

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 JUNE 2017
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

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

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan James

Apologies: Arthur Marris, Ron Skirving, Carol Hallesy, Alex Hendry; Councillor Moira Shemilt, Councillor Peter Heggie; PC Alan Hodge

Residents: Roger Harper

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 11 May 2017:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 11 May was proposed by Kevin Kerr and seconded by Tania Armstrong. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

The bank balance now stands at £1,536.18 as of June 2017.

5. Community Policing:

PC Alan James gave a report.

PC James outlined the crime stats for the Livingston South ward. Calls are down since last year. Some bins awaiting street collection are still being removed by youths and set alight.

Frank Mustard asked about the current police complement level.

Roger Harper raised the issue of speeding on Murieston Road around West Cairn View. PC James confirmed he will pass details to the Traffic section.

Lorna Cooper, on behalf of the Community Council, expressed thanks to the local police for their support of the community.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a report.

David Lees has been appointed by the Council as the new NETs Team Manager for the area.

The Council is carrying out fire safety checks on external cladding on council-owned blocks of flats.

Transport Services are running checks on buses and taxis.

Although directional markings have been set out to delineate a possible footpath at Bankton Retail Centre, necessary planning approval has not been granted for a footpath.

The landscaping plan for the proposed SUDS wetland at West Cairn View is still to be finalised.

There have been several incidents recently of dog bites and dog-on-dog attacks on local paths.

Councillor Fitzpatrick circulated the expenses returns to 2017 for councillors.

Chris Dryden as Chair, on behalf of the Community Council, congratulated Councillor Fitzpatrick on being elected as Leader of West Lothian Council following the council election on 4 May.

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

The new stone bench has now been installed on the Murieston Trail. This replaces the 'bandstand' damaged by fire last year and had been the preferred option in the community consultation following the fire.

8. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

Ian Brown reported.

The consultation period is now past for the proposed Fauch Hill Windfarm development. There have been 137 objections and 3 in favour. The Kirknewton Community Development Trust will benefit from a community-owned wind turbine.

10. Community Council Website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

The latest edition of the community council newsletter has been emailed out earlier this week to 400 residents.

11. Community Development Trust:

Chris Dryden reported.

We will be preparing to start public engagement in September and will have a stall at the Open Day at Livingston Cricket Club on Saturday 2 September. The banner will be used to publicise the website and we will have some promotional leaflets.

12. Community Garden and Allotments:

Chris Dryden gave an update on the plans for improving facilities at Bankton Mains Park. The Council project manager, Becky Plunkett has started the project and draft designs will be available soon.

13. Edinburgh Airport Flight Paths Consultation:

The Secretary has sent our response to the public consultation which is now closed. Nothing to report.

14. Livingston South Station:

Chris Dryden read out an email he has received from Network Rail about the Shotts line electrification.

Network Rail confirmed Livingston South station will be redeveloped to improve accessibility, extend and widen platforms etc. with work starting this Autumn. Details of when and how this work will be delivered will be communicated across the community when the proposal is fully developed. There is not currently a web site which is planned to host this plan, but @shottslineeec on Twitter provides regular updates on the Shotts Line Electrification project.

15. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has submitted an objection to the proposal for a new distributor road between Murieston and Oakbank.

The LDP has now been completed by West Lothian Council and referred to the Reporter who will hold a hearing in December.

16. Planning Applications:

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this planning item was discussed.

Ian Brown reported.

The upgrade of Bankton Mains Park has started and there is likely to be some disruption in the car park while work is underway. Ian will check with the Council's planning coordinator, Becky Plunkett. There has been one objection to the application for a mobile barber's shop based at the car park at Bankton Mains.

The appeal re. the Murieston Castle development is still with the Reporter for decision.

Chris Dryden and Ian Brown represented the Community Council at the public hearing held by the Reporter on 7 to 9 June of the appeal regarding housing development at Wellhead Farm. The hearing spent 1.5 days on educational capacity, which included issues on denominational schools. The outcome of the related proposal to build Winchburgh High School is awaited.

Another half day was spent on infrastructure and rail services. Day 3 covered land supply. A contaminated land survey report was provided by the developer. A quota of 25% affordable housing should be provided, based on the land value of the developed site.

A resident who attended the public hearing has emailed to thank Ian and Chris for their participation on behalf of the Community Council.

The Reporter has not ruled yet on the appeal against the refusal of planning consent for Murieston Castle (0355/P/15).

The former B&Q Warehouse site is being occupied by three retail units - Matalan, The Range Home and Leisure and another. B&M Lifestyle Store is opening at Almondvale Business Park.

17. Four-Yearly Community Council Election in October 2017:

The Community Council Scheme provides that community councils must be elected every four years. West Lothian Council has advised that the election of the new community council will take place in October. Nomination of community councillors must be submitted to the Council by 14 September.

18. Correspondence:

None.

19. Any Other Business:

Ian Brown reported that a horse was recently being exercised in the open area beside Robin's Lane. David Cooper related a complaint about a car being badly parked at the entrance to Bankton Wood which had prevented the refuse lorry entering.

The Secretary has submitted an application to book meetings for the forthcoming 2017/2018 session on the second Thursday of each month from September to June 2018 at the Staff Room in Williamston Primary.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 14 September 2017 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School