

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2016
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

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

Apologies: Kevin Kerr, David Cooper, Lorna Cooper, Alex Hendry, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell; PC Alan James

Residents: Stuart Bruce, Roger Harper, Simon Thomas

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 9 June 2016:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 9 June was proposed by Tania Armstrong and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Community Policing:

PC Alan Hodge introduced himself and gave a report for the Murieston area covering the period 1 August to date.

There have been 80 calls logged.

A number of blue wheelie bins have been stolen and set on fire. This may become more prevalent approaching bonfire night. Householders are advised to return bins to their premises soon after refuse collection.

Enquiries have progressed regarding the incidences of public indecency and off-road biking.

There have been thefts of number plates which are subsequently used on cars of the same model and colour in committing crimes.

5. Finances:

The Secretary reported that the Council has provided our administrative grant of £465 covering the year to 31 March 17.

The grant is calculated at the rate of £7.50 per 100 of the population, based on a current population of 5,737 in Murieston.

The new bank balance will be £1,850.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave a report.

The exam results at SQA Level 6 this year for West Lothian pupils are above the national average.

The Council provided £200k for lunch and activity clubs at schools during the summer holidays.

The Council is considering whether to provide a bus stop outside the new Murieston Medical Practice as the nearest stop is currently at the station.

There have been complaints from residents in East Bankton Place that cars are blocking driveway entrances at the school start and end times. The Council will be painting white lines across driveway entrances to denote no parking.

ScottishPower have indicated they now expect to finish the cable laying in Murieston on 2 November.

The Council will start the construction of the pavement under the rail bridge after the completion of the power cable work. Traffic will be reduced to single direction operation controlled by traffic lights while the construction work is underway.

A Reporter has been appointed to decide the Brotherton Farm appeal by the planning applicant. The Council has questioned the land ownership with the DPEA.

There have been some incidents in which aggregate from Murieston Trail has been thrown at walkers.

The Council is covering relevant stretches of the path with netting.

The smaller grey bins are being rolled out across Murieston now. The old bins will be uplifted soon after the replacement bins are delivered. The bin replacement programme will save £2million.

The Council has won a European Quality Management award.

The SESplan Main Issues Report is out for public consultation until 30 September.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

MEG ran a dog show which was very popular at last Saturday's Gala Day at Livingston Cricket Club.

Work on improving the path at the rear of the Cricket Club has now been completed.

Another volunteer evening is being held on Tuesday night.

8. Broadband Rollout :

Ian Brown reported.

Ian, Arthur Marris and Chris Dryden met recently with Digital Scotland. Households in Wellview Lane and the top end of Murieston and Skivo may have Exchange Only lines. There is likely to be a follow-up project to boost bandwidth provision in these areas. Andrew Cotton, Economic Development Officer at West Lothian Council can liaise with Digital Scotland to provide upgrade solutions for street with Exchange Only coverage.

9. Murieston Local History Group :

Nothing to report.

10. Windfarms:

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

12. 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 in the vicinity of the station.

13. Community Benefits Trust:

Ian Brown reported.

Ian explained how the community benefits trust had been established in West Calder and Harburn.

West Calder and Harburn Community Council had set up the Community Benefits Trust then a board of trustees was elected to run the Trust. The Trust was then set up as a charitable company, governed as a Scottish Charity by OSCR. The Trust is independent of the community council and provides a report at each community council meeting.

The trust employs a part-time project manager who produced the West Calder and Harburn Community Action Plan. Ian handed out copies of the West Calder and Harburn Community Action Plan to illustrate how a similar community benefits trust could operate for Murieston.

The online consultation on murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk website has indicated approval for a community benefits trust in Murieston. Ian confirmed the next steps will be to consider and develop a strategy and roadmap.

14. Community Garden and Allotments:

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

15. Health and Social Care:

Our representative, June Keddle has moved from Murieston and a new representative will be appointed.

16. Local Development Plan:

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

Nothing to report.

17. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

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. Bellsquarry and Murieston Community Councils have both submitted letters of objection. The determination of the Reporter is due this month and will then be considered by the Scottish Ministers, which they may either accept or reject, and either uphold or dismiss the appeal.

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

The developers have appealed against the decision which will be adjudicated by the Reporter soon.

18. Correspondence:

McNicholas had 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.

19. Any Other Business:

June Keddie has moved from Livingston and it was agreed that the Secretary will write to express our thanks and the appreciation of the Community Council for the work she has undertaken on behalf of the community of Murieston.

It was agreed that the community councillors will visit Alex Hendry to celebrate his 85th birthday as he has been unable to attend recent meetings. The Secretary will make arrangements for the visit.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13 October 2016 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School