

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 JANUARY 2017
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Kevin Kerr, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, Carol Hallesy; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan Hodge

Apologies: David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; PC Alan James

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 8 December 2016:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 8 December was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Kevin Kerr. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Ron Skirving confirmed the bank balance remains at £1,850.

5. Community Policing:

PC Alan Hodge gave a report.

The monthly crime stats for Livingston South ward were outlined.

<u>Calls</u>	<u>December 16</u>	<u>December 15</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Youth	17	20	-15%
Anti-Social Behaviour	121	101	20%
Hate Crime	9	3	200%
Vandalism	20	14	43%
Fire-raising	3	1	200%
Public Space Assaults	29	21	38%

There have been 68 calls since 1 December.

There are reports of a trials bike being ridden on the footpath behind Bankton Wood.

There has been a theft of a car following a house burglary in Murieston Valley.

Fly-tipping has occurred at Murieston Road

An issue has been raised about cars being parked at the roundabout on Murieston Valley, blocking the footpath to the station. Action will be taken if vehicles are obstructing access to the footpath or use of the roundabout. Carol Hallesy noted that school buses have had difficulty turning at the roundabout. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed he has met with the Head of Operations regarding use of signage to advise on restrictions on parking at the roundabout.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a short report.

The A71 was closed at Polbeth last week for four months to enable extensive work to be carried out on the bridge at West Calder station which is required for the electrification of the Shotts line. There are two alternative routes to West Calder; either south through Skivo and Harburn, or north via Gavieside and Mossend.

Chris Dryden reported that the brown bins at Murieston Village Hall were not collected on the scheduled day. Councillor Fitzpatrick said he would follow up with the Council Waste Management Service. Carol Hallesy noted that the NETs team cleared up refuse after blue bins in Murieston Valley were blown over in high winds.

Lawrence attended Deans Community High School today to present the sportscotland Gold School Sport Award for innovation and achievement in delivering physical education and extra-curricular sport.

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

Nothing to report this month.

8. Broadband Rollout:

Ron Skirving advised that the cabling contractors, McNicholas are currently talking to residents in

Bankton Drive about access for cabling work to houses through gardens and drives.

Chris Dryden has been advised by Kyle Dodd that Virgin Media will be accepting orders for go-live of their new cable infrastructure on 1 February. Virgin Media will be leafleting Murieston Valley to publicise the availability of this new service. Chris will invite Kyle Dodds to a future meeting.

9. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

10. Windfarms:

Ian Brown reported.

A revised planning application for the Fauch Hill windfarm has been submitted.

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

Nothing to report.

12. Community Noticeboard:

Chris Dryden is investigating whether a grant can be sought to fund the noticeboard.

13. Community Development Trust:

Ian Brown reported that the Community Council officers had met with the Council Community Regeneration Officer, Laura Wilson to discuss the framework for establishing a community development trust (CDT) for Murieston. Laura Wilson had explained that to establish a local CDT there needs to be verifiable broad support within the community, which as a guide would equate to affirmative responses from at least 250 residents. It was agreed that we will engage more actively with the community to confirm their views. This can be done via our community website, Facebook page and a letter drop. Our newsletter will also be used as it is emailed to over 400 subscribers.

Chris Dryden advised that the executive officers will prepare an article etc. regarding establishing a CDT for Murieston, which will be sent out to residents to obtain their views.

14. Community Garden and Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has written to local primary schools to obtain support for founding a constituted organising group for the community garden.

We have been advised of a source of community funding and Ian will be submitting an application for funding of the project tomorrow.

15. Planning Applications:

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting while this planning item was discussed.

Ian Brown reported.

A Reporter has now been appointed to determine the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse the Wellhead Farm planning application (0918/P/15). Ian will ask to be heard as community council representative.

Ian and Chris Dryden attended the pre-examination meeting to decide the appeal against the refusal of the planning application for Murieston Castle (0355/P/15). The Community Council will be a formal participant at the examination hearing will be on 15 and 16 February. Ian and Chris will also attend the accompanied site visit when it is arranged.

16. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has responded to the recent SESPlan consultation, expressing our concern that the prescribed green networks do not include south Livingston in the proposed Plan.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

Nick Lansdell has emailed re. an issue today when children from Williamston were deviated off the risk assessed safe route to Dedridge Primary. They were unable to use the underpass from Easter Bankton to Beresford Rise because the paths were untreated and were deemed unsafe due to the presence of ice.

The result was that the children had to walk across roads that they would normally have not had to use. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed he would follow up with Council officers.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9 February 2017 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School