

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 24 NOVEMBER 2020**

*held online via Zoom at 7 pm*

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

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**This meeting was held on Tuesday 24 November 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, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

**Apologies:** Carol Hallesy, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Kevin Kerr; Councillor Moira Shemilt

**Resident:** Ken Kirk

**Arthur Marris acted as Chair at tonight's meeting**

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 22 October 2020:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 22 October 2020 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Arthur Marris. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Finances:**

Arthur Marris reported.

Current balance remains at £ 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 Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick explained that West Lothian has been placed last week in COVID Protection Level 4 at short notice. Most of the conjoining local authorities remain at Level 3.

A total of £15m is available from central government to local authorities in Level 4 to provide welfare support.

The Chief Executive has written to the Scottish Government to obtain clarification of the arrangements for the domestic smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regulations which have been deferred to February 2022. A number of questions on house insurance and regular maintenance need to be clarified. £3m has been allocated to upgrade the Council housing estate to meet the pending regulations for networked smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

The footbridge on Murieston Trail, located to the north of Murieston Drive, is to be replaced in December. Works to replace the bridge should start on 7 December and are expected to take around three weeks. During this time the path over the bridge will need to be closed. The pedestrian diversion route will be signposted. The new footbridge will have a lifespan of 60 years.

A 30mph speed limit is now applied on the u29 road between Skivo and Harburn.

Plans are in hand to make improvements to Bellsquarry Park.

£50k has been secured to upgrade the lighting at Livingston Bus Terminal.

The Livingston South Local Area Committee (LAC) has approved a new environmental policy for the NETs service to leave bushes and hedging with berries unpruned unless branches are overhanging paths.

The southern section of the Linhouse Trail is eroded and will be renovated in due course.

Nick Lansdell asked for a progress update on the pedestrian refuge planned for Murieston Road at Murieston Court. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed this is due to be funded and installed as a planning condition on the developer of the Wellhead Farm estate when the 100th house is completed, which is anticipated next year. Nick will email Councillor Fitzpatrick to confirm details.

Chris Dryden asked if the local COVID-19 infection statistics include staff and clients in care homes. Councillor Fitzpatrick will check and respond.

Arthur Marris, on behalf of the Community Council, placed on record our appreciation for the work the Council and staff have been doing during the pandemic.

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

Arthur Marris reported that updates are regularly given on the Facebook page.

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

Davidson McQuarrie provided an update.

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 noticeboard will be installed in January.

A second round of the Town Centre Grant Fund has just been announced. We are applying for an additional £13,809 to fund further development of the community gardens (project ref. MUR03).

We are also working with West Lothian Council on their project (ref. MUR01) for providing signposting and a map of Livingston at the station. Another funding option to be considered is the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) Open Fund which provides match-funding grants to encourage people to use buses, walking and cycling for short journeys.

**9. 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/>

**10. COVID-19 Issues:**

Chris Dryden pointed out that the national arrangements for the Christmas period has just been announced.

**Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at the end of this item.**

**11. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

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

Planting of the tree belt on Murieston Road is due to start now in the autumn under revised planning condition 11.

**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, which has now been agreed. We have cited as relevant the High Court Judgement on handling a major contaminated site in Corby, and the Reporter has asked for comments from the developers and West Lothian Council.

**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. The car park has now been resurfaced and pavements built.

**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. Accordingly, if granted, community benefits will increase to £129,000 pa for an extended period of 30 years.

The wind turbines should only be visible from some vistas at the back of Murieston. Ian will obtain new wireline drawings from EDF Renewables.

**12. Correspondence:**

None.

**13. Any Other Business:**

Ken Kirk asked whether a decision had been made on re-siting the defibrillator from Murieston Village Hall to the station. Ian Brown said there had been no progress in negotiating with ScotRail.

**The Meeting closed at 8.30pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will held *online* in the second week of December**