

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Report by the Returning Officer on outcome of the Community Council election:

The inaugural meeting of the new Murieston Community Council for the 2017 to 2021 term was opened by the Community Councils officer of West Lothian Council, who conducted the inaugural business of the meeting on behalf of the Returning Officer (Community Councils). Murieston Community Council is entitled to have 18 members as the prescribed number for a population exceeding 5,000.

As 12 valid nominations had been received timeously, all nominees are deemed elected to the Community Council.

2. Record of those present and Minute of Meeting:

Davidson McQuarrie agreed to record the minute of the meeting.

3. Present:

Nominees: Tania Armstrong, Ian Brown, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Chris Dryden, Carol Hallesy, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell, Davidson McQuarrie, Frank Mustard, Ron Skirving; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies: Arthur Marris;

Councillor Peter Heggie; PC Alan Hodge, PC Alan James

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

4. Appointment of Community Council Office-bearers:

Uncontested nominations have been received for each office.

Appointments (all elected nem con)

Chair of Community Council - Chris Dryden

Vice-Chair - Kevin Kerr

Treasurer - Arthur Marris

Secretary - Davidson McQuarrie

Planning Secretary - Ian Brown

Nominations are invited from community councillors for a second Vice-Chair

This concluded the business of inaugurating the new Community Council.

Normal business of Murieston Community Council then continued.

5. Minutes of the Meeting on 12 October 2017:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 12 October was proposed by Nick Lansdell and seconded by Ron Skirving, subject to minor changes. Carried.

6. Matters Arising:

None.

7. Finances:

Finances remain at £1,965.

8. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick expressed his appreciation to PC Alan James and PC Alan Hodge who are moving to other police duties, and will no longer be providing community support for Murieston. Councillor Fitzpatrick recently attended a meeting with the paediatric consultants at St. John's Hospital. They explained the reason it was necessary to close the children's ward overnight. Four consultant paediatricians provide medical support from 8am into the evening, sometimes using video conferencing. It has been necessary to close the children's ward overnight three times in the past 5 years when there was insufficient consultant cover. There is a national shortage of several hundred paediatricians.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has attended the recent Young Roots heritage event, Livingston garden completion, commemoration of the Ypres campaign in 1917 and West Lothian College prize giving. New standing orders have been provided for elected members.

New Supplementary Planning Guidance has been published in the new Residential Development Guide.

The First Minister has announced a new station will be built on the Livingston South line between Kirknewton and the junction with the Carstairs line. No specific details or timescale are available. The new BT cabinet 36 is now operational and providing broadband for the area. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted the excellent work by Andy Cotton, Economic Development Officer at West Lothian Council in securing this.

A petition, supported by 100 residents, has requested road calming measures on Bankton Park East and Bankton Park West. The petition was considered by the full Council but was not carried.

The Transforming Your Council public consultation closes this Sunday 12th. The Council needs to save £73 million over the next five years as a result of budget cuts and will use the consultation to address the plan for service change.

Davidson McQuarrie asked community councillors to email their comments etc. and he would compile a formal submission to the consultation from the Community Council.

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt referred to the proposed footway under the rail bridge on Murieston Road.

At the recent Livingston South Local Area Committee (LAC), concerns were expressed about the design and estimated cost of £100,000. There were also concerns about the safety of the chicane under the bridge for traffic approaching from the bend on Murieston Road.

A survey was carried out for residents on Murieston Road and adjacent streets about the proposed footway.

263 questionnaires were dropped and some 100 responded when the survey was stopped because it was considered sufficient responses had been received. Residents needed information on the reason for a footway under the bridge.

The elected members will make a site visit soon, then the proposed plan will be considered further by the LAC in the December meeting.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said a letter with details of the background and plan for the proposal was being issued today to householders on Murieston Road.

The Council arborist has visited and checked the trees adjacent to the proposed footway and has reported the tree roots will not be harmed.

Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed that the road changes would include appropriate traffic signage regarding speed and traffic control.

Roger Harper referred to the recent traffic speed monitoring conducted on Bellsquarry Road South where no houses front onto the road.

9. Community Policing:

No report is available.

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

Nothing to report.

11. Murieston Local History Group:

Nothing to report.

12. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

13. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk :

Ron Skirving reported.

It is recommended we upgrade the site to the https security standard to provide secure connections for users. This will cost £50 annually to purchase an SSL Certificate associated to the website.

We will need to be cognisant of the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will update and unify data privacy laws in the European Union next year.

14. Community Development Trust (CDT):

The Community Council executive are meeting with Catherine Dougan, Membership and Communications Officer of the Development Trusts Association Scotland next Thursday to discuss arrangements for holding a public meeting in early 2018 to launch the Murieston Community Development Trust.

Ron Skirving reported that interest in setting up a CDT had been expressed at the recent AGM of Livingston Cricket Club.

Over 30 residents have responded positively on the website and some 400 have signified likes on Facebook.

15. Livingston South Station and Rail Bridge:

Ian Brown reported.

Network Rail have intimated the main building work is planned for Spring 2018. The upgrade of the platforms will be the first major piece of work. Network Rail will set up a building yard at Oakbank to service the construction work at the station. There will be some restrictions on parking in the station car park during construction work. Households will be lettered by Network Rail in advance of the work.

Ian Brown has written to West Lothian Council regarding possible concerns with the development plans.

16. Community Garden and Allotments:

Nothing to report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at the end of this item of business before planning matters were discussed, having declared an interest as a member of the Development Control Committee.

17. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

The LDP has now been completed by West Lothian Council and submitted to the Reporter.

18. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

The Reporter has still to decide the appeal against the refusal of planning consent for housing development at Wellhead Farm (LIVE/0918/P/15).

A planning application has been made to build 15 lodges and 4 bedroom annex at Bankton House Hotel (0811/FUL/17). There have been 27 objections and 1 neutral submission. Ian noted that there are some discrepancies in the application documents, including the neighbour notification process.

A new planning application has been made for a hot food take away beside the Co-op store at Bankton Centre (0564/FUL/17). The application has been backdated. Ian Brown has written to the Planning Service to state we want to make a new submission.

Ian has written to the Planning Service to provide details on the developer's contaminated land report and the access strip for a new house on Murieston Valley. Craig McCorrison, Head of the Planning Service confirmed he has received the report which is currently being examined.

19. Correspondence:

None.

20. Any Other Business:

Christmas dinner has been booked at Bistro 19 at Harburn Golf Club in December for the community councillors at personal expense.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

There will be no meeting in December as Williamston School are holding a Christmas concert on the evening of the scheduled meeting.

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11 January 2018 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.