

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9 MAY 2019
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Nick Lansdell;

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Tania Armstrong, Lorna Cooper, Kevin Kerr, Frank Mustard, Ron Skirving

Residents: Roger Harper, John Sharp

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 11 April 2019:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 11 April was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Arthur Marris, subject to a minor amendment. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank account currently stands at £2,128.59.

The statement of accounts for Murieston Community Council for 2018/2019 was circulated.

The opening balance from the previous year was £1,840.82. The annual Administration

Grant for 2018/2019 was £474. Expenditure during the year was £186.23, including the annual subscription fee to the Information Commissioner and expenses for the annual litter pick.

The closing balance of funds for the period ending 31 March 2019 is £2,128.59.

The Statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the period from 1 May 2018 to 31 March 2019 has been audited by two examiners and certified to be in order.

Approval and adoption of the annual accounts for 2018/2019 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Davidson McQuarrie. The motion to approve and adopt the annual accounts was carried unanimously.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that Chief Superintendent John Mckenzie has been appointed as the local police commander.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended the International Workers Memorial Day commemoration at Bathgate on Sunday 28 April.

A recent TV programme covered issues with Bellway houses. The Council used to sign off a habitation certificate, but now only supervises the level of construction, with certification now the responsibility of the NHBC.

The bottle bank at Livingston Cricket Club on Murieston Valley will be re-positioned soon on the boundary fence beside the club house. This will enable the bins to be emptied directly without accessing the cricket club perimeter.

White chips have been laid on the platform embankments which have been sliding down onto the car park during wet weather. Planning consent for the upgrade of the station had stipulated landscaping of the platform embankments. The Planning Service is considering enforcement action.

Cala Homes will be reconstructing the SUDS scheme in West Cairn View due to safety breaches.

The SUDS system has originally been built to non-compliant standards as it is 12 feet deep on a 45° slope with a running stream through it.

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt said she had met with the Council's Open Space Officer, Becky Plunkett to discuss a solution for off-road cycling in the area as raised at last month's meeting. She will meet with the three young people at the end of the school term.

Councillor Shemilt has contacted Hannah Bardell, MP about the breach of health and safety practices recently when soil inspection work was carried out at the possible development site at Tarbert Drive. Hannah Bardell has written to the Health and Safety Executive on the matter.

Carol Hallesy intimated she will be writing to NHS Lothian as there are apparently no policies in place to cover the necessity for health and safety compliance for soil testing on land which has already been established as being contaminated.

Councillor Shemilt attended the recent Taxis for Disabled event.

The new 27 bus service, operated by First Bus, between Livingston South station and St. John's Hospital is a popular initiative.

6. Community Policing:

No report is available tonight.

This item will be dealt with under Any Other Business in future,

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

Arthur Marris reported.

The bat walk was held on the evening of Friday 3 May at Cambridge Pond. The Council ranger service provided ultrasonic monitors.

MEG is now organising a litter pick on Sunday 19 May, starting from Livingston Cricket Club. This will involve local Brownies, Rainbows and Guides groups. The NETs service will be providing equipment.

MEG is discussing creating a community garden at Livingston Cricket Club. This would involve the participation of Bellsquarry Primary School.

8. Murieston Development Trust (MDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Helen Mackie is liaising with Local Energy Scotland on finalising the bid proposal for a CARES enablement grant to provide funding to develop and produce a community action plan for Murieston. Councillor Shemilt noted that Helen Mackie's comprehensive work on this funding bid should be acknowledged.

John Sharp reported he had attended Day 1 of the CARES Conference 2019 organised by Local Energy Scotland at Perth on 8 May. This covered some interesting renewables projects which could have some relevance for Murieston.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

The Secretary will consult Ron Skirving on producing the regular newsletter.

11. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

12. Livingston South Station:

Ian Brown reported.

The lifts are now operational and in use.

The second shelters have now been installed on both platforms but are not open yet.

The stair lighting is still temporary and needs a permanent replacement.

13. Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian:

Davidson McQuarrie reported

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown and Davidson McQuarrie had attended the bi-annual conference of the Forum at the Civic Centre on 3 May. There are four sub-groups covering Health, Planning, Police and Transport. The community council is invited to nominate representatives to liaise with each of the four groups.

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

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There were no new planning applications for the area in the recent weekly planning lists.

The Development Management Committee considered the Wellhead Farm application (ref. 922/MS/18) on 17 April. Five objectors presented their cases, followed by the representatives of the applicant. The Committee decided after consideration to adjourn for two meeting cycles to enable a separate meeting between the Planning Service, developer and the local community on the travel plan and an enhanced tree line along Murieston Road frontage. Ian has written to the Planning Service to ask when the meeting will be arranged.

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

The June meeting will be the AGM when office-bearers will be elected. Nominations are invited from community councillors for the officer positions.

It was agreed we will organise a dinner with Frank Mustard and PC Alan James soon at our personal expense.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next Community Council meeting will be the AGM to be held on Thursday 13 June 2019 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.