

MURIELSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2026
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Mark Robbie, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies: Carol Bartholomew, Margaret Prior; Councillor Moira McKee Shemilt; Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

Residents: Gillian de Felice, Linda Halliday, John Sharp, Isabel Taggart

2. 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 community councillors were made before or at tonight's meeting.

3. Minutes of the AGM and Ordinary Meeting on 18 June 2026:

Acceptance of the minutes of the 2026 AGM and the Ordinary meeting on 18 June 2026, subject to a minor amendment, was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Arthur Marris. Carried nem con.

4. Matters Arising:

None.

5. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The annual administration grant of £698 has been received from West Lothian Council

The bank balance is now £3,317.46.

Arthur has provided a written summary on permissible payments which can be made as set out in the Constitution and Standing Orders. In particular, the Community Council may donate no more than one third of the annual grant to local groups. We have always abided by that prescription.

6. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt is unable to attend tonight and has given a written report, available [here](#).

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave his report to the meeting.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has visited the Dogs Trust West Calder Rehoming Centre. A large extension is planned to increase the Centre's capacity.

Livingston Old Parish Church (Livingston Village Kirk) will celebrate its 800th anniversary next year. Councillor Fitzpatrick attended a ceremony at the War Memorial at the Kirk.

There have been fires in refuse lorries recently due to disposed lithium batteries spontaneously combusting. This results in the lorry having to offload refuse immediately. Lithium batteries and devices containing batteries must be disposed safely at collection points in recycling centres, and not deposited in the household grey bins for collection.

The Scottish Government has provided £½Mn to erect 20mph signs in residential streets to confirm the mandatory speed limit.

The forecast for school population in 10 years indicate falling school rolls which may lead to the consolidation of the schools estate and closure of some primary schools.

Councillor Fitzpatrick outlined the new social media problem involving 'sextortion' within schools. The police have been advising schools.

The Scottish Government is now funding the provision of a school bag to every P1 pupil.

The Scottish Government has announced that there will be a review of local government. The First Minister is now engaging with COSLA on proposals.

The Council is reviewing the fourth annual progress report for 'Best Start, Bright Futures', the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan for 2022 to 2026, published by the Scottish Government.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has also provided a written report, available [here](#).

Ian Brown highlighted the need for a lightweight wheelchair at Murieston Village Hall following an issue experienced by an elderly person attending recently. Ian noted that the Council as owner are obliged to make a Health and Safety Assessment of the premises and handed over the

appropriate form. Councillor Fitzpatrick will refer this to Community Services.

Chris Dryden noted that the path beside Murieston Village Hall has become overgrown. Councillor Fitzpatrick said this was due to be maintained in October but he will arrange with the NETs team to trim back the overgrowth now.

Mark Robbie outline an incident involving an uncontrolled dog. Councillor Fitzpatrick confirmed this would be a police matter and asked for more details.

7. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

There has been no recent LAC meeting.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting following this item of business.

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

Gillian de Felice and Arthur Marris reported.

MEG ran a family Treasure Hunt at the Murieston Gala Day at the Cricket Club on 5th September, making £160.

MEG is developing a project for the upgrade of paths.

MEG is partnering with Forth Rivers Trust on controlling invasive non-native species. Work has recently taken place at Killandean to remove rhododendron.

Pine martens are now present in Beecraigs and Polkemmet Country Parks. MEG will be making and installing pine marten boxes to encourage their migration to Murieston.

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

Isabel Taggart reported.

The Community Garden made £62 from produce sales at the Murieston Gala Day at the Cricket Club on 5th September.

The Garden collected sufficient water to be self-sufficient this summer.

The Garden participates in the [It's Your Neighbourhood](#) initiative, which is a free, non-competitive environmental improvement scheme run by [Keep Scotland Beautiful](#) in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). One of their assessors visited the Garden recently to assess awarding a certificate of recognition.

A new bench has been made from four mini-sleepers and situated in the gardening area.

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

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

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

At the 2026 AGM on 29th June, eight Trustees were elected to the Board :-

Gillian de Felice, Alex McDonald, Graham MacIver, Graeme McNaughton, Davidson McQuarrie, Mark Robbie, John Sharp, Moira Shemilt.

There are four vacancies to be filled on the Board of Trustees, which can be filled by appointment.

The major focus of the Board on developing a new community hub is in stasis until the Council addresses our proposals set out in the LPP, now registered as a constituent of LDP 2.

Work continues on the community cinema and station greening.

A grant has been received from Generation Arts to enable films to be screened at the community cinema through to next March. Screenings are now going to be on Saturday evenings. The first will be *My Mother's Wedding* on Saturday 26th September at 6.30pm, then *The Christophers* on 7th November and *Savage House* on 28th November.

Station greening has started at the embankment on the south side. Part of the area beside the bike shelter has been cleared, and soil and ornamental rocks deposited. A further delivery of smaller rocks has been arranged for next week, then purchase and planting of alpenes will follow.

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

Nothing to report.

12. Local Development Plan 2 (LDP 2):

West Lothian Council's Development Plan Scheme (DPS) 2025 has been approved by elected members, see - <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 LDP 2 has been prepared and submitted at the Gate Check stage to the Scottish Government Reporter who has required more information on several aspects.

Updates to the evidence base have been made following the return of the Gate Check Report which were put out to consultation with stakeholders before the Council submitted a revised Evidence Report to the Reporter in June 2026.

The current status of LDP 2 is available [here](#).

13. Local Place Plan (LPP):

Ian Brown reported.

The Council Planning Service has now confirmed that new version of the Murieston Local Place Plan has been formally registered.

This means the Council will take into account the LPP when producing LDP 2. The Council will be required to explain why proposals have, or have not, been included in the course of the LDP process, and decisions can be challenged and independently assessed.

The new version of the LPP is available here - [LPP](#).

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

Nursery at Skivo (ref. 0257/FUL/26)

A planning application has been made for the Wee Forest School nursery on land to the south of Skivo House. To be decided.

Change of use of open space to private garden at Tarbert Drive (ref. 0342/FUL/26)

The application for consent for change of use and erection of a 1.1m fence at plot 13 and reinstatement of approved boundary fence at plot 12 on the Tarbert Drive estate has been refused under delegated powers, primarily because of the loss of public open space, and the detrimental effect on the visual and recreational amenities of the area.

An appeal can be made to the Local Review Body.

General

Plans for the removal of an ash tree in Tarbert Drive do not reflect the change of ownership of land some 15 years ago.

15. Auchinoon Energy Park:

A proposal has been made to build a wind farm, solar and energy storage park, Auchinoon Energy Park which would be located on land beyond Oakbank Park up to Harperigg Reservoir. The proposed development will comprise of up to eight wind turbines with a tip height of up to 200m, a solar PV array and a battery energy storage system with associated infrastructure. Installed Capacity: up to 115.6MW (wind up to 57.6MW / solar up to 58MW) and Expected Production: approximately 245,000 MWh per year, which would power about 74,000 homes.

The developers will have a public exhibition at Livingston Cricket Club on Thursday 24th September from 2pm to 8pm. Ian Brown, Chris Dryden and Davidson McQuarrie will be attending.

More information is available on the Auchinoon Energy Park website, available [here](#).

Ian Brown has written to Angela Constance MSP about concluding the Scottish Government's public consultation reviews on providing comprehensive and consistent community benefits from renewable energy schemes.

16. Correspondence and Publications Received:

A paper from the Council's Operational Services on the West Lothian parking strategy has been circulated.

17. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 15 October in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.

*** Disclaimer**

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