

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 22 OCTOBER 2020

held online via Zoom at 7 pm

web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

This meeting was held on Thursday 22 October 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.

1. Present:

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

Apologies: Nick Lansdell; Councillor Moira Shemilt

Resident: John Sharp

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 4 June 2020:

Acceptance of the minutes of the regular meeting on 4 June 2020 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by David Cooper. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

Current balance is £ 30,027.28.

This includes publicly derived grants, funded from the Town Centre Fund for two community projects to provide community gardens (£29,470) and a community noticeboard (£3,375). Expenditure on the two projects has been £1,553 to date.

The last transaction was the receipt of our annual administration grant of £473 from West Lothian Council on 3rd August.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Shemilt was unable to attend due to an urgent issue which arose immediately -prior to the meeting.

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The Council has made a further submission to the Scottish Government Reporter in response to his indication that he may allow the developer's appeal to build 18 houses at Tarbert Drive.

There is now a new "Gladman" ruling on assessing housing supply for planning purposes. On June 3, the Court of Session handed down a landmark judgment in the case of Gladman Developments Limited v Scottish Ministers in which it upheld the use of the 'tilted balance' in cases where there is a shortfall in the housing land supply. When calculating whether an adequate housing land supply is being provided, the assessment should be made against the local authority's housing land requirement rather than its housing supply target.

The Minister is consulting with local authorities and developers on the implementation of this ruling. Reporters have overturned the Council's housing allocations at Wellhead Farm and other sites in the Livingston area but supported the limitation of housing supply in Linlithgow.

The Scottish Government has announced that the proposed requirement for all houses to have a wired or wireless system of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors has been postponed for at least 12 months.

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

'Halloween' rocks are being placed throughout Murieston Trail, as an outdoor game for children to discover over the Halloween period.

7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Davidson McQuarrie provided an update.

The Community Action Plan was produced by our consultants, Community Enterprise at the end of March as planned. Full payment for this work has been made to Community Enterprise Limited.

We are not able to promote the Community Action Plan and formation of the Murieston Development Trust as we had previously intended while the current COVID-19 lockdown continues. Until we can, we are publishing the Plan on digital media outlets, along with the comprehensive research report which sets out the background to the consultation.

When circumstances permit, we will be actively promoting the Community Action Plan, and also progressing actions to set up the Murieston Development Trust at public meetings and events etc., and move forward with adopting the Community Action Plan as a blueprint for making changes which will benefit all in Murieston. 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/>

8. Town Centre Fund for 2019/20:

Ian Brown reported.

Planning permission has been granted for both projects; the community noticeboard (ref. MUR02) and community gardens (ref. MUR03).

The contract for the noticeboard will be placed shortly. The supplier of the noticeboard has stopped providing an installation service. We will shortly place the installation contract with local firm, Ross Contractors.

Still no response from ScotRail on whether they can provide the basic power supply required for the defibrillator when it is relocated to the station.

A second round of the Town Centre Grant Fund has just been announced. It was agreed at tonight's meeting that we will apply for further funds, probably in respect of further development of the Murieston Community Garden (project ref. MUR03).

Ian attended the recent online meeting with the Planning Group of the Joint Forum of Community Councils. The Joint Forum will be sending out an online questionnaire regarding issues encountered with the planning system.

Davidson McQuarrie said he has been invited to a Cisco Webex meeting tomorrow, primarily to test that community councils can attend online meetings before the next Local Area Committee (LAC).

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

Community advice concerning Coronavirus is posted on the community website.

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

10. COVID-19 Issues:

Kevin Kerr advised Murieston Medical Practice has scheduled a number of flu vaccination clinics throughout October and November for the over 65's and patients aged 18-64 years considered to be at risk. These clinics will be by appointment only and eligible patients are encouraged to attend as flu vaccination is particularly important during this COVID-19 pandemic.

11. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Wellhead Farm

There are still incidences of breaches of conditions which are being reported to the Council Planning Service. The planning officer has not responded to date.

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

In May, the Reporter has now made a Notice of Intention that he is minded to allow the appeal and grant planning permission to build 18 houses, subject to a "Section 75 agreement" between the developer and the Council to agree a financial contribution for public infrastructure. The six month consultation period expires in November.

The Community Council will consider what course of action we may take and advice to give neighbouring residents.

Takeaway at the Co-op (ref. 0564/FUL/17)

Change of use to Class 3 has now been granted. This effectively enables the facility to be fitted out and operate as an indoor café as well as a takeaway.

Camilty Wind Farm

EDF Renewables has applied for planning permission to increase the turbine blade size by 12m, to increase generating capacity for the wind farm. The wind turbines should only be visible from some vistas at the back of Murieston.

EDF also wants to extend the lease period for the site to 30 years.

Felling of trees at Rothes Drive (ref. 0796/TPO/20)

Planning permission has been granted to fell nine trees on land beside Rothes Drive. Trees to be felled are :-

2 x Ash (diseased), 1 x Pinus (structural damage & excessive height with minimal roothold), 6 x Birch (2 leaning towards property, 1 too close to boundary fence, 3 dying due to competition).

Murieston Bridge Closure

Network Rail will be carrying out works to repair stonework on Murieston Bridge in three phases:-

Phase 1 – Monday 19 October 2020 between 9am and 5pm

Phase 2 – Tuesday 20 October 2020 between hours of 9am and 5pm

Phase 3 – Saturday 31 October from 10pm until 6am on Sunday 1 November

These works require for Murieston Road to be closed from its junction with Murieston East Road for a distance of approximately 200 metres.

12. Correspondence:

None.

13. Any Other Business:

The Secretary explained that Nick Lansdell has raised two issues.

He has asked the Planning Service for an update on the plans for the pedestrian crossing on Murieston Road. Planning Condition 10 for the Wellhead Farm estate requires that the traffic island shall be in place prior to the occupation of the 100th house.

Nick has also noted that the patch repair done after the utilities work on Murieston Road was very poor and unsatisfactory if intended to be permanent.

Councillor Fitzpatrick will refer these issues to Council officers to investigate.

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm

The next Community Council meeting will held *online* in the latter part of November