

MURIELSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 MAY 2025
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Carol Bartholomew, Janey Cringean, Davidson McQuarrie

Apologies: Margaret Prior, Mark Robbie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt; Gillian de Felice, Roger Harper

Residents: Linda Halliday, Sandro Roscilli, John Sharp

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 17 April 2025:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 April 2025 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Janey Cringean. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

No response yet to our enquiry concerning the recent surveying work at Linhouse Glen. Ian Brown will write to West Lothian Council again regarding the designation of the site for planning purposes. Ian Brown will write to the Council Planning Service about the need for replanting of trees at the new Tarbert Drive estate, which planning conditions had required to start when houses were occupied.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank balance is £2,915.44.

Action to move our account to the new bank has been completed. Arthur has successfully transferred a test sum and will now transfer the balance and close the former account.

The secretary will send the approved statement of the annual accounts for 2024/25 to West Lothian Council for scrutiny, required by the Community Council Scheme as a pre-requisite to the release of the administration grant for 2025/26.

The secretary has ordered pads for the defibrillator but the supplier has no stock. As the defibrillator is an obsolete model it is likely that the pads will not become available. The defibrillator will need replacing next year when the battery reaches end of life.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick submits his apologies as he is unable to attend tonight and has provided a written report which can be viewed [here](#) and report provided to the Performance Committee on 12 May [here](#).

Councillor Moira McKee Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt submits her apologies as she is unable to attend tonight and has provided a written report which can be viewed [here](#).

Councillor Peter Heggie

Councillor Heggie has provided a written report which can be viewed [here](#).

6. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

Nothing to report.

7. Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - <https://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk> :

Nothing to report.

8. Murieston Community Garden (MCG) - <https://murieston-cg.org.uk>:

Janey Cringean reported.

The greenhouse bases will be installed next Sunday. The greenhouses will then be erected.

The front gates are going to be removed to encourage access for all to the public garden.

Staff from Sky TV will be providing a volunteering day soon.

9. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) – SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC052716

<https://murieston-cdt.org.uk> :

Janey Cringean reported.

The screening of the family film *Paddington in Peru* on 27th April was well attended with 32 tickets sold and made a small profit.

The next three film screenings will be on Sundays at 7pm :-

25 May - One Life

29 June - The Great Escaper

27 July - Bridget Jones – Mad about the Boy

A new audio-visual receiver has been purchased and will be used to augment the surround sound system soon.

The community café has not made a profit in the previous two weeks.

10. Murieston Village Hall

Janey Cringean reported.

Applications can be made now to the CARES Community Buildings Fund, run by Local Energy Scotland, which provides grants to help community organisations reduce their building's energy costs by funding the installation of renewable technologies.

The Council has agreed to resource the redecoration of the Hall during the summer.

Openreach has made no progress on upgrading broadband which had been promised in the Spring.

11. Communications, including website - <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk> :

Nothing to report.

12. Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2):

West Lothian Council's Development Plan Scheme (DPS) 2025 has been approved by elected members. The DPS can be found through the following website link

- <https://westlothian.gov.uk/article/33809/Development-Plan-Scheme-DPS>

The DPS sets out the timetable for preparing the next Local Development Plan for West Lothian and how to get involved in the plan preparation.

The next stage of the plan preparation process is a 'call for ideas' which allows individuals, community bodies, developers etc. to submit ideas, proposals and sites to be considered for inclusion in LDP2. Responses should be made by Friday 30th May.

13. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

Creation of a soil bund for Murieston Tennis & Sports Club at Cricket Club (ref. 0934/FUL/24)

The developer of the new tennis courts has submitted a planning application in retrospect to create a soil bund beyond the perimeter of the cricket pitch from soil excavated during the building of the new tennis courts.

The application was decided in favour of the applicant by the Development Management Committee on Wednesday 23rd April. Ian made representations on behalf of the Community Council concerning the contaminated soil but the Committee accepted the proposed conditions which require the removal of exposed glass and porcelain, and seeding of grass etc. to cover the bund by the autumn. Ian will follow up in due course on adherence to the planning conditions.

Station Parking

Ian and Davidson met with Kenneth Brown, Roads Network Manager on 22nd April at the station to propose the extension of yellow box hatching to alleviate bad parking at the station carpark. There are no funds available to extend the hatched area.

Ian will write to the Roads Service to ask for an estimated cost of doing this work.

No further update available on the consultation paper which went to the PDSP recommending introduction of decriminalised parking measures, including a recommendation to charge for parking at the three council-owned rail station carparks. If implemented, a carpark charging structure would have an impact on the viability of operating Murieston Village Hall as a community-owned asset.

Linthouse Glen

Ian has had no response from the Planning Service so far regarding the purpose and outcome of the recent surveying work, and will follow up.

New Class 1A Retail Unit at Bankton Centre (ref. 0244/FUL/25)

This is the third planning proposal for a retail unit at the end of Bankton Centre. The new proposal is for a smaller unit than previously. Comments are invited by 22 May.

14. Correspondence and Publications Received:

email circulated regarding the forthcoming AGM of the Joint Forum of Community Councils and the call for nominations to their Executive..

15. Consultation on stricter regulations on sale and use of fireworks

Gregor Poynton MP has written to the Community Council to ask if we can arrange a meeting with him to explore how we can work together to promote responsible firework use and ensure the safety and well-being of all residents in Livingston.

The secretary has contacted Gregor's constituency office and some dates in May and June have been suggested. The preferred date is Friday 13th June.

16. Four-Yearly Community Council Election

The Council is publishing the new four years Community Council Scheme which will provide for the election of a new Community Council in October. Existing community councillors will be invited to stand for nomination.

The new Scheme includes some changes to the boundary of Murieston Community Council with rural land exchanging with East Calder and District Community Council. All of Linhouse Glen is now within the ambit of Murieston Community Council.

17. Any Other Business:

Concern was expressed about the recent cyber attack of the Council's Education IT system.

Carol Bartholomew raised the issue of the delay in restoring of the woodland on the west side of Easter Bankton when 17 trees were destroyed in the storm on 21 January last year. The Council's Chief Arboriculturist, Craig Sinclair had said the work required would be assessed during last summer and replanting would take place during the winter, but although 16 months have elapsed there has been no sign of progress. Craig Sinclair had agreed to attend a community council meeting in January this year to set out the Council's plans for restoring the woodland but had to cancel due to dealing with the workload arising from Storm Eowyn. The secretary will follow up and ask for the restoration of the woodland to be prioritised as previously promised.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19 June 25 in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.