilt has raised a motion to support Women 50:50 to promote 50% representation of women in Parliament and councils.

Moira attended the Home-Start West Lothian AGM in September.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick:

Councillor Fitzpatrick explained he had arrived late tonight as he had been attending a pre-arranged meeting at Bellsquarry.

The lift on the Edinburgh-bound platform at Livingston South station has now been replaced.

The new Wellhead Farm development has no wheel-washing facility. The Council's Planning Service will advise the developer on action required.

At the annual COSLA Conference, Whitburn Academy was awarded a mental health education award. The West Lothian mental health scheme for schools will form the basis for a national rollout. Councillor Fitzpatrick attended an awards ceremony at West Lothian College at which the Young People Achieve award was given to all pupils Enhanced by Care.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended the St. John's Hospital stakeholder group. There is still a shortage of medical staff with continuing consequential impact on services.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended several Remembrance ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday, 10th and on Remembrance Day, 11th and laid five poppy wreaths.

Lawrence praised the Russian State Ballet's performance of The Nutcracker ballet at Howden Park Centre last Saturday. Local dance students from West Lothian Danceworld also participated.

The Livingston South category of the annual West Lothian garden contest was won by a gardener in Rothes Drive.

A march from Howden Park Centre to the Civic Centre will take place on Friday 22nd to launch 16 days of action for the elimination of violence against women campaign, organised by the West Lothian Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership.

St. Margaret's Academy celebrates its 25th anniversary later this month.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

There was a volunteer event last Saturday to clear paths at Cambridge Pond

8. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Helen Mackie outlined current progress.

Local Energy Scotland has awarded a CARES enablement grant to provide funding to develop and produce a Community Action Plan for Murieston. This has required a tender to commission a consultant to produce the Community Action Plan. Two consultancies bid for the work and, after interviewing representatives from both consultancies, Murieston Development Trust steering group (MDT) awarded the contract in October to locally based Community Enterprise. The contract award of £9,912 will be paid into, and then disbursed from, the Murieston Community Council account when payment milestones are fulfilled.

Community Enterprise, working with MDT, has launched a comprehensive community consultation.

Residents are invited to complete a community survey which is available online

([https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Murieston CAP](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Murieston%20CAP)) with paper copies available at three pickup/dropoff points (Co-op store, Di's Diner and Murieston Medical Practice).

The consultation involving Murieston residents and community groups will run into the New Year and form the basis for developing the Community Action Plan, which will be completed by the end of March. Several public meetings will be arranged over the next few months to ensure that residents and community groups are fully involved in determining the Community Action Plan.

Councillor Shemilt expressed her thanks to Helen Mackie for her work.

9. Town Centre Fund for 2019/20:

Ian Brown reported on the applications submitted for funding local projects.

The Local Area Committee has approved grants totalling £32,845 for two projects proposed by the Community Council.

The main project, amounting to £29,470, will create Murieston Community Gardens which will be a collection of three productive spaces along the Murieston Trail, comprising an organic vegetable garden at the station, a managed wildflower meadow beside Murieston House and a forest garden on Murieston Trail. The total cost of this project is £100,000 so the award will only fund the first phase.

The second project, amounting to £3,375, will provide a community noticeboard, with co-location of the defibrillator, at the station carpark.

Contracts have to be underway during this fiscal year as a condition of the grant awards.

The contract award totalling £32,845 will be paid into the Murieston Community Council account and then paid to contractors when approved work etc. is completed.

10. Communications, including website - muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk

Nothing to report.

11. Livingston South Station:

Ian Brown reported.

The Community Council has applied for a grant from Scotrail's Station Travel Plan Delivery Fund which funds initiatives to facilitate use of stations. This will require 50% match funding.

We are also asking for a ticket machine on the Glasgow-bound platform.

The defibrillator, proposed for the car park, will need a power supply and we are suggesting it is situated by the lift or public toilet.

The temporary stair lighting is still to be made permanent.

12. Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian:

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian has four single-issue forums, covering Health, Police, Planning and Transport. Community Councils are encouraged to have representatives on each sub-forum.

No decision was made tonight on appointing representatives and the issue will be carried over.

13. Changes to Meeting Dates:

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

As Williamston School will be unavailable on 12 December due to the General Election, the next meeting will be held a week earlier on 5 December.

School events planned for May and June require changes to our meetings which will now be on 7 May and 4 June.

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Bankton House (0955/FUL/18)

Ian had represented the Community Council and Davidson McQuarrie had represented several objectors at the hearing of the planning application on 16 October.

The Development Control Committee gave planning approval for the 12 unit lodge complex at the front of the Hotel and 4 bedroom annex at the rear.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 0927/FUL/18)

Ian represented the Community Council and Davidson represented several objectors (from the original 82 objectors) at the hearing of the planning application yesterday.

The Development Control Committee in a majority decision refused planning consent, citing three grounds: environment, TPOs and public concern regarding remediation of contaminated land.

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

Roger Harper asked for an update on the Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme. Ian Brown advised that he and Davidson McQuarrie had attended a workshop in September organised by Progressive consultancy, contracted by Edinburgh Airport. The purpose had been to get ideas and preferences from representatives of communities affected by the potential airspace changes. Progressive will then collate and analyse findings, and will arrange follow-up workshops over the next 12 months.

Advertising boards have been appearing on Murieston Trail. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed that this is not permitted and is a matter for planning enforcement.

Ken Kirk noted that kerbstones were never restored after trenches were filled in on Murieston Road. Ian Brown advised that this should be taken up with Ross Burton at Planning Services.

Ken Kirk also noted that contractors at Wellhead Farm had stopped work on request as a mark of respect for a funeral of a local resident.

Chris Dryden reported that Murieston Valley had not been gritted today in response to the icy conditions.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said he would deal with this as Murieston Valley is a Primary Route for de-icing purposes.

Ian Brown advised that The Larder at Brucefield has several dates available for our Christmas meal. None of the available dates had a consensus and the Secretary agreed to check on the availability of Bistro 19 Restaurant at Harburn Golf Club during December and email community councillors to reach a consensus.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 5 December 2019 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.