

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 5 DECEMBER 2019
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies:

Carol Hallesy, Lorna Cooper, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Moira Shemilt

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 November 2019:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 14 November was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by David Cooper, subject to minor changes. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that the omission to grit Murieston Valley raised at the previous meeting has been reported to Roads Services and will be actioned in future.

Ken Kirk noted that kerbstones had still not been restored on Murieston Road.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank balance remains at £2,518.39.

The process for handling grants awarded from the Town Centre Fund and the CARES Fund was agreed. Payments will be paid directly by the Council and Local Energy Scotland respectively to the Community Council account and will then be disbursed to accredited contractors and suppliers in accordance with agreed project milestones and criteria.

Davidson McQuarrie has prepared a spreadsheet to process invoices and approvals for this purpose.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick:

School catchment reviews have taken place across West Lothian.

The swimming pool at Inveralmond Community High School is being opened daily for public use.

West Lothian Leisure (www.westlothianleisure.com) has published an Inveralmond Swim Timetable with public swim times.

School catchment areas for the 2020 pupil intake are being reviewed.

The Howden Rock Ramp, which enables fish to go upstream at Howden Weir on the River Almond, has been highly commended in the Coasts and Waters category at the RSPB Nature of Scotland awards held yesterday.

Work on the Mid Calder weir will start soon. When completed, fish will be able to swim up river again.

Bus services have improved since Lothian Country took over bus routes. The Traffic Commissioner has limited powers to regulate bus services.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended the march on 22 November organised by the West Lothian Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership.

Councillor Fitzpatrick represented West Lothian Council at the 100th anniversary celebration of Polish Independence Day at St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended the Celebrating Sport Awards for 2019, organised by the Active Schools & Community Sport team, which celebrates the achievements of coaches, officials, athletes and volunteers in West Lothian.

The local Asda store supports good causes through its Community programme. Grants of £200 and £500 for community projects are available through their Green Token Giving scheme.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

Arthur confirmed MEG will work with Murieston Community Council on the Forest Garden element of the Community Gardens project.

MEG is involved in the Fish in the Classroom project at Bellsquarry Primary.

7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Davidson McQuarrie provided an update.

Posters and A5 flyers to promote the Murieston Community Action Plan and consultation have been put in more public premises throughout Murieston. Flyers have continued to be dropped at households across Murieston

Flyers will be handed out at the station to early morning commuters.

Regular updates are being posted on the Murieston Community Facebook page.

The project was promoted in the Community Council email newsletter which was distributed to 500 subscribers on 15 November. A further newsletter will be emailed later in December which will include a progress report of the project.

The online community survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MuriestonCAP>) has now been completed by over 150 respondents to date. Ken Kirk noted that the survey returns to the top of the page after each question is completed.

Paper copies of the community survey are being picked up and dropped off at three locations (Co-op store, Di's Diner and Murieston Medical Practice).

Community Enterprise is arranging meetings with various community groups and facilities. A number of meetings have been arranged for January to discuss and identify issues, potential projects, priorities etc.

Community Enterprise is also engaging with local primary and secondary schools, and with the elected members representing Murieston.

8. Town Centre Fund for 2019/20:

Ian Brown reported on the applications submitted for funding local projects.

The Livingston South Local Area Committee has approved grants totalling £32,845 for two projects proposed by the Community Council.

The main project, amounting to £29,470, will create Murieston Community Gardens which will be a collection of three productive spaces along the Murieston Trail, comprising an organic vegetable garden at the station, a managed wildflower meadow beside Murieston House and a forest garden on Murieston Trail. The total cost of this project is £100,000 so the award will only fund the first phase.

The second project, amounting to £3,375, will provide a community noticeboard with co-location of the defibrillator at the station carpark.

Contracts have to be underway during this 2019/20 fiscal year as a condition of the award of grants. We will be contacting an architect who has worked on similar environmental projects and may commission a technical design.

The Council's NETs Service has agreed to arrange soil sampling and analysis for all relevant applications. The cost will then be split between the organisations concerned, thereby reducing the overall cost.

Ian has a "letter of comfort" from West Lothian Council confirming that no planning permission will be required for the wildflower meadow and forest garden elements of the Community Gardens project.

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

Davidson McQuarrie confirmed that another newsletter would be sent out at the end of the year.

This would be an opportunity to provide a progress report on the consultation work for the Community Action Plan.

10. Livingston South Station:

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that the Council has sent an enforcement letter to Network Rail to require the platform embankments are landscaped as prescribed in the planning consent.

The new timetable from 15 December should provide an improved service with more carriages on some trains, including the 07.45 to Edinburgh.

Trains will not be running on the 27 - 29 December due to engineering works between Haymarket and Edinburgh Waverley. A replacement bus service will run between West Calder and Edinburgh. The timetabled train service should resume on Sunday 29th from 10am.

The Community Council has applied for a grant from Scotrail's Station Travel Plan Delivery Fund which funds initiatives to facilitate use of stations. Ian Brown advised that Scotrail has turned down the application as not meeting the specific qualifying criteria.

Ian explained that we also suggested moving one of the ticket machine on the Edinburgh-bound platform to provide a ticket service for Glasgow trains. Scotrail, however, have rejected this proposal as too costly. Councillor Fitzpatrick said he would follow up this matter with Scotrail.

The defibrillator, proposed to be moved to the car park, will need a power supply and we are suggesting it is situated by the lift or public toilet.

The temporary stair lighting is still to be made permanent.

11. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Wellhead Farm

A wheel washing facility is being installed next week to ensure that vehicle wheels are washed down before leaving the site.

Work has now started on levelling the ground in front of the site on Murieston Road as a preparatory step to creating the planned tree belt.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 0927/FUL/18)

Ian has written a letter of concern to the Council's Chief Executive about the development management report provided by Planning Services, which was before the Development Control Committee when making their decision. In the Community Council's opinion, the report raised a number of issues and failed to paint a balanced picture, consequently a number of points were not fairly represented.

12. Correspondence:

None.

13. Any Other Business:

Ken Kirk asked for clarification on the cost of the concessionary fare to Edinburgh. The cost is normally £4 for an off-peak day return, but occasionally £2.80 has been charged.

The Secretary has booked a table in the Bistro 19 Restaurant at Harburn Golf Club on Friday 20 December for the annual Christmas dinner.

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9 January 2020 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.