

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8 JANUARY 2015
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Kim Vance, Chris Dryden, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Alex Hendry, June Keddie, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Superintendent Kevin Kerr, PC Alan McMahon

Apologies: Matthew Hallesy, Nick Lansdell; Councillor John Muir; PC Alan James

Guests: Jane Dunlop, Kenneth Riva

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 11 December 2014:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 11 December was proposed by Kim Vance and seconded by Chris Dryden. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Planning Consent to build one house in Murieston Valley beside Moriston Drive (0264/FUL/14):

The meeting debated what further action was appropriate in light of last month's discussion. Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this item was discussed and returned afterwards.

5. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported that the account stands at £1,087.53 after payment of the planning consultancy fee of £1,100 and receipt of £275 from Bellsquarry Community Council. The payment for printing the planning questionnaires will be made shortly.

6. Community Policing:

A report was given by PC Alan McMahon who was attending the meeting as PC Alan James is unavailable.

Anti-Social Behaviour calls for 2014 were 27.

Youth Disorder calls for 2014 were 30.

Hate crime calls were 26.

Alcohol related calls were 39.

There have been a number of house breakins in Livingston and car keys are often taken and cars outside the house driven off by the burglar.

7. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick passed round a map showing ownership and disposition of land in Murieston.

Controls on ownership of undeveloped sites passed from Livingston Development Corporation to West Lothian Council in 1996.

The upgrade of footpaths in Bankton is scheduled for 2016.

The Highways Service has received drawings from Cala for the proposed pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road beside the new Cala estate, Murieston Gait (which has street address West Cairn View).

Following representations to First ScotRail, an extra carriage has been added to the 07.44 train to Edinburgh. However, a carriage has now been removed from the 08.17 train. The Council's Transport Service is raising this with Abellio which assumes the ScotRail franchise from April 2015.

The Council's Head of Planning has confirmed that the Main Issues Report will be considered by the Development Scrutiny Committee in May.

Lawrence has put forward a motion to Council to ask for the Scottish Government to impose a national moratorium on shale oil extraction by hydraulic fracturing i.e. fracking.

The electrification of the Shotts line will entail the upgrade of the rail infrastructure from Kirknewton westwards. Work on raising the road bridge on Murieston Road to carry the power cables will take place by 2017.

Proposals are out to consultation for the re-development of West Calder High School.

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

Kim Vance reported.

MEG is holding a litter pick at Cambridge Pond on Saturday 17 January.

Renovation work starts shortly on the steps opposite the 'bandstand' on Murieston Trail for a planned duration of up to four weeks.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

10. Community Website - muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk

The new website for community matters has now been launched by Ron Skirving. We already have a policy for adding and managing content on the website which the Secretary will circulate to community councillors. Content, including minutes, from the existing website www.muriestoncommunity.com will be migrated across to the new website and the old website will be phased out.

Sixteen residents have already subscribed on the new website already to receive updates from the Community Council.

There has been an issue with Google searches which currently place the old website above the new website in search results. The new website will soon appear higher on the search list as the website is accessed more often.

11. Local Development Plan Consultation – Questionnaire for Residents:

Ian Brown reported.

168 responses to the questionnaire have been received so far.

Ian has also handed out questionnaires on the station platform during the morning commute. Out of over 80 commuters, only 7 were unaware that the Community Council has been leafleting houses.

Due to the logistics in making a repeat visit to every house we are now asking that each household complete the online version of the questionnaire on our new website

muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk

12. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

A kick-off meeting for the proposal for the meadow land beside Murieston House is being held shortly with Williamston and St. Ninian's Primaries, the Beekeepers Association and West Lothian Council.

13. Single Outcome Agreement:

No report tonight.

14. Local Development Plan:

The Main Issues Report will be considered by the Development Scrutiny Committee in May.

15. West Lothian Association of Community Councils (WLACC):

There will be a meeting this month and the first order of business will be to appoint a Chair.

16. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported. No significant change since the last meeting.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

Kim Vance reported problems with cars parking at the chicane on Murieston Valley which creates a hazard for traffic and pedestrians when cars cross the chicane. PC McMahon asked Chris to email details to PC James and then he will follow up.

As a matter of record, Sandy Pirie, who was the founding head teacher of Livingston's first secondary school, Craigshill High School, has been awarded MBE in the New Year Honours. Sandy was largely responsible for establishing Craigshill High School as the hub of the

community, making it effectively a community school long before this became an educational concept.

The Secretary confirmed he would make arrangements to hold our social dinner at personal expense in a fortnight's time. Venues were discussed.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12 February 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School