

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

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; PC Alan Hodge

Apologies: Kevin Kerr, Tania Armstrong, Carol Hallesy, Alex Hendry; Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Moira Shemilt; PC Alan James

Residents: Roger Harper

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 September 2017:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 14 September was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Lorna Cooper. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

The problem with receiving weekly planning lists by email has now been resolved. The lists are now being received timeously by the Secretary and Planning Secretary.

4. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported.

The bank balance now stands at £1,965.90. This includes the annual administration grant of £470 which is based on the rate of £7.50 per 100 of the population in Murieston of 5,800 and £35 payment for the annual fee for registering with Information Commissioner's Office to comply with the Data Protection Act.

£40.28 is set aside for outstanding expenses to community councillors for community council business.

5. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The Council has reorganised business so that no meetings will be held during school holidays.

There have been some complaints about noise from the overnight rail upgrade work. Scotrail / Network Rail are exempt from normal planning conditions, although the Council Environmental Health Service retains enforcement powers e.g. on intrusive noise.

The Council needs to make savings of £73.3million over the next five years. This is in addition to the £92million saved from the budget in recent years. There will be a public consultation starting next week on deciding changes to Council services to make the required savings.

The Scottish Government has announced proposals to be laid before Parliament to put school budgets under the control of head teachers and school governors. Governance will be provided by a new regional body representing four local authorities.

A twinning visit is taking place now to mark the 40th anniversary of twinning with Hochsauerland in Germany. The Fire Service provides free fire safety checks for households and fit free smoke alarms. Appointments can be arranged by phoning 0800 0731 999.

Parksmart arrangements are being set up outside some primary schools. Pupils will have access to a Q Tally App so that they can record how many vehicles are dropping off, how many are not parking correctly and how many children are walking, scooting or cycling to school. The numbers will be automatically recorded on charts over time so that the pupils can measure progress with the campaign and targets can be set.

The paediatrics ward at St. John's Hospital has been closed each night since July. Councillor Fitzpatrick has spoken to the consultants who confirm this is the correct decision given the level of clinical resource. There is a national shortage of paediatricians.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has recently attended :-

Two day COSLA conference last week in capacity as Council Leader.

The Advice Shop regarding delays in payment during the transition of the new universal credit.

The new West Calder High School currently being built. This is being built under the new Hub PPP arrangements and should be ready next June.

Sky Academy.

The Police have been conducting speed checks on Bellsquarry Road South.

The planning proposal for the footpath under the rail bridge on Murieston Road will be considered by the Council Local Area Committee (LAC) tomorrow.

Nick Lansdell asked about proposed roadworks on Murieston Road. Lawrence confirmed no Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) has been issued yet.

6. Community Policing:

PC Alan Hodge outlined the crime stats for the Livingston South ward. There have been 80 calls between 1 September and 11 October.

The monthly crime stats for Livingston South ward are :-

<u>Calls</u>	<u>Sep 17</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>	<u>% change</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>2016 to date</u>	<u>% change</u>
Youth	21	46	-54%	158	306	-48%
Anti-Social Behaviour	110	148	-26%	846	972	-13%
Hate Crime	2	7	-71%	29	29	0%
Vandalism	17	20	-15%	134	143	-6%
Fire-raising	6	4	50%	14	7	100%
Public Space Assaults	9	26	-65%	110	138	-20%

There have been more thefts of brown bins.

Two males have been apprehended trying doors in Albyn Drive.

A car window has been smashed in East Bankton Place

A motorbike has been ridden on footpaths in Bankton Mains Park.

There has been underage drinking beside the station.

Speed checks have been held on Murieston Road. Ten cars were stopped which were speeding on average at 35mph.

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

Funding is available from the Rivers for All small grants scheme for groups in the River Almond and Avon catchments to develop and deliver a wide range of projects and activities to help reconnect communities and wildlife with their local rivers.

8. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

9. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

10. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

The latest edition of the community council newsletter was emailed out last month to 400 residents. Ron Skirving is updating the website to provide a popup box for viewers to sign up for emails.

11. Community Development Trust:

Davidson McQuarrie outlined the case for the formation of a Community Development Trust (CDT) for Murieston and proposal to arrange a public meeting to confirm support in the community, which is likely to be early in the new year. An executive meeting is being held on 16 November to develop the format and content for the public meeting with the Membership and Communications Officer from the Development Trusts Association Scotland.

Ron Skirving will put FAQs re. the CDT on the website.

12. Community Garden and Allotments:

Ian Brown reported.

West Lothian Council has agreed on the provision of the land.

There have been some expressions of interest in participating in the allotment scheme.

Ian is trying to set up a committee to run the scheme.

13. Livingston South Station and Rail Bridge:

The rail bridge on Murieston Road, closed for the line electrification upgrade work, is due to re-open on 26 November.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at the end of this item of business.

14. Local Development Plan:

Ian Brown reported.

The LDP has now been completed by West Lothian Council and referred to the Reporter. We have submitted objections regarding the Linhouse distributor road and zoning of land on Murieston Valley adjacent to the rail line.

15. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

The Reporter has still to decide the appeal against the refusal of planning consent for housing development at Wellhead Farm (LIVE/0918/P/15).

The appeal regarding the proposed Murieston Castle housing development (0355/P/15) has been rejected by the Scottish Minister on the recommendation of the Reporter. The appellant has now asked for the site to be zoned in the Local Development Plan for housing development.

The mobile barber has been granted planning permission for pitch in the Bankton Mains car park and will open next week.

16. Four-Yearly Community Council Election in October 2017:

The Community Council Scheme provides that community councils must be elected every four years. The inaugural meeting of the new community council will be on Thursday 9 November.

17. Correspondence:

None.

18. Any Other Business:

Chris Dryden advised that Livingston Cricket Club is holding their annual public fireworks display on Saturday 4 November, starting at 7.30pm. There will be parking restrictions in the evening on Murieston Valley close to the cricket ground.

Roger Harper noted that there is a discrepancy in the signage for the bridge at Skivo. The sign before the bridge advises maximum headroom of 13ft 9in but the sign on the bridge advises 14ft.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next Community Council meeting will be the inaugural meeting of the new community council. It will be on Thursday, 9 November 2017 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.