

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9 JANUARY 2014
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://www.muriestoncommunity.com>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Ron Skirving, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, Ian Brown, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Chris Dryden, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan McMahon

Apologies:

Frank Mustard, Kim Vance, Carol Hallesy, Alex Hendry; Councillor John Muir; Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr, PC Alan James

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 12 December 2013:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 12 December 2013 was proposed by David Cooper and seconded by June Keddie. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

There has been no expenditure since the 2012/2013 accounts were finalised. The bank account now stands at £1,427.53. Ron Skirving is obtaining the mandate form from the Bank to change the authorised cheque signatories as agreed at the December meeting.

5. Community Policing:

PC Alan McMahon attended tonight's meeting to give a community policing report.

Apologies from PC Alan James who is unavailable tonight.

There is a trend towards acquisitive crime currently with metal being stolen to sell for scrap. Items are being taken from gardens and garages.

The courts are now imposing heavier sentences.

Police Scotland is withdrawing traffic wardens nationwide from February.

A discussion followed on various topics of interest to the community council - parking, youth drinking, speeding, break-ins at the new Co-op and policing arrangements of Police Scotland.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick made a report :-

It has now been confirmed that Cala's development, Murieston Gait will be named West Cairn View when completed and adopted by West Lothian Council. Cala and West Lothian Council have agreed a contribution for social housing instead of providing affordable housing as part of the development.

The Council has passed the Budget for the 2014 financial year. Education spending is ringfenced.

The new skatepark at Almondvale Park will be officially opened in the Spring.

The Council has now agreed the terms to sell the land for the new build of Murieston Medical Practice. No start date has been agreed yet.

The central heating system at James Young High School is being converted to biomass which will save some £50,000 pa.

Murieston Trail and Linhouse Trail are confirmed as core paths on the Core Path Network in the county.

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

June Keddie reported.

There are no volunteer days currently during the winter period.

There is a need for a general tidy up in the area. Litter may be blowing from bins.

8. Environmental Matters:

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

The public proceedings of the conjoined Public Local Inquiry (PLI) at Tarbrax were completed on 19 July. The Reporter has accepted some further submissions and the report is now awaited.

10. Community Website - www.muriestoncommunity.com :

Copies of minutes for all meetings in 2012/2013 are being posted there.

11. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

Killandean is going ahead in the Spring and other sites may be considered afterwards.

West Lothian Council is waiting for the Call for Sites to be decided before finalising the allotment sites.

The format for the model lease for allotment sites has now been agreed.

The Scottish Government is consulting on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill which will provide better Community Planning. This will include updated and simplified legislation on allotments. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/5740>

Parts 1 to 4 have been drafted and Part 6 re. allotments will be drafted in the Spring.

12. West Lothian Development Trust:

Ian Brown noted there was nothing further to report. No changes to community benefits are proposed.

Davidson McQuarrie pointed out that the Scottish Government has produced guidance - Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments – which is not currently being adopted in West Lothian. We need to raise this with West Lothian Council.

13. Single Outcome Agreement:

Ron Skirving reported.

The Single Outcome Agreement has been developed by the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership which brings together a range of agencies from the public, private, voluntary and business sectors to work together to improve the quality of life of local people.

The West Lothian SOA is based on 12 challenges including: community safety; delayed discharge; development; growing the economy; educational attainment and achievement; health improvement; homelessness; looked after children; public protection; substance misuse; supporting people at home; and young people in need of more choices and more chances.

See <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/downloadoc/LivSouWarActPlan201315>

Clair Patullo and Michelle Kirkbright are contacts for Murieston on the Single Outcome Agreement.

West Lothian Council will be concentrating on areas of multiple deprivation as determined to be in the bottom 20% of council wards under the Scottish Index.

Ron will use Facebook to promote community information and events, and will set up a dynamic calendar on www.murieston.info website.

Ron highlighted the Friday Club which runs every Friday from 7 to 9pm at Deans Community High School. Facilities are free and up to 200 children are participating.

14. SESplan Strategic Development Plan:

Ian Brown and Davidson McQuarrie have submitted a response to the consultation by the Scottish Government on the SESplan Supplementary Guidance – Housing Land -

<http://sesplan-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/sg/hsgland> and will circulate the response by email.

15. Planning Applications:

The Council's Planning Service is holding a series of training sessions for community councillors. We have been invited to suggest topics to be covered at future sessions. Ian will prepare a list of topics.

16. Correspondence:

None.

17. Any Other Business:

David and Lorna Cooper gave their apologies for the next meeting.
Tania Armstrong and Lorna Cooper have agreed to organise the next Litter Pick in the Spring.
Ron Skirving noted that the path at Robin's Lane is breaking up.
Ron suggested the Community Council should promote uses for the former Co-op site at Bankton Retail Centre which remains unoccupied. The public could be invited to make suggestions via our community websites and Facebook.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13 February 2014 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School