

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 MARCH 2015
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Kim Vance, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Matthew Hallesy, June Keddie, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Superintendent Kevin Kerr, PC Ryan McCartney

Chris Dryden assumed Chair tonight as Arthur Marris was unable to attend.

Apologies: Arthur Marris, Tania Armstrong, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell; PC Alan James

Guests: Matthew Day

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 12 February 2015:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 12 February with a minor change was proposed by Ron Skirving and seconded by Frank Mustard. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported that the account balance is £871.03 after deduction printing costs for the planning questionnaires and the direct debit of £35 to the Information Commissioner's Office.

5. Community Policing:

PC Ryan McCartney gave a report.

Youth disorder calls were 1, compared to 5 last year.

There have been some house breakins in Murieston and several youth issues in Bankton.

There are problems with motorbikes being ridden on the footpaths. Neighbours are asked if they can help identifying the bikers.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The new build of Murieston Medical Practice will now be built on a different footprint to avoid utility services running under the site.

Transport Scotland has conceded the complaint about the need for an extra carriage on morning commuter trains on the Shotts line. The new service provider, Abellio will be consulted.

The Education Quality Assurance Committee receives all HM Inspectorate of Education reports. The Council maintains a strengths and weaknesses register and shares good practice between schools.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended concerts in the recent Schools Spring Concert Series, which continued to showcase the high standard of musical education in West Lothian.

Lawrence has visited the Confucius Hub at James Young School. Pupils are learning Mandarin and the school has connections with schools in China.

The next solar eclipse will be on Friday 20 March which will be some 92% partial eclipse between 8.30 and 9.45 am. Schools are advising pupils on how to view the eclipse safely.

The Council planning enforcement officer has followed up on garden waste flytipping in Murieston Valley.

On 25 March West Lothian Council is supporting Earth Hour when lights in council buildings are switched off for one hour.

West Lothian Council paid tribute to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, at a special Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) event which took place at Howden Park Centre on Tuesday 27 January. This commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia. The theme of this year's event was 'Keep the Memory Alive', which focused on sharing the memories of those affected by the Holocaust and was marked by a survivor who gave a speech to the packed hall.

The 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign of World War 1 is being commemorated in Livingston on Saturday 25 April at ASDA between 11 and 3pm.

Amey is whitelining beyond Junction 3A of the westbound M8. It is unclear where lanes go from three down to two. The Community Council discussed and agreed that lighting is needed on this stretch of the motorway where lanes converge.

Work on the two road bridges, on Murieston Road at Bellsquarry Road South and at Brucefield Park West, required for the electrification of the Shotts line may start this summer. Council officers will obtain details from Network Rail. The Council will also press Network Rail to arrange a meeting with community representatives and hold a public consultation.

The parapets at Oakbank viaduct are being raised and trains will be controlled by lights during the construction work.

The pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road beside the new Cala estate, Murieston Gait (which has street address West Cairn View) will be installed soon.

Frank Mustard asked if the installation of the footpath under the rail bridge on Murieston Road could be brought forward.

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

Kim Vance reported.

The annual Frog March rescue evenings for toads and frogs started on Monday night at Murieston Road. A volunteers day was held on 21 February to clear wild rhododendrons on the lane behind Albyn Drive. This is a UK-wide initiative. The bushes will be sprayed soon and in due course there will be underbed planting.

The work on the 'bandstand' area will be finished in the next two weeks.

The next MEG meeting will be on 26 March at Livingston Cricket Club.

8. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

10. Community Website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Ron Skirving reported.

The first community council newsletter has been emailed to 387 recipients, of which 303 opened the newsletter. 114 (30%) then clicked onwards which is above the Internet average. 6 unsubscribed and there were a few new subscriptions.

Ron will edit a monthly newsletter from the community council.

The last set of minutes were viewed by 105 readers, up from 32 for the previous minutes.

Ron attended the training session organised by West Lothian Council last night and had the opportunity to speak to representatives from other community councils about community news feeds.

Ron will consider including a link from murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk to murieston.info and similarly the blog on meg.btck.co.uk

11. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported to the meeting.

There has been no progress regarding the sampling of the soil.

Ian has spoken to the Scottish Agricultural College at the Bush Estate, Penicuik about whether they can provide an estimate of the cost of testing the soil and restorative work.

Bellsquarry Primary want to participate along with Williamston and St. Ninian's Primaries in the proposed community allotment and garden scheme on meadow land behind Murieston Road and beside Murieston House.

Killandean Allotments scheme is holding an Open Day on 18 March.

12. Local Development Plan:

The Main Issues Report will be considered by the Development Scrutiny Committee in May.

13. Planning Consent to build one house in Murieston Valley beside Moriston Drive (0264/FUL/14):

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this item was discussed.

The meeting debated what further action was appropriate.

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Cala Homes are asking the West Lothian Council to change the requirement for building affordable housing at Murieston Gait. If the Council agree to this variation of the planning consent, then the developer's obligation to provide affordable housing can be met in different ways.

15. Correspondence:

The latest edition of the cycling newsletter, Spokes was circulated during the meeting.

16. Any Other Business:

David Cooper reported that the station car park is always full on weekdays. Options for increasing capacity were discussed.

David advised that the Co-operative store has a community fund and we can apply for funding for community initiatives, such as litter picks. Ian Brown noted we can register for funding.

Matthew Day advised that there are problems with the lights on Robin's Lane which operate intermittently.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9 April 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School