

MURIELSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on 18 JUNE 2026
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <http://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

This 2025/2026 AGM was held on Thursday 18 June 2026 at Williamston Primary School.

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Carol Bartholomew, Davidson McQuarrie, Margaret Prior;
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies:

Mark Robbie; Councillor Moira Shemilt; Linda Halliday

Residents:

John Sharp, Isabel Taggart

The quorum for the meeting is prescribed in section 11 (b) of the Constitution and Standing Orders :- *The quorum for community council meetings shall be at least one third of the current eligible voting membership, or 3 eligible voting members, whichever is the greater.*
As there are 6 from the 7 community councillors in attendance, the meeting is quorate.

2. Minutes of the 2024/2025 Annual General Meeting on 19 June 2025:

Minutes of last year's AGM on 19 June 2025 were agreed and ratified. Adoption proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Arthur Marris. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising on Minutes of the 2024/2025 Annual General Meeting on 19 June 2025:

None.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Arthur Marris reported.

The annual accounts for the period 1 April 25 to 31 March 26 were agreed at the April 2026 meeting.

The opening balance from the previous year for the Murieston Community Council account was £2,919.69. The annual Administration Grant for 2025/2026 was £442. Expenditure for the Community Council during the year was £742.23, comprising: £640 to replace the defibrillator at the station, £47 annual subscription fee to the Information Commissioner; £33.98 for miscellaneous expenses and £21.25 bank charges from former bank. The closing balance for the Murieston Community Council account is £2,619.46.

The accounts have been examined by two independent examiners and found to be in order. The accounts are approved and signed off at tonight's quorate AGM dated 18 June 2026.

The Secretary will send the approved Statement of Income and Expenditure Account for 2025/2026 to the West Lothian Council Community Council Liaison Officer with an online link to the minutes of meetings for the 2025/2026 session (facilitated via the community council website - www.muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk).

The annual Administrative Grant for 2026/2027 will be released after these documents are received and processed by West Lothian Council.

5. Election of Officers of Murieston Community Council:

The community councillors were elected to serve as office-bearers for 2026/2027 as below :-

<u>Chair</u>	- Chris Dryden	proposed by Arthur Marris, seconded by Davidson McQuarrie
<u>Vice-Chair</u>	- Mark Robbie	proposed by Davidson McQuarrie, seconded by Ian Brown
<u>Treasurer</u>	- Arthur Marris	proposed by Chris Dryden, seconded by Davidson McQuarrie
<u>Secretary</u>	- Davidson McQuarrie	proposed by Ian Brown, seconded by Margaret Prior
<u>Planning Secretary</u>	- Ian Brown	proposed by Chris Dryden, seconded by Arthur Marris

Webmaster

- **Davidson McQuarrie** proposed by Chris Dryden, seconded by Ian Brown

6. Any Other Competent Business:

Davidson McQuarrie will make arrangements with Janey Cringean regarding the continued hosting and administration of the website.

The 2025/2026 AGM was completed at 7.20pm.

An Ordinary meeting of Murieston Community Council continued after the 2025/2026 AGM was concluded. The meeting was held on Thursday 18 June 2026 at Williamston Primary School.

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Carol Bartholomew, Davidson McQuarrie, Margaret Prior; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies:

Mark Robbie; Councillor Moira Shemilt; Linda Halliday

Residents:

Lara Haken, John Sharp, Isabel Taggart

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 21 May 2026:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 21 May 2026 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Arthur Marris. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The statement of accounts for the 2025/2026 fiscal year was outlined at tonight's AGM.

The bank balance now stands at £2,619.46.

Carol Bartholomew proposed that we should consider community projects to spend accumulating funds. Two projects involve the Local Place Plan and a Christmas Tree at the station. Ian Brown suggested further funding could be sought from West Lothian Development Trust. Arthur Marris noted that Murieston Environmental Group might want to participate too.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave his report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick met with the Advice Shop staff and volunteers. 33 people give their own precious time to assist with debt problems and McMillan Cancer Care.

Councillor Fitzpatrick also attended The Lanthorn AGM and Winchburgh Academy, where he spoke with Pupils Voice – answering questions on issues critical to their education.

Councillor Fitzpatrick also covered a number of issues which are detailed in his written report.

Pothole repairs (see [report](#)); national treatment centre at St John's Hospital; Education; Trading Standards; travelling / unauthorised encampment; swimming at Xcite; Local Development Plan 2; finance; ecology and diversity (see [report](#)).

Councillor Fitzpatrick's written report is [here](#).

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting following this item of business.

6. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

Nothing to report.

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

Arthur Marris advised that MEG will run a family Treasure Hunt at the Murieston Gala Day at Livingston Cricket Club on Saturday 5th September.

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

Isabel Taggart reported.

Three new volunteers have joined the community garden. A water pump is now available for watering at the site. Plants will be available for sale on Sunday. Two allotment beds will be built later in the season. The remaining mini-sleepers may be used to build benches.

9. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) – SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC052716 <https://murieston-cdt.org.uk> :

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The 2026 AGM of the Trust held on 23rd March at Murieston Village Hall was marginally inquorate and has been rearranged for Monday 29th June as an online meeting on Zoom. This should make it easier for more of the Trust members (127) to attend and participate.

A presentation will outline what the Trust has done over the past year and plans for the forthcoming year, as well as approval of the financial report and the election of trustees.

All current trustees are standing down as required in the Constitution.

Janey Cringean is resigning and Paula Shaw has resigned.

Gillian de Felice, Alex McDonald, Graham MacIver, Davidson McQuarrie, Mark Robbie, John Sharp, Moira Shemilt have nominated for re-election. Graeme McNaughton has nominated for election. If all nominees are re-elected, there will be four vacancies to be filled on the Board of Trustees, Further nominations can also be made to elect trustees at the AGM to fill these vacancies.

10. Local Development Plan 2 (LDP 2)

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Following the return of the Gate Check Report from Scottish Government to the Council in November 2025, the Council engaged on an updated evidence base that informs LDP 2.

There were 13 topics covered in the consultation; including Countryside Belt, Indicative Housing land requirements , Affordable and Specialised Housing, Healthcare Infrastructure, and Local Living and Community infrastructure.

Updates to the evidence base have been made, then the new version was reviewed by the Council on 18th June and the Evidence Report has now been returned to the Scottish Government Reporter.

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

11. Local Place Plan for Murieston

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

A new version of the Murieston Local Place Plan (LPP) has been prepared jointly by Murieston Community Council and Murieston Community Development Trust which has changed the locus of the proposed new community centre from the station to the land at the junction of Murieston East Road and Murieston Road at the rail bridge.

The new version of the LPP is currently available for consultation and comment ([LPP](#)).

The new LPP will be presented at the Trust's AGM on 29th June and will also be available via the website and on Facebook. The new LPP will then be circulated to neighbouring community councils as required by the planning provisions.

When agreed by stakeholders, the new LPP will be submitted to the Planning Service to be incorporated with LDP 2.

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

Nothing to report.

13. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Wee Forest Nursery (ref. 0257/FUL/26)

Lara Haken attended tonight's meeting to explain her application for planning permission to build the Wee Forest School, an outdoor nursery on privately-owned land behind Skivo Wynd, adjacent to Castlevue Farm.

The proposal is to develop Wee Forest Nursery as an outdoor Forest School nursery, providing high-quality early learning and childcare within a natural woodland environment. There will be a maximum of 23 children of pre-school age.

Alongside the nursery itself, it is hoped to develop opportunities for community involvement through projects such as gardening, conservation activities, intergenerational work, volunteering, and partnerships with local schools, community groups, and care organisations.

Access to Murieston Water will be prevented by a fence. A flood report has been obtained for SEPA. The planning application will be decided by the Development Management Committee.

Proposal to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

The Council is consulting on proposals to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement across West Lothian. This could potentially give the Council responsibility for parking enforcement on public roads and car parks helping to improve road safety, keep traffic moving, and support fair and consistent parking controls in communities, as outlined in the [**West Lothian Parking Strategy**](#). The consultation closes on Friday 3rd July.

Other

An application to fell trees in Birrell Gardens is under consideration. No information from the Council arborist currently.

14. Correspondence:

None.

15. Any Other Business:

There was a brief discussion about youths gathering in the woodland behind Murieston Gardens on the recent good weather.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

The next meeting will be on 17 September 26 (*to be confirmed*).