

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 DECEMBER 2014
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, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies: David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, Carol Hallesy, Matthew Hallesy, Frank Mustard;

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 13 November 2014:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 13 November was proposed by Chris Dryden and seconded by June Keddie. 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 consultancy fee of £1,100 and receipt of £275 from Bellsquarry Community Council.

6. Community Policing:

No report is available tonight.

Kim Vance advised that dogs have recently been stolen in Livingston. Chalk markings are drawn outside houses being targeted (possibly where a dog was spotted in the garden). This has generated huge Facebook interest.

There have been further breakins in Murieston.

7. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Planning consent has been amended for the new Murieston Medical Practice as the architect has had to re-position the building to avoid siting it over an infrastructure services duct.

Six trees are being chopped down at the Easter Murieston site at Tarbert Drive. This has been agreed with the Council arborist. The trunks will be left in situ to minimise unnecessary disturbance of the soil.

The Council is hiring a consultant to review the planning website and make any recommendations on enhancements.

The Council has several social housing projects. 70 houses will be built on the former site of Lammermuir House. The Council will be building 1,000 social houses across the nine multi-member wards in West Lothian by 2017.

Cala has submitted plans for the proposed pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road.

Reinforced steel beams have been installed in Murieston Village Hall to support the new roof which will be erected early in 2015. This will have a projected lifespan of 25 years.

The Killandean allotment scheme is now well established. Sheds are being erected across the scheme.

Footpath maintenance in the Bankton area will take place soon.

Waiting restrictions for cars at the Royal Mail Sorting Office have been proposed to alleviate parking issues.

Rework will be required on the cabling installed on Murieston Road for the Pates Hill wind farm.

BT will be installing superfast fibre broadband in Murieston during 2015/2016. The telephone exchanges at Livingston Station and Livingston Bridge will be upgraded, starting in July 2015. The Scottish Government is funding a coverage level of 70% of properties. West Lothian Council is supplementing funding to provide a coverage level of 99% which will be the highest level of provision in Scotland.

For details, see BT Openreach website – www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen

West Lothian schools have had the best exam results ever. In particular, the standard achieved in music has been very high. The West Lothian Schools Brass Band is currently the Scottish, UK and European schools champions. They will be making an official visit to Freiberg in Saxony, Germany in May. Williamston Primary, James Young High and St. Margaret's Academy were highly commended in the Council's Stellar Awards on 13 November.

The pupils of Williamston School are producing a book marking remembrance of World War 1.

Schools build and maintenance programme is being fully funded in the capital programme.

Planning is proceeding on a new High School in West Calder which is costed at £30 million.

More school accommodation will be needed to meet the requirements for Additional Special Needs.

The M8 needs maintenance work. Catseyes are worn or missing, and white lines need re-painting.

No response has been received from Scottish Greenbelt Co.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has asked for a presentation by Network Rail regarding the work required for the electrification of the line under the road bridge on Murieston Road.

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

Kim Vance reported.

Interpretation boards for Campbridge Pond are being produced by Oatridge College.

The Blue Green Network programme of work to repair ditches and paths etc. on Murieston Trail is proceeding as planned.

MEG is entering Campbridge Park in the Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award scheme.

MEG is applying for funding from the West Lothian Landfill Communities Trust Fund.

MEG has been participating in Livingston Round Table Charity Santa Sleigh collection which raised over £1,000 in Murieston Valley.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

10. Community Website - murieston.communitycouncil.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. The existing website www.muriestoncommunity.com will be phased out. Davidson will contact Grant to arrange redirection of the old weblink to the new website.

11. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

Ian is meeting officers of West Lothian Council tomorrow to explore how funding can be obtained to pay for soil testing of the meadow land beside Murieston House.

12. Single Outcome Agreement:

Ron Skirving has asked for feedback from community councillors on issues and experiences they, family and friends have.

Nuisance and phishing phone calls are a particular problem these days and Ron suggests that instances and experiences of these could be shared on social media to increase awareness and means of dealing with such calls.

13. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has arranged the printing of the questionnaire for residents of Murieston and Bellsquarry areas to express their views on the planning proposals for south Livingston. It was agreed community councillors would drop streets and would pick up questionnaires after the meeting. There is also an online version of the questionnaire on murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk which hopefully will be the preferred means of response for residents.

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

Ian Brown and Davidson McQuarrie attended the AGM of the WLACC on 28 November. There is a vacancy for the position of Chair and nominations from community councils are welcome.

15. Planning Applications:

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

16. Correspondence:

None.

17. Any Other Business:

We agreed to decide at the next meeting where and when we will hold our belated dinner at personal expense.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8 January 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School