

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

1. Present:

Ian Brown (Acting Chair), Ron Skirving, Davidson McQuarrie, Carol Hallesy, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Superintendent Kevin Kerr, PC Keith Dolan
Apologies: Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry; Sergeant Iain Wells

Residents: Roger Harper, Andy Mount

The Chair and Vice-Chair are unavailable and Ian Brown is assuming the Chair tonight.

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 8 October 2015:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 8 October was proposed by Ron Skirving and seconded by Nick Lansdell. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported that there has been no recent expenditure. The bank balance is £1,389.03, which includes this year's administrative grant of £518. The online account is now operational.

5. Andy Mount, Livingston Fair Trade:

Andy Mount joined us to give a presentation on background to Livingston's status as a Fair Trade Town.

Livingston became a Fair Trade Town in 2006. This fair trade status is assessed every two years.

Fair Trade aims are three-fold: to assist the Work, Health and Education of workers in developing countries.

The central objective is to provide a fair day's work for a fair day's wage.

Fair Trade gives a good market rate for crops and raises earning potential. Farms have joined together to form cooperatives and provide social amenities. Farmers can now plan for the future.

There are now over 4,000 products, including mobile phones covered by Fair Trade.

For manufactured products, both manufacturing and materials sourced need to meet fair trade standards.

Fair Trade is now linking with climate control. The Fair Trade Foundation helps farmers plan for climate change.

There are five goals to achieving fair trade status – West Lothian Council approval, form a committee, a Fair Trade shop for every 5,000 population and a Fair Trade café for every 10,000 population. There are now Fair Trade schools and churches. A new directory is being issued shortly by WLC.

6. Traffic Calming on Murieston Road:

PC Keith Dolan, a community policeman for Livingston South, is attending on behalf of Sergeant Iain Wells.

The WLC senior traffic engineer confirms they carried out a traffic survey on 14 September between 8 and 9am.

The Police have recently issued 10 fixed penalty fines, 15 warnings for speeding and 1 warning for careless driving on Murieston Road.

PC Dolan will ascertain how many occasions monitoring has taken place.

Roger Harper said there was a need for plain clothes police to witness speeding taking place.

One option could be to use a covert camera to measure average speed.

Nick Lansdell suggested that speeding on Murieston Road could be solved by road engineering measures.

Councillor Fitzpatrick explained that parking at schools is a constant issue.

The Police are fully aware of the parking issues around local schools and visit schools to speak to the staff.

7. Community Policing:

PC Keith Dolan confirmed either himself or Sergeant Iain Wells will normally attend each community council meeting.

This month, there have been 4 youth disorder calls, 4 loud music calls, 1 report of vandalism and another robbery at the Co-op.

8. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

All road signs on Murieston Road have now been inspected and cleaned. One roundel is faded and will be replaced. The signs all meet the appropriate highway regulations.

The fences at Williamston Primary and Kenilworth Rise has been repaired.

The main entrance door at James Young School has been replaced.

The farmer renting 44 acres for cattle grazing this summer at Linhouse Glen has confirmed he only requires a seasonal lease.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has written to the Chair of Cala Homes regarding the lack of progress in providing the road sign, West Cairn View for the new estate (marketed by Cala as Murieston Gait) and providing the pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that no community centres will be closing despite budget cuts. The Lanthorn will now be handling caretaking services for Murieston Village Hall.

No details yet from the Police on the arson attack on the 'bandstand' on Murieston Trail.

A question was to be asked in the Scottish Parliament about the need for lights and whitelining on the stretch of the M8 through Livingston but before then Amey replaced worn cats eyes and repainted whitelines at a cost of £430,000.

Lawrence will be raising a question with SEPA about the use of the site on Murieston Valley as a transit station.

The review of the Children's Ward at St. Johns Hospital will be completed after next May's Scottish Parliamentary Election.

Recycling calendars for 2016 will be issued to households shortly.

The new build of Murieston Medical Practice is progressing and should be ready in February.

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

Nothing to report.

10. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

11. Windfarms:

Ian Brown gave a report.

Preparation of the windfarm sites at Peary Law and Harburnhead has started. Murieston is within the grating catchment area.

The application for the Camilty Windfarm has been rejected by the Reporter and can be appealed.

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

No report tonight.

13. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian has contacted the Scottish co-ordinator for Kew Gardens who can make awards up to £4,000 regarding a grant for a habitat survey.

Ian passed round an article about a Westminster University study extolling the health benefits of gardens. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that the West Lothian Allotment Strategy is currently being reviewed by the Council following publication of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill 2014. The Council has a duty to provide more allotment sites if there is demand and also safeguard existing sites.

14. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian and Chris Dryden attended the planning presentation by the Council last night. Developers' reluctance to fulfil their development contribution remains an issue. Developers can object then go to the Reporter to have the contribution reduced.

There was a discussion of the issues which should be addressed in our planning response.

Ian has emailed out a list of issues and will be submitting our response by 22 November.

15. Planning Applications:

Nothing to report.

16. Correspondence:

None.

17. Any Other Business:

Amazon have installed collection lockers at Wetherspoons in the Designer Outlet. There are already Amazon collection lockers in The Centre.

We have booked the Terrace Restaurant at West Lothian College for Christmas Dinner on Thursday 17 December at personal expense.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10 December 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School