

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14 APRIL 2016**  
**held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

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**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Carol Hallesy, June Keddie, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Kevin Kerr, PC Alan James

**Apologies:** Arthur Marris, Ron Skirving, Alex Hendry, Nick Lansdell

**Residents:** Roger Harper

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 10 March 2016:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 10 March was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Frank Mustard, subject to a minor change. Carried.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Cabling Works in Murieston – Presentation by Scottish Power and McNicholas:**

Kenny Bowie and Graham McDonald of ScottishPower SP Energy Networks with Jonathan Wilson of McNicholas attended to present an overview of the cabling work planned in the Murieston area over the next few months.

Supply cables for the Pearie Law and Harburnhead windfarms are being laid to the Lizzie Brice electricity substation. There will now be three sets of cables supplied to the Lizzie Brice substation, bundled together in a trench 1m in diameter.

The route to the Lizzie Brice through Murieston via Skivo and Harburn is the most direct route. The supply cables then split at A708 to the respective windfarms.

Work has already started at Lizzie Brice with double drilling under the A899 and then the A71 was crossed on the Bankton side at the weekend. Work has also started on Murieston Road beside Murieston Gardens and at Harburn.

25 staff are working in 4 teams and will be trenching in different areas simultaneously.

The cable will run down the left side of Murieston Road then crosses over to the right side at Murieston Drive. Murieston Road will then be closed at Murieston Drive and traffic will either be routed left or right for up to a week. Discussion is taking place with Steve Jones of West Lothian Roads Services to minimise disruption for school buses etc.

Where the trench crosses streets further up Murieston Road each side of the street will be closed alternately to enable continuing access.

Trenching work should be at Murieston Green by the end of June when the track crosses over from the right to the left side of Murieston Road.

Work on Murieston Road should be completed by the end of July.

Access will be maintained to houses and the time for digging access will be arranged beforehand with residents. Residents have been lettered in advance and kept updated.

As the trenching work moves up and along these areas, the residents affected will be contacted on a local basis by a member of the McNicholas Management team to alert them of any disruption.

Ian Brown asked about the cabling for Pates Hill. This was originally a single copper cable and has been replaced by two aluminium cables. The developers of Pearie Law windfarm have financed a heavier cable than initially required to provide capacity for a future upgrade of the windfarm.

The Lizzie Brice substation will now be at maximum capacity of 120MVA and, accordingly, the supply from Camilty windfarm will be routed to the substation in Bathgate.

The cause for the burst water main is still unclear and is being repaired by Scottish Water tonight.

McNicholas has a 24 hour customer care line for all members of the public to use to alert the contractors of any issues that may arise - tel. **0845 2000 214**.

Updates can be obtained by emailing [harburnhead@mcnicholas.co.uk](mailto:harburnhead@mcnicholas.co.uk)

Weekly updates will then be returned on Friday afternoons.

**5. Finances:**

The bank balance remains £1,354.03.

**6. Community Policing:**

PC Alan James attended tonight.

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

The Community Action Team has identified from CCTV logs details of a motorbike which has been ridden on local paths, which has led to an arrest.

There are now two community officers for Livingston South ward and ten officers on the Community Action Team covering Livingston and Broxburn areas.

**7. Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The Keep Left sign on the traffic island at the Nursery on Murieston Road West has been repaired. Roger Harper complimented the Council on the quick completion of the work.

Tania Armstrong asked about road signage on the bend on Murieston Road at Skivo to warn motorists of horses crossing from the stables to Murieston Trail. Councillor Fitzpatrick will raise this with Road Services.

The pavements have now been repaired from the Bankton Mains Bowling Club to the Station.

A representative from Digital Scotland would like to attend May's Community Council meeting to provide details of the rollout of superfast broadband in Murieston.

Virgin Media are starting digging work to lay fibre-optic cables in Murieston Valley.

Murieston Medical Practice will now be applying opaque film on the corridor window upstairs in the new building as the window overlooks houses opposite. Solar panels are also being installed.

A tree has been felled on the Murieston Trail by the Council recently; reason to be confirmed.

Roger Harper stated that the traffic island bollards at Wellview Lane need cleaning. Lawrence confirmed this would be referred to the Roads Service.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

MEG are combining with the Community Council to hold the joint litter pick on Sunday 24 April.

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

Tania Armstrong advised that she has made arrangements for the litter pick which will be from 2 to 4pm on Sunday 24 April. Tania has booked Murieston Village Hall and arranged for the Nets team to attend and provide pickers, bags etc. and pick up bags afterwards.

The Secretary will write to the manager of the Co-op to ask for a donation of tea, biscuits etc. for refreshments at the Hall after the litter pick.

David Cooper agreed to take photos of the litter pick.

Carol Hallesy asked the meeting to formally express the Community Council's thanks for her work in arranging the litter pick, which is placed on record.

**10. Murieston Local History Group :**

Nothing to report.

**11. Windfarms:**

Nothing to report.

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

The Secretary will update the website with the details of the April's litter pick.

**13. Community Garden and Allotments:**

Ian Brown reported.

Circular has been put out to individuals who were previously interested in Allotments (Community Growing) to ascertain if the level of interest is still there. A management committee will need to be set up soon.

The officers will investigate what is required to set up a Community Benefits Trust for Murieston. Other areas such as Kirknewton and West Calder & Harburn have set up trusts and received community funds from windfarm schemes. A proposal was agreed to put a community consultation document in the Community Council Newsletter and on the Website to seek opinion of the wider community before

proceeding further.

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

**14. Health and Social Care:**

June Keddie advised there was nothing to report at this meeting.

Meetings between the West Lothian community councils and Lothian NHS Trust are held quarterly.

**15. Local Development Plan:**

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

Ian Brown reported.

Nothing to report currently. Community Council's comments can be seen on the West Lothian Council website. The next stage will be a presentation of all the comments and the Council's response at the Development and Transport Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and thereafter the Council Executive. Dates for these meetings are still to be announced.

**16. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

No date has been announced for the hearing of the Wellhead Farm Planning Application 0918/P/15. No change to the previous report; the date for the application to go to the Planning Committee is to be advised.

Ian has obtained traffic flow data from West Lothian Council and Nick Lansdell.

Planning Application for Murieston Castle (0355/P/15). No indication of appeal being lodged since the previous meeting.

Planning Application 203/TPO/16 and 204/TPO/16 apply for tree removal at Bankton House Hotel.

Applications are very basic and no clear information on which trees requiring to be removed.

**17. Correspondence:**

A letter has been received from Mrs. Lorraine McGrorty regarding the community council grant for 2016/2017 year. The administration grant will be £465 based on £7.50 per 100 of the population which is calculated as 5,737 in Murieston. The Secretary circulated the letter which also included details of the Special Project Grant Scheme, Community Council Insurance cover, and co-option of new members.

**18. Any Other Business:**

Roger Harper noted that speeding of cars on Murieston Road has continued, though the ongoing road works will mitigate the problem just now.

**The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm**

**The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12 May 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School**