

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 7 MAY 2020
held online via Zoom at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

This meeting was held on Thursday 7 May by community councillors online using the Zoom video app.

Meetings at Williamston Primary have been cancelled by West Lothian Council until after the school summer holidays due to COVID-19.

1. Present:

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

Apologies: Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Carol Hallesy assumed Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unavailable for part of the meeting

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 9 April 2020:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 9 April 2020 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.

The bank balance is £30,042.22 as of 31 March 2020. This includes publicly derived grants, funded from the Town Centre Fund for two community projects to provide community gardens and a noticeboard.

5. Councillors' Reports:

No elected members were present at tonight's online meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

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.

The architect we have commissioned has prepared and submitted the planning applications for consent to create the three community gardens and the community noticeboard.

Permission has now been granted to erect the community noticeboard at the station.

It was agreed by the meeting that the noticeboard would have the banner **Community Noticeboard**. 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.

The Council Planning Service has stated that a decision on the community gardens will be made by 19 May.

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

Community advice concerning Coronavirus on posted on the community website.

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

10. Livingston South Station:

Ian Brown reported.

The stone chips on the station embankments have been replaced by spray-on grass.

11. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Wellhead Farm

A meeting between Miller Homes and neighbouring residents has been held recently, covering site issues including diesel fumes and noise.

Generators are now not running overnight but there are still indications that some development conditions have been breached.

No building work is being carried out currently during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The developers have lodged two new applications for planning consent to change the flat types on 8 plots (0186/FUL/20) and to modify condition 11 by delaying the start of the tree belt on Murieston Road to planting season 2020/21 (0065/FUL/20). It will be the autumn at the earliest before the work on the tree belt can proceed, given the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

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

Earlier this week, the Reporter made a Screening Direction in which he determines that the site is an urban development project and is not defined as a development for Environmental Impact Assessment purposes. 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 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)

Building work has now stopped during the COVID-19 lockdown.

It has been suggested that the takeaway will also be fitted out as a café. This is not covered by the existing planning permission and would require a change of use consent.

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. EDF has provided wireline drawings to visualise the impact of the proposed turbines on the Murieston vista. These indicate there will only be limited visibility of the wind turbines; basically only from the back of Murieston.

The wind farm is currently planned to be operational in 2021.

12. Correspondence:

None.

13. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm

The date of the next Community Council meeting will held *online* on Thursday 4 June