

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 22 APRIL 2021**  
*held online via Zoom at 7 pm*  
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

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**This meeting was held on Thursday 22 April 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 pandemic.**

**1. Present:**

Carol Hallesy, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Kevin Kerr; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

**Apologies:** Lorna Cooper, Chris Dryden, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Maria MacAulay

**Residents:** Ken Kirk, John Sharp

**Carol Hallesy acted as Chair at tonight's online meeting**

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 18 March 2021:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 18 March 2021 was proposed by Kevin Kerr and seconded by Arthur Marris, subject to a minor change. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

It is with great regret that we record the passing of David Cooper. David had been a community councillor since 2012. Murieston Community Council pays tribute to David Cooper for his considerable contribution to the community and he is sadly missed by us all.

Councillor Fitzpatrick explained that the 3G pitch at Bankton Mains Park has been used as a gathering place for youths and is, therefore, now being locked out of hours. A young person has injured his hand when climbing over the perimeter fence. Council staff will be applying anti-climb paint to deter this hazardous practice. A specialist contractor will be engaged to make the top of the fence safe.

**4. Finances:**

Arthur Marris reported.

The current balance is £39,507.52.

£200 has been paid to Planning Democracy for their planning advice regarding the Tarbert Drive planning appeal.

£666 has been paid Ross Contractors for the installation of the new Murieston Community Noticeboard at the station.

**5. Councillors' Reports:**

**Councillor Moira Shemilt**

The East Calder water treatment plant has problems with processing rainfall leading to the discharge of sewage into the River Almond. The water works is overseen by SEPA. There has been no capital expenditure on the treatment plant and there has been limited maintenance.

There are four water treatment plants on the River Almond which are prone to discharging untreated waste water when rainfall cannot be contained. Sewage has also entered the Almond Pool near Livingston Village. The water quality in the River Almond is classified as Poor.

Councillor Shemilt confirmed she has a meeting tomorrow with Scottish Water and commercial waste services company, Veolia.

Ian Brown suggested that SEPA could be asked how often they sample water quality on the River Almond. Ian also suggested that the Fish Trust could be asked how often they sample fish stocks.

The green energy consultancy, Natural Power is carrying out a wildlife inspection of Murieston Trail as the Trail is being considered as an option for the routing of power cables to the Lizzie Brice substation

Councillor Shemilt reported on the work of West Lothian Litter Pickers which is organising regular litter picking across the county. The group was set up two years ago and now has 2,300 members.

The Lanthorn Centre is expected to be closed for up to two years due to structural faults in the roof. The Lanthorn Food Shop has been using the Paraffin Lamp pub in the Centre since the Lanthorn was closed.

Councillor Shemilt said she would contact the new community support officer and ask if a police report for Murieston can be provided. The quarterly police report for Livingston South ward is

available on the Council's COINS system.

### **Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick**

Councillor Fitzpatrick said there had been no capital expenditure on the water treatment plants, which were designed for a smaller population and have not been upgraded to handle the increase in population due to new housing developments in West Lothian.

The NETs team are working closely with the West Lothian Litter Pickers. The Council spends £1.8 million a year on litter collection.

The Lanthorn Centre closed on 2 April. A structural audit of the roof is now being undertaken. £3 million has been allocated for work to replace the Siporex RAAC roof and the Lanthorn may be closed for up to two years.

Phase 2 of St. Ninian's Primary roof upgrade will be completed by August.

There has been no change regarding the impact of the smoke alarm legislation due next year on private households. Council houses will be upgraded to meet the new legislation.

Action is being taken following unauthorised tree felling in the area.

Problems are being reported with wind turbines affecting bats which are suffering collisions and barotrauma (damage to tissues from air pressure changes around turbines);

The Council's planning framework is guided by Planning Advice Note 1/2020 on assessing the extent of the 5 year supply of effective housing land, but has argued that this does not take account of the necessary transport infrastructure required for large planned developments.

Transport infrastructure issues are arising from the large-scale housing developments.

Ian Brown noted the problems with vehicles frequently queueing on the A71 to enter the Oakbank Recycling Centre. Better line signage on the A71 is needed. The bollards at the entrance delineating the two lanes are sometimes hit by trucks and knocked into the lanes.

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

Nothing to report.

#### **7. Murieston Development Trust (MDT) :**

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Following our recent online Zoom calls with Linlithgow Community Development Trust and the Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS), the Murieston Development Trust steering group will be following the DTAS advice on setting up the Trust as we move out of Covid lockdown.

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 (project MUR02) has now been installed beside the bus stop at the station. This project is now completed.

The contract for the first phase of the community gardens project (MUR03) has been awarded to Ross Contractors. The first phase has had to be scaled down to remain within the available budget. Work on the community garden beside the station is expected to start in late May and take six weeks.

An online Zoom meeting was held recently with several residents who are interested in getting involved with the community garden. It was agreed that an 'arm's length' group would be set up and a representative will attend community council meetings.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that a new allocation of SEStran funding has been allocated for signage on the footpaths between Livingston South and Livingston North stations.

The phone box at the station is due to be decommissioned soon. Ian has contacted BT to ask for the redundant kiosk to be adopted by the community and repurposed to house the defibrillator under their community scheme, but BT have declined as the kiosk may have an alternative use. We are continuing to pursue options with ScotRail and the Council.

Councillor Shemilt asked when the shrubs around the station will be restored. Councillor Fitzpatrick said he has chased up the Planning Service to have resolved.

#### **9. Communications, including website - [murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk](https://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 confirmed that face to face consultations at Murieston Medical Practice will be resuming soon when lockdown restrictions are relaxed.

AstraZeneca vaccinations are being administered at the Practice with a gap of at least 8 weeks.

**Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at the end of this item of business as he is a member of the Development Management Committee.**

**11. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

**Two-level Restaurant/Bar and Café/Hot Food Takeaway (ref. 0240/FUL/21)**

A planning application has been made for a restaurant / bar and café / hot food takeaway with balcony and terrace at the end of the carpark beside the Coop store at the Bankton Retail Centre. The terrace will face onto Murieston Water.

**Camilty Windfarm (ref. 0320/FUL/21)**

EDF Energy Renewables have applied for permission to extend the size of the six wind turbines to have a ground-to-blade-tip height of 149.9m. Ian has asked EDF for wireline drawings to visualise the impact of the proposed larger turbines on the Murieston vista.

**Longhill Burn Windfarm (ref. 0359/FUL/19)**

Energiekontor have notified that they have been considering routing power cabling from the Longhill Burn windfarm to the Lizzie Brice substation via the Murieston Trail. This would be an alternative route which would avoid services and highways disruption. Ian has written to Energiekontor and, as a result of feedback they have received on the ecology and public access implications, Energiekontor have now concluded that the power connection is highly unlikely to be routed via the Murieston Trail.

**Wellhead Farm (ref. 0065/FUL/20)**

Planting of the shrub and tree screen along Murieston Road should now proceed as provided by planning condition 11 which was amended to require this to be undertaken during the 2020/21 planting season.

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

Nothing to report.

**12. Correspondence:**

Online consultations have been circulated.

**13. Any Other Business:**

Ian Brown enquired whether we could get a report on community policing as used to be provided regularly. Councillor Shemilt said she would forward a copy of the police report provided to the Livingston South Local Area Committee (LAC).

**The Meeting closed at 8.50pm.**

**Community Council meetings will be held monthly online until we can resume public meetings at Williamston Primary.**

**The next meeting will held *online* on 20 May 2021.**