

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING ON 21 OCTOBER 2021
held online via Zoom at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

This inaugural meeting of the new Murieston Community Council was held on Thursday 21 October 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. Introduction

The inaugural meeting of the new Murieston Community Council for the 2021 to 2025 term was opened by Anastasia Dragona, Committee Officer of West Lothian Council, who conducted the inaugural business of the meeting on behalf of the Returning Officer (Community Councils).

2. Report by the Returning Officer on outcome of the Community Council election:

Murieston Community Council is entitled to have 18 members as the prescribed number for a population exceeding 5,000.

As six valid nominations had been received timeously, all nominees are deemed elected to the Community Council for four years to 2025 –

Ian Brown, Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Nick Lansdell, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie

There are twelve vacancies. Four youth members can also be appointed. Associate members who either live within or outside the community council area can be appointed.

The four Elected Members for the Livingston South Council multi-member ward are ex-officio members of the Community Council and do not have voting rights.

3. Record of those present and Minute of Meeting:

Davidson McQuarrie agreed to record the minute of the inaugural meeting.

4. Present:

Nominees: Ian Brown, Chris Dryden, Nick Lansdell, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie

Elected Members: Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Maria MacAulay, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Carol Hallesy; Councillor Peter Heggie

5. Appointment of Community Council Office-bearers:

Uncontested nominations have been received for each office.

Appointments (all elected nem con)

Chair of Community Council - Chris Dryden

proposed by Arthur Marris, seconded by Davidson McQuarrie

Vice-Chair - Carol Hallesy

proposed by Chris Dryden, seconded by Davidson McQuarrie

Treasurer - Arthur Marris

proposed by Ian Brown, seconded by Davidson McQuarrie

Secretary - Davidson McQuarrie

proposed by Arthur Marris, seconded by Chris Dryden

Planning Secretary - Ian Brown

proposed by Nick Lansdell, seconded by Davidson McQuarrie

6. Constitution:

The model constitution was adopted. A copy of the constitution needs to be signed by the Chair and two members and then submitted to West Lothian Council for approval.

This concluded the business of inaugurating the new Community Council.

Normal business of Murieston Community Council then continued.

7. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Nick Lansdell, Carol Hallesy (*from 8pm*); Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Maria MacAulay, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Councillor Peter Heggie

Residents: Kevin Kerr, Ken Kirk, John Sharp

8. Minutes of the Meeting on 16 September 2021:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 16 September was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Nick Lansdell. Carried nem con.

9. Matters Arising:

None.

10. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

£2,878.80 has been transferred to Ross Contractors on 17 September for 105 sleepers to be used to build raised flower beds.

Current bank balance is £3,533.70 after final payments for the Town Centre Fund projects.

11. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt has contacted Tracy Smith of the Council's Ranger Service who is looking at the cost of replacing the boardwalk on Murieston Trail. A meeting is being arranged for the end of October.

The Planning Service enforcement officer has visited Wellhead Farm housing estate to verify compliance with planning conditions regarding the SUDS scheme, temporary road access and treebelt on Murieston Road. The developers are non-compliant regarding the tree screening, with 25 trees and hedging required to be planted. The new road in the estate has opened, so the temporary access onto Murieston Road needs to be removed. Councillor Shemilt offered to organise a meeting with the developer and two representatives from the community.

Councillor Shemilt has arranged for grass to be cut at the new community garden beside the station. Councillor Shemilt has spoken to Andrew Warrington today and resolved issues regarding the power cable routing via Robin's Lane.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that Robin's Lane is not an adopted road and has just become legally accessible for the cabling work because Energiekontor UK has now registered as a company providing transmission of electricity. This means that Energiekontor is empowered to choose their route.

The Council has submitted a bid to grant Livingston city status as part of the Queen's 2022 Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours competition.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has met Shona Robison MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government to discuss West Lothian's need for £5 million over the next few years to manage ash tree die-back.

Councillor Fitzpatrick will be planting trees tomorrow with Lord Lieutenant Moira Niven.

The Council needs definitive methodology from the Scottish Government in order to calculate future land supply. Currently, land for 20,000 houses has been allocated for future housing supply.

Edinburgh's overspill is being met at Calderwood, on the far side of East Calder. The City of Edinburgh Council is now focusing on brown site development.

Advice on the booster vaccination for pupils is being published as the schools return from their autumn break.

Ian Brown asked whether work on the new Local Development Plan has started. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed that Covid-19 restrictions has held up this work, but the current LDP remains valid.

Nick Lansdell reported that bricks and building materials were stacked beside the bus stop at Murieston Park. This appears to be for the purpose of building work nearby and is not an instance of fly-tipping.

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

Nothing to report.

13. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) steering group is following the Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS) advice on setting up the Trust as we move out of COVID-19 lockdown. We are drafting Articles of Association to set up a limited company by guarantee to form the Trust and we intend to run events when the COVID pandemic permits to publicise what we are doing and invite residents to participate in the newly formed Trust.

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.

14. Town Centre Fund for 2019/20:

Ian Brown reported.

Both projects for the community noticeboard (project MUR02) and community gardens (project MUR03) are now implemented and completed.

An initial mockup of the proposed map of Livingston at the station carpark (project MUR01).has been circulated and we have made our comments. This project is being managed by the Council and no completion date has been announced yet.

15. COVID-19 Issues:

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave an update.

Kevin Kerr advised that the over-70s will receive the booster vaccination at health practices. The booster jags will then be administered to other age groups at local hubs.

Kevin observed that patients are over-presenting at St John's A & E Department, instead of consulting their GP. Murieston Medical Practice has now reached its limit for patient registrations.

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

Community advice concerning Coronavirus continues to be posted on the community website.

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

17. Livingston South Station:

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The defibrillator is now installed and operational in the cabinet beside the ground level lift at the front of the station.

Consumables have been replaced and the defibrillator has been registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service on the national The Circuit database.

In a medical emergency, ring 999 and supply postcode and What 3 Words location shown on the cabinet, then the emergency centre operator will give the code to unlock the cabinet datalock.

18. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported. There are no new planning applications for discussion.

Wellhead Farm

Nick Lansdell reported that there has been water run-off and backup from the SUDS scheme which needs to be addressed.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that the Head of Planning, Craig McCorrison is dealing with the issue and will provide feedback. The SUDS scheme will be adopted by, and become the responsibility of, Scottish Water only on completion of the housing estate.

Ian Brown asked that the Council should make a Hazard and Operability Study (HAZOP) to identify and evaluate problems with the SUDS scheme. Councillor Fitzpatrick will progress this proposal.

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

We are still awaiting the Construction Plan. The entrance gate on Tarbert Drive is now being left open.

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

Energiekontor has confirmed the route for the power cabling from the Longhill Burn windfarm to the Lizzie Brice electricity substation, which will be routed down Murieston Valley, Robin's Lane and footpaths through to Bankton Lane, passing Williamston Primary.

Carol Hallesy reported that excavation work will start in one week's time at the entrance to Murieston Valley and continue through to the roundabout in January.

Ian has asked Andrew Warrington of Energiekontor for their construction plan and to provide a virtual exhibition, flyers etc. for residents in the affected streets and meet with the Community Council urgently. Councillor Fitzpatrick added that the Council expect that the work will ensure the protection of trees and tree roots. In this regard, a Council arborist will advise Energiekontor, which is a condition of the Roads consent.

Camilty Windfarm (ref. 0320/FUL/21)

Planning consent has been granted to install six wind turbines, subject to some 30 planning conditions. The power cable infrastructure will be routed via Brucefield to the Drumcross Energy Storage Facility at Bathgate, which is a lithium-ion battery energy storage facility.

TPO on Murieston Valley (ref. 0313/TPO/21)

An application to fell a beech tree and oak tree on land approved to build one house on Murieston Valley was dismissed as tree management would be a more appropriate way of prolonging the life of these attractive mature trees. In the decision refusing consent, it was stated that the overall impression is that it is highly likely that the reason the trees are proposed for removal is to facilitate further development. The applicant has now appealed to the Reporter.

Installation of surface water drainage system at new unit in Bankton Centre (ref. 0897/FUL/21)

This application has been made to install a drainage system to discharge only rainwater from the new unit's roof into Murieston Water. This must only be rainwater from the roof gutters, and no waste or grey water.

19. Correspondence:

None.

20. Any Other Business:

Arthur Marris asked what will be the impact of local policing during the COP26 Summit in November. A plan for local policing has been prepared.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

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

The next meeting will be held *online* on 11 November 2021.