

MURIELSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING ON 16 OCTOBER 2025
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

This Inaugural Meeting of the new Murieston Community Council was held on Thursday 16 October at Williamston Primary School.

1. Present:

Ian Brown, Gillian de Felice, Chris Dryden, Linda Halliday, Roger Harper, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, Clare O'Lone, Mark Robbie; John Sharp, Isabel Taggart

Apologies: Carol Bartholomew, Ken Kirk, Margaret Prior, Irene Whitelaw; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

2. Introduction:

This is the inaugural meeting of the new Murieston Community Council established in terms of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian 2025, instituted under the auspices of West Lothian Council.

Isabel Taggart agreed to assume the position of Chair initially until officers were nominated and appointed.

Davidson McQuarrie agreed to take the minute of the meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests:

As prescribed in the Standing Orders, community councillors should declare to the Secretary any relevant interests applicable to business of the meeting before or at the start of the meeting, or during the course of the meeting in the event that such pertinent business occurs.

No declarations of interest from nominee community councillors were made before or at tonight's meeting.

4. Report by the Returning Officer on outcome of the Community Council election:

There were seven valid nominees, fulfilling the terms of the Scheme, for the 2025 election to Murieston Community Council, being :-

Carol Bartholomew, Ian Brown, Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, Margaret Prior, Mark Robbie.

Murieston Community Council is entitled to have 18 community councillors.

All seven nominees are elected accordingly.

5. Filling of Vacancies, including Youth and Associate Members

There are 11 vacancies which can be filled during the course of the four year term of the Community Council by co-option of eligible residents as full members and also appointment of Youth members.

Associate members who are ineligible to become full members can also be appointed.

6. Appointment of Community Council Office-bearers:

Isabel Taggart, acting as interim Chair, asked for nominations for appointment of office-bearers. The following nominations for the positions were made and office-bearers elected.

Appointments (all elected nem con)

Chair of Community Council - Chris Dryden

proposed by Arthur Marris, seconded by Mark Robbie

Vice-Chair - Mark Robbie

proposed by Chris Dryden, seconded by Ian Brown

Treasurer - Arthur Marris

proposed by Davidson McQuarrie, seconded by Ian Brown

Secretary - Davidson McQuarrie

proposed by Mark Robbie, seconded by Arthur Marris

Planning Secretary - Ian Brown

proposed by Arthur Marris, seconded by Mark Robbie

Chris Dryden, being elected as Chair, then presided over the rest of tonight's business.

7. Constitution and Standing Orders

The model constitution and standing orders were circulated to nominee community councillors before the meeting and were agreed for adoption by the new Murieston Community Council in entirety.

The adopted constitution and standing orders were signed by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Planning Secretary to signify adoption. The Secretary will scan the document and send it to the Community Council Liaison Officer to confirm adoption by the new Murieston Community Council.

8. Community Council Scheme, Code of Conduct, Insurance:

The Community Council Scheme and Code of Conduct has been circulated to nominee community councillors for their attention in representing Murieston Community Council and in the conduct of community council business. The Scheme and suite of supporting documents can be found at :

www.westlothian.gov.uk/communitycouncils

9. Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian:

The information sheet from the Joint Forum of Community Councils has been circulated to nominee community councillors.

Information on the Joint Forum can be viewed at www.westlothiancc.com

Ordinary Meeting continued on conclusion of the business of the Inaugural meeting

1. Present:

As above.

2. Introduction:

The elected Chair, Chris Dryden thanked Isabel Taggart for chairing the first part of the Inaugural Meeting.

The Ordinary Meeting will continue with the regular agenda of business.

3. Minutes of the Meeting on 18 September 2025:

Acceptance of the minutes of the Murieston Community Council meeting on 18 September 2025 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried nem con.

4. Matters Arising:

The application to West Lothian Development Trust for a grant to fund the replacement of the obsolete defibrillator at Livingston South station has been declined as the application was made retrospectively. The defibrillator, costing £640, has been funded by the Community Council.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick is unable to attend tonight and has provided a written report [here](#) .

6. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank balance is £2,700.44.

7. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

Nothing to report.

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

Gillian de Felice gave a report.

The Council's Ecology and Biodiversity Officer, Callum McLaren met with members of MEG to advise and provide a rough quote on cost for upgrading the path at Cambridge Pond. MEG will develop a management plan.

Members of MEG attended a meeting about the West Lothian Biodiversity Plan.

Members trained to eradicate knotweed have been spraying knotweed with the collaboration of the Forth Rivers Trust.

Forth Rivers Trust will be monitoring the health of Murieston Water following the death of fish there recently.

Work is underway to clean up Campbridge Pond

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

Isabel Taggart gave an update.

The two greenhouses have now been built, although the build has taken much longer than indicated by the manufacturer.

The National Lottery have awarded a grant of £250 for the plots in the front public garden, which is now being spent.

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

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

Mark Robbie reported.

The Trust is considering the feasibility of building a new community centre to replace Murieston Village Hall. The area behind the station has drawbacks and alternative sites are being considered. The programme of monthly film screenings for the community cinema continue. Screenings for the rest of the year :-

26 October: 7pm - The Penguin Lessons

30 November: 2pm - Matilda: The Musical; 7pm - The Salt Path

28 December: 2pm – Elf

Mulled wine, non-alcoholic drinks and mince pies will also be available at the December screening.

Screenings of children's films have been cancelled as there were few advance ticket sales. The

Trust is reaching out to the Brownies and Guides to invite them to future screenings.

11. Murieston Village Hall

Mark Robbie reported.

At the public meeting held by Murieston Initiative on 22nd September, options for the future management of the Hall were presented and debated.

None of the three options effective from April 2026 offered by West Lothian Council were considered viable for Murieston Initiative. The Council has stated that they will take over responsibility for running the community centre in the event that there is no agreement. The Murieston Initiative Bboard, however, presented an alternative management option which was endorsed at the public meeting and will be put before Council managers as a way ahead to operate the Hall as an alternative which should be financially beneficial to Murieston Initiative and the Council.

Members of Murieston Initiative had a meeting last week with Scott Hughes and Ralph Bell of the WLC Property Services to present the alternative proposal.

The re-painting of the Hall should be finished next week.

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

Nothing to report.

13. 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 was a 'call for ideas' which allows individuals, community bodies, developers etc. to submit ideas, proposals and sites to considered for inclusion in LDP2. The deadline for responses to the 'call for ideas' was 30th May and there has been no feedback from the Council to date regarding responses.

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

Change of use of open space to private garden ground and erection of 1.8m high fencing (Ref. 0406/FUL/25)

The developer at the new estate at Tarbert Drive has applied for consent to change the use of open space to private garden ground and erection of fence for plots 12 and 13.

The Community Council does not accept the loss of more open space and there is no revised tree planting plan for the open space. Wendy McCoriston from the WLC Planning Service visited the site yesterday. The planning application will go before a planning officer for decision under delegated powers.

The developer has now agreed to replace the trees which were recently chopped down. We want the WLC arborist to supervise the replacement.

Ian has requested a 'letter of comfort' from the Council Planning Service in order to proceed with placing a Christmas tree in the oval at the station carpark as the Planning Service has intimated that planning permission will not be required.

15. Correspondence and Publications Received:

As circulated.

16. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20 November 25 in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.