

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8 DECEMBER 2020
held online via Zoom at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

This meeting was held on Tuesday 8 December 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, Kevin Kerr; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Nick Lansdell

Resident: Ken Kirk, John Sharp

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 24 November 2020:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 24 November 2020 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

At the last community council meeting, a question was asked about the new regulations on domestic smoke and carbon monoxide alarms which will apply to all homes in Scotland; now deferred to February 2022. In particular, whether failure to install the alarms as per the regulations mean that household insurance will not be valid.

The Council's Risk and Insurance Section has now advised that every case will be different. Home insurance policies provided by different insurers will have varying terms, conditions and warranties with which the home owner must comply in order for cover to remain valid. Anyone who is unclear about the terms specific to their policy regarding fire and smoke alarm requirements should contact their insurer in the first instance, to establish whether the new requirements will be specifically included in their household policy or not.

In short, it is essential any homeowner contacts their own insurance company to ascertain the position. The Council is unable to provide advice to home owners about their insurance other than to contact their insurers.

On a second point raised at the last meeting, Councillor Fitzpatrick has also now confirmed that the COVID-19 stats available for Murieston / Bankton include the care home at Bankton Gardens.

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.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Today the Scottish Government has announced that West Lothian will be moved to Level 3 this Friday, 11th. This will enable non-essential shops to re-open from 6am on Friday.

Councillor Fitzpatrick will be on the interview panels to select a new head teacher for Williamston Primary and deputy head at St. Margaret's Academy.

The Livingston South Local Area Committee (LAC) met today and decided to award an additional £11,545 grant for the community gardens and £1,960 for a town map and signage at the station under the Murieston allocation for the second round of the Town Centre Fund.

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

The COVID vaccination programme started today and is being organised in West Lothian by NHS Lothian.

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt will be on the interview panels to select a new head teacher for Williamston

Primary and deputy head at St. Margaret's Academy.

Several pupils at St. Margaret's Academy have had to self-isolate in the last few days as a precautionary COVID measure.

There is an issue with enforcing the wearing of masks for pupils on school buses.

Linlithgow Community Development Trust has offered to share their experiences with the Murieston Development Trust steering group on organising a community partnership. Moira will liaise with Linlithgow CDT to arrange an online meeting with the MDT steering group early in the new year.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

Updates are regularly given on the Facebook page.

Arthur advised that the vacant land behind the Nursery is being advertised for sale. The advertised plot has no direct access to Alderstone Road.

7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

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 community noticeboard should be ready to be installed early in 2021. The Council advises that there will be an extra administrative charge (approximately £160) for the permit and associated utility drawing.

ScotRail have confirmed they can provide the power supply required for the defibrillator when it is relocated from Murieston Village Hall to the station, but at a cost of £640 to the Community Council. They have not offered to waive this cost.

In the second round of the Town Centre Grant Fund, we applied for an additional £13,809 to fund further development of the community gardens (project ref. MUR03). We have also agreed to manage a project sponsored by the Council for a map of Livingston and directional signage at the station (project ref. MUR01).

The Livingston South LAC met today and decided to award the maximum sum available under the Murieston allocation, £11,545 for the community gardens (MUR03) and £1,960 for the town map signage (MUR01).

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-2/>

10. COVID-19 Issues:

Kevin Kerr explained that 476,000 Pfizer/BioNTech vaccination doses are currently allocated for distribution in Scotland. The vaccination programme initially covers health workers and the over-80s. Rollout will generally be based on age and risk.

GP practices are setting up vaccination teams.

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

11. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Wellhead Farm (ref. 0065/FUL/20)

Planting of the tree belt on Murieston Road is due to start over the winter per revised planning condition 11.

Ian noted the two developers need to improve their joint management of the site.

The drainage for the SUDS system is not yet meeting required standards.

The show houses presently have access to Murieston Road. This was originally granted by a condition of planning approval as a temporary measure for 12 months but the Planning Service has subsequently granted permission for access to remain until the end of the development.

Ken Kirk asked when the repairs to Murieston Road would be completed. Ian Brown pointed out that the planning conditions only require permanent road repairs to be made at the end of the development.

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

In May, the Reporter 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. The Community Council has cited as relevant the High Court Judgement on handling a major contaminated site in Corby, and the Reporter asked for comments from the developers and West Lothian Council, which have now been submitted. The Reporter may make his decision on the appeal shortly.

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

The facility is now being fitted out to operate as an indoor café as well as a takeaway.

Replacement of conservatory roof at Bankton House Hotel (ref. 1015/FUL/20)

A planning application has been made to replace the conservatory roof with a slate tiled roof.

Camilty Wind Farm

EDF Renewables had applied for planning permission to increase the turbine blade size by 12m, to increase generating capacity for the wind farm. EDF withdrew that planning application and are now preparing a revised application. EDF firstly undertook a pre-application public consultation which ran from 19 November to 3 December. Their new planning application is expected to be submitted in January.

12. Correspondence:

An online conference on Scottish Open Government is being held on Tuesday 15 December. This will discuss the programme of reforms which will be delivered through open government.

13. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next Community Council meeting will held *online* in January/February 2021.