

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 17 NOVEMBER 2022
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell, Mark Robbie, Davidson McQuarrie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Janey Cringean; Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Maria MacAulay

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, Clare O'Lone, John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 20 October 2022:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 20 October 2022 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Mark Robbie, subject to a minor change. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

Signage for Murieston East/West Road was not visible at the railway bridge junction and this has now been rectified by Roads Services.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The current bank balance is £17,610.74. This includes £10,000 received from Energiekontor as a compensatory payment to the community for the routing of the power cabling for the Longhill Burn windfarm through Murieston. The money will be provided to Murieston Community Garden.

Since October's meeting, £4,821.60 has been spent on a storage container for the community garden, £10,000 credited from Energiekontor, and £13.50 surplus cash credited from selling ice cream at the Gala Day.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt outlined a number of points which she has reported in detail in her written report, see - <https://1drv.ms/w/s!Asxb5-sNHl2apEwFtdt6zzNHJzvj?e=uagd2c>

Councillor Shemilt outlined issues regarding signage at Murieston East Road; traffic management at Williamston Primary; development work at the Tarbert Drive site, the re-routing of the X27 bus service away from Dedridge West; Remembrance Sunday; proposed Murieston Tennis and Sports Club; the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge; Early Learning and Childcare, deferred entry; removal of minibus services to community organisations.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

The problem with Siporex concrete, which has required the Lanthorn Centre to be extensively repaired, has been found in other properties in the Council estate. Central government is not providing any financial support.

Funding is needed to manage ash dieback. 17,000 ash trees are expected to be lost in West Lothian.

The new Council ecology team is mapping the West Lothian environment, and deal with TPOs and managing environmental corridors. Six assistant rangers are being funded by Nature Scotland. Whitelining of local roads should be done by the end of the year.

A pelican crossing will be built on Murieston West Road at the Nursery in the Spring.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has spoken about local policing to the local Police commander who has confirmed the Police will be focusing on local issues. Local officers are Sergeant Brodie, PCs Cunningham and Marshall.

Police are taking measures to stop the misuse of motorbikes on public paths.

The teachers are expected to strike on 24 November.

West Lothian schools continue to have educational attainment above national comparator councils as 3rd top performing local education authority in Scotland for attainment.

The Advice Shop is dealing with an increased caseload of people who have difficulties with bills etc. The Advice Shop is at the Crofthead Centre on Wednesdays from 9.30am for face-to-face enquiries. Alternatively, you can contact them on 01506 283000.

The new NPF4 planning framework was debated in Scottish Parliament last Tuesday. The framework will be available online soon. Councillor Fitzpatrick will circulate copies when available. A sustainable construction ecohouse costing £500k has been started in partnership with West

Lothian College.

Livingston South station and Livingston Inn car parks have a supply of rock salt in preparation for the winter.

Several warm hub drop-ins are being setup.

The Scottish Government will be consulting on extending 20mph zones across urban areas.

A new traffic management scheme is being implemented at Williamston Primary School. There will be more parking spaces.

Homelessness is increasing. There is a £3m overspend on accommodation to address this.

New compliance regulations now mean that Council minibuses can no longer be hired out to community groups.

£5m has been allocated to West Lothian Leisure and for sport in schools.

Livingston Cricket Club has, with the agreement of the Council, leased a part of its field to Tennis Scotland.

The block grant from Government is now 24% of the Council's income.

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

Nothing to report.

7. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The MCDT steering group met on 2 June to review plans for setting up and promoting the Trust, as Covid was then receding. Leaflets publicising the Trust were handed out at the Cricket Club's Gala and Family Day on Saturday 3 September. The Facebook page for Murieston Development Trust is being refreshed and will be renamed Murieston Community Development Trust.

The steering group has agreed that the Trust will be registered with Companies House as a Company Limited by Guarantee, named Murieston Community Development Trust Limited. CLG companies are suffixed Limited by default when registered online. It is likely that in due course, when the charitable purposes of the Trust are clarified and manifest, the Trust will apply to OSCR to become a SCIO; a route followed by other community development trusts.

The Community Action Plan can be viewed at :-

<https://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk/news/consultation-community-action-plan-for-murieston/>

8. Town Centre Fund:

Nothing to report.

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

Community advice is posted on the community website.

10. Livingston South Local Area Committee

Nothing to report.

11. COVID Issues

Vaccinations are now all being done centrally, rather than through medical practices. Advice on getting vaccinations can be viewed at :-

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/the-vaccines/coronavirus-covid-19-booster-vaccination/>

Phone: 0800 030 8013.

12. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown advised there are no new planning applications relevant for discussion and gave an update on ongoing planning matters.

Tarbert Drive (0314/FUL/22)

Clare O'Loone reported that residents had been given 7 days notice of the start of the work on site.

Equipment arrived on site after 3 working days. There is no evidence of health and safety procedures being followed. The felling of a tree branch which landed directly on the Murieston Trail has been reported to the Health and Safety Executive. The Tarbert Drive residents held a meeting last night to consider their response. Various non-compliances have been identified. A boundary dispute also needs to be resolved. Clare met the Planning Officer today to express the concerns of residents.

The Council Environmental Officer is remotely checking the dust monitors throughout the day.

Access to remote monitoring may be extended to residents.

Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that the Council arboriculturist has confirmed all relevant trees have consent to be removed. Tree guards are required to protect trees which will remain. A banksman will be used to manage traffic movements once the wheel washing facility is operational. Updates will be communicated on the Murieston and Bankton Community Facebook page.

The Construction Management Plan was signed off today.

Tree protection fencing and wheel washing facilities must be in place before soil disturbance and removal starts.

Restaurant / Bar and Cafe / Hot Food Takeaway at the Bankton Centre (0604/FUL/22)

The revised planning application went before the Development Committee yesterday and has been continued at the applicant's request to clarify the parking capacity.

Pedestrian Refuge on Murieston Road

Nick Lansdell explained the agreement and planning condition to which the developer of the Wellhead Farm estate should adhere. The pedestrian refuge should be sited within 20m of Murieston Court as required by the planning condition. It is instead being sited in the wrong place with no pavement, yet is supposed to be on the safer route to school. Nick explained that the school transportation policy expects that children will use a pavement at roads, which Nick notes is not provided beside the new pedestrian refuge.

Ian Brown has asked the Chief Executive in a FOI request for the technical assessment underpinning the decision to position and install the refuge. Councillor Fitzpatrick said he will arrange there is a full response.

Other

Ian has attended training regarding the updated planning law which is being provided to Development Committee members.

13. Correspondence:

The Council is conducting a consultation, Your Council Your Say, to help plan the future of council services - <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/WL2028> . The consultation ends on Sunday. It was agreed that the Secretary will submit a response on behalf of the Community Council.

14. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

The next meeting will be on 15 December in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.