

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 MAY 2016**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

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**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Ron Skirving, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan James

**Apologies:** Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, June Keddie, Kevin Kerr

**Residents:** Roger Harper

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 April 2016:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 14 April was proposed by Frank Mustard and seconded by Tania Armstrong. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that the Roads Service will be providing road signage on the bend on Murieston Road at Skivo to warn motorists of horses crossing from the stables to Murieston Trail. Date to be confirmed.

**4. Broadband Rollout – Digital Scotland Scheme:**

Andy Cotton, Economic Development Officer at West Lothian Council has been invited to the meeting to outline details of the Digital Scotland scheme for the rollout of superfast broadband in West Lothian. The Scottish Government through Digital Scotland invested £410 million derived from the BBC licence fee in a national scheme to provide broadband as a means of facilitating social and digital inclusion. An open market review was then undertaken to ascertain from network service providers what level of provision they could supply. BT Openreach bid and won the contract in 2013 to provide Superfast broadband to 80% of premises in West Lothian, which was topped up by £2.5 million by the Council to reach 95% of premises (now estimated by BT to be 99.3%). Superfast broadband is defined as 24 Megabits per second (normally within 1.2Km of the street cabinet) or, alternatively, a useful uplift of the current provision. Fibre-optic infrastructure is delivered to the street cabinet (Fibre To The Cabinet) then copper cables are used to the premises. The rollout contract is infrastructure-neutral and does not specify either Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) or Fibre To The Premises (FTTP). In addition to BT, other broadband suppliers, such as O2, Sky, Talk Talk use the BT Openreach infrastructure, with the exception of Virgin Media when they deliver their own fibre infrastructure. It should be noted that although there is a national strategy for universal broadband provision, there is no legal requirement. In Murieston, BT Openreach are providing coverage south of the rail line and are installing Cabinet 27 to provide Superfast broadband in Murieston Valley. They are currently half way through the delivery schedule and the contract runs to March 2018.

The Council has no control over which areas are commercially viable, nor which should be prioritised. Virgin Media has recently started cabling Murieston Valley. The plan is evidently to continue down Bellsquarry Road South, and not towards Albyn Drive and Skivo. The Council was not aware of Virgin Media's plans for this area and no public funding is being provided. The Council will not be funding BT to compete with Virgin Media's level of provision in Murieston Valley, although the contract includes incentives to deliver rates higher than the scheme minimum.

Certain areas such as Skivo, Balgreen and streets at the top end of Murieston Road are currently on Exchange Only Lines (EOL) for which BT Openreach will announce an infill scheme for upgrading these EOL areas towards the end of the contract.

**5. Finances:**

Ron Skirving circulated the accounts spreadsheet.

The bank balance is £1,385.79.

**6. Co-option of new Community Councillor:**

Kevin Kerr has been nominated to join the Community Council. Lorraine McGroarty, Community Council Liaison Officer has validated the nomination. Arthur Marris proposed Kevin Kerr's co-option to Murieston Community Council, seconded by Davidson McQuarrie, and the Community Council

formally elected Kevin Kerr as a co-opted member.

**7. Community Policing:**

PC Alan James gave a report.

There was an arson attack in Murieston Valley, reported via the 101 call line.

PC James explained there is now only one analyst to provide the crime stats.

<u>Calls</u>	<u>Apr 16</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Youth	48	36	33%
Anti-Social Behaviour	195	123	59%
Hate Crime	7	0	-
Vandalism	25	20	25%
Fire-raising	0	2	-
Public Space Assaults	20	19	5%

**8. Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick and Ian Brown met recently with Kyle Dodd from Virgin Media.

St. Ninian's Primary are holding their School Fair on Saturday.

The Council has a programme of voluntary self-evaluation is held within schools periodically, then outside evaluation every 3 to 4 years.

An Army Engagement Day is being held at Howden Park Centre on Wednesday 25 May.

Murieston United FC has been participating in the Gothia Cup youth football tournament.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has participated in the recruitment panel for head teacher at several schools.

There will be an exploratory building survey at Williamston Primary this weekend to confirm the school, built under the PPE programme, fully meets structural requirements.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

MEG have a volunteer's day on Sunday 19 June between 10am and 2pm. MEG are going to spread gravel to create a new path, from the Murieston Trail at the eastern corner of the cricket ground towards Murieston Water.

**10. Spring Cleanup and Litter Pick:**

Tania Armstrong reported on the community litter pick on the afternoon of Sunday 24 April.

This had been very successful with over 60 adults and children attending. Some 70 bags of litter were collected throughout Murieston and Bankton.

The Community Council acknowledges the work done by Tania and the community; and the support from the Co-op and Greggs in donating cakes, biscuits etc., and staff from McDonalds who volunteered in their own time to join the litter pick.

**11. Murieston Local History Group :**

Nothing to report.

**12. Windfarms:**

Nothing to report.

**13. Community Website - [murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk](http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk)**

Ron Skirving reported.

398 recipients of the newsletter click through to the Minutes section of the website.

Photos of the litter pick are on the website.

**14. Murieston Medical Practice - Community Engagement:**

There is an online community initiative on Facebook to ask the community of Murieston to raise funds for items which are not covered by NHS funding - <https://www.facebook.com/MuriestonCommunity/>

The Practice is a central part of our community and Dr. Russell-Smith has personally funded the move to the permanent building, which in addition to the physical value of the building, is an act of support for the community for the present and future generations. Dr. Russell-Smith has indicated that, if the community funding permits, he would like to commission a front gate which would be dedicated to the Murieston community.

**15. Community Noticeboard:**

Chris Dryden noted that the community noticeboard inside the gate of Murieston Village Hall was

underused and not prominent. It was agreed that Chris and Ian Brown would consider options to purchase and erect a new community noticeboard outside the station.

**16. Community Benefits Trust:**

Ian Brown reported.

The community consultation to seek the opinion of the wider community has been started in the Community Council Newsletter and on the Website.

This may be followed up with a leaflet drop at the end of June.

Councillor Fitzpatrick outlined the purpose and function of the West Lothian Development Trust and how it cooperates with local community benefits trusts in West Lothian.

**17. Community Garden and Allotments:**

No feedback has been provided yet on the public survey about facilities at Bankton Mains Park.

**18. Health and Social Care:**

Nothing to report.

**19. West Lothian Association of Community Councils:**

Ian Ferrel, Chair of Dechmont Community Council has suggested that the West Lothian Association of Community Councils (WLACC) could be re-formed if constituent community councils are prepared to support it. After a brief discussion, the Secretary agreed to reply to the effect that we would support WLACCs re-formation if there was a genuine commitment across community councils to participate.

**20. Local Development Plan:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this and later agenda items were discussed.

Nothing to report.

**21. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

The Wellhead Farm planning application (0918/P/15) was considered by the full Council and rejected.

The developers have lodged an appeal against the refusal of the planning application for Murieston Castle (0355/P/15), which is now before the Scottish Government.

**22. Correspondence:**

McNicholas promised to send regular updates by email on the progress on trenching work for the power cables. The Secretary will follow up as no updates have been received since the initial email.

**23. Any Other Business:**

Tania Armstrong reported that there were some issues with the trenching work carried out by McNicholas for Virgin Media at Ossian Drive in Murieston Valley.

Tania also noted that Network Rail are currently cutting back trees close to the rail lines in preparation for the electrification work.

The area around Dresselrigg Lane rail bridge needs to be tidied up.

**The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 9 June 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School**