

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 20 MAY 2021**  
*held online via Zoom at 7 pm*  
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

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This meeting was held on Thursday 20 May by community councillors online using the Zoom video app.

Meetings at Williamston Primary have been cancelled by West Lothian Council until further notice due to COVID-19 pandemic.

**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Lorna Cooper, Kevin Kerr; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick,

**Apologies:** Nick Lansdell; Councillor Moira Shemilt

**Residents:** Ken Kirk, John Sharp

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 22 April 2021:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 22 April 21 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Ian Brown, subject to a minor change. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Finances:**

Arthur Marris reported.

Arthur presented the accounts to 31 March. The account balance was £39,507.52, which included grants for projects funded under the Town Centre Grants Scheme. The accounts were proposed as accurate by Chris Dryden and seconded by Davidson McQuarrie. Carried nem con.

The account balance remains at £39,507.52 as of today.

**5. Councillors' Reports:**

**Councillor Moira Shemilt**

Councillor Shemilt is unable to attend tonight's online meeting.

**Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick**

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised the recent death of the Deputy Provost, Councillor Dave King.

Dave King represented the East Calder ward as councillor for 30 years and was very popular.

His funeral will be held next Tuesday in East Calder.

The Times Scottish Schools league table of 340 secondary schools, based on pupils attaining five Higher grades, lists a number of West Lothian schools in the top tranche. Linlithgow Academy was placed 11<sup>th</sup>, West Calder High School 12<sup>th</sup>, James Young High School 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Margaret's Academy 26<sup>th</sup> and Inveralmond Community High School 62<sup>nd</sup>.

The school holidays timetable for 2022/23 has been agreed. There will be a longer February break. Holiday activities have been organised for the school holidays.

The use of the mobile app, Photomath as a means of solving mathematical questions is proving its worth.

The Council has budgeted for 2% for non-teaching staff pay increases.

There are reports of some building work starting before 8am contrary to planning conditions. This appears to be a means of catching up following lockdown during the longer daylight hours.

Shortages in building supplies are being reported as the building industry and supply train returns to normal operation after the period of lockdown.

30 Council apprenticeships are currently being advertised online.

The Council is pressing for a meeting with the Minister regarding the introduction of the new legislation for legacy houses to have a hardwired smoke alarm system from next February.

The Lanthorn Centre closed on 2 April. A structural survey of the roof is now completed.

£3 million has been allocated for work to replace the Siporex RAAC roof and the Lanthorn may be closed for up to two years.

Currently, 70% of adults in West Lothian have had their first vaccination, and over 40% their second. The period of 12 weeks between vaccinations may be reduced.

Arthur Marris noted that you can register for your second vaccination and adjust the date.

Arthur Marris asked for an update on the problem with the water treatment plants on the River Almond. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed that a meeting will be arranged with Scottish Water and

other stakeholders soon. The Council's Operational Service are taking action on the river banks.

**6. Local Area Committee (LAC) Report:**

Davidson McQuarrie represented the Community Council at the Livingston South LAC held online on 13 May.

Sergeant Iain Wells reported on the prevalence of domestic abuse during Covid-19 lockdown and recent anti-social behaviour at Howden Park.

David Cullen of the NETs team advised that fly-tipping has increased. Support is being provided to the West Lothian Litter Pickers.

Ross McDonald of Operation Services provided an update on the renovation of the Lanthorn Centre. A project steering group has been set up. A paper on the technical solution for replacing the roof deck is being prepared.

New social housing complexes have been completed at Eagle Brae and Quentin Court. There are 10,000 on the housing waiting list. The Council has been operating a 'no eviction' policy for rent arrears during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Lesley Keirnan of Community Regeneration will be providing a full report on the Town Centre Fund projects at the August LAC meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

**8. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :**

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Following our recent online Zoom calls with Linlithgow Community Development Trust and the Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS), the Murieston Development Trust steering group will be following the DTAS advice on setting up the Trust as we move out of Covid lockdown.

Meanwhile we want to give everyone the opportunity on digital media to read the Community Action Plan and background information, and give some initial feedback.

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

**9. Town Centre Fund for 2019/20:**

Ian Brown reported.

The community noticeboard (project MUR02) has now been installed beside the bus stop at the station. This project is now completed. We will need to decide as a general rule what should be posted in the noticeboard concerning the community council and Murieston community.

We expect Ross Contractors to start work on the first phase of the community gardens (project MUR03) beside the station later in May and take six weeks.

Councillor Fitzpatrick will ask council officers to provide an update on designing the map of Livingston which will be sited at the station (project MUR01).

Davidson McQuarrie reported that the Council's Property Services are liaising with ScotRail on installing the defibrillator cabinet and providing a power supply.

Carol Hallesy reported that the Co-op has opened a community fund for Murieston.

**10. Communications, including website - [murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk](http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk)**

Community advice concerning Coronavirus is posted on the community website.

<https://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk/news/assistance-during-coronavirus-crisis-2/>

**11. COVID-19 Issues:**

Kevin Kerr advised that the local vaccination programme is continuing apace and encouraged everyone to take up their vaccination when given an appointment. Hospital admissions remain low with few Covid patients in intensive care.

**12. Community Council Election:**

Elections are held every 4 years for the community council and residents of Murieston are welcome to become community councillors. The election will take place this autumn. Details of how to apply to join Murieston Community Council are explained in the Community Council Nomination pack at :-

<https://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Community-Council-Nomination-Pack.pdf>

**Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at the end of this item of business as he is a member of the Development Management Committee.**

**13. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

**Two-level Restaurant/Bar and Café/Hot Food Takeaway (ref. 0240/FUL/21)**

The planning application for a restaurant / bar and café / hot food takeaway with balcony and terrace beside the Coop store at the Bankton Retail Centre has been refused.

**Extension to shop and installation of an ATM at the Bankton Centre (ref. 0864/FUL/20)**

The planning application to extend the retail unit (formerly tenanted by Du Beau hairdresser) and install an ATM cash machine has been granted.

**Takeaway at Bankton Mains Park (ref. 0188/FUL/21)**

The planning application for a snack takeaway in Bankton Mains Park has been withdrawn.

**Camilty Windfarm (ref. 0320/FUL/21)**

Ian has asked EDF for wireline drawings to visualise the impact of the proposed larger turbines on the Murieston vista.

**Longhill Burn Windfarm (ref. 0359/FUL/19)**

There is no update so far on the routing of the power cabling from the Longhill Burn windfarm to the Lizzie Brice substation.

**Wellhead Farm (ref. 0065/FUL/20)**

Planting of the shrub and tree screen along Murieston Road should now proceed as provided by planning condition 11 which was amended to require this to be undertaken during the 2020/21 planting season. Ian has written to the Planning Service regarding the enforcement of planning conditions, including the need to close off the gate temporarily permitting direct access onto Murieston Road. Bellway has responded that there has been an issue with sourcing the types of trees to be used.

**Tarbert Drive (ref. 0927/FUL/18; DPEA case re. PPA-400-2107)**

Nothing to report.

**Felling of two trees on site at Murieston Valley (ref. 0313/TPO/21)**

A planning application has been made to fell a beech and an oak tree within the development plot to the north and east of Moriston Drive on Murieston Valley. This application was inexplicably originally advertised as relating to the Livingston North ward and, therefore, the normal planning timetable for comments etc. needs to be revised to reflect the mis-advertising.

**14. Correspondence:**

Online consultations have been circulated.

**15. Any Other Business:**

None.

**The Meeting closed at 8.40pm**

**Community Council meetings will be held monthly online until we can resume public meetings at Williamston Primary.**

**The next meeting, the AGM, will be held *online* in late June 2021.**