

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 FEBRUARY 2026
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

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

Apologies: Mark Robbie; Councillor Moira McKee Shemilt; Gillian de Felice

Residents: Linda Halliday, Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, 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 Meetings on 15 January 2026:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2026 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried nem con.

4. Matters Arising:

The Chair will send out to community councillors and ex-officio members details of the guidance on complying with the Community Council Scheme and Code of Conduct provided by West Lothian Council's Governance Manager.

5. Matters Arising:

Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick summarised his report at the meeting, covering a number of issues :-

Attended the commemoration Service for Holocaust Day; attended Moore House Care integration house at the Alba Campus; attended S.M.I.L.E. counselling charity with a Scottish Government minister; secondary schools receive £25k each to provide pupil counselling services; £242k has been awarded by the UK Government to Murieston United Community Football Club to fund a new 3G pitch; Woodland Trust is consulting on Dedridge Wood management strategy; the Council is working in partnership with West Lothian Litterpickers; landowners have responsibility for removing refuse on their own land, cameras are being installed at some hotspots; remediation of the Lanthorn Centre has been completed; confirmation is needed from Scottish Government on providing the promised £15m to remove RAAC at St Kentigern's Academy; 10,000 suggestions and 28,000 comments were received in the recent consultation on Council budget options.

Ian Brown asked about plans to tackle the problem of potholes. Councillor Fitzpatrick said the Council is buying new equipment and expanding the road repairs team. Ian suggested that potholes, when identified for repair, should be sprayed with a fluorescent marker.

Councillor Fitzpatrick's written report is available at this link [here](#).*

Councillor Fitzpatrick circulated Cleaner Communities Service Standards and Litter Prevention Action Plan.

6. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank balance remains at £2,666.46.

Payment of the data protection fee (£47) is due now and will be made by direct debit to the Information Commissioner's Office.

7. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

There has been no recent LAC meeting.

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

The Secretary read out a written report (below) from Gillian de Felice who is unable to attend :-

We plan to fundraise to redo the paths and stairs around Campbridge and make some areas more accessible to those with mobility issues. We'd also like to install signs around the area showing wildlife and photos of it as a quarry. The log bench will be removed as it's rotting and we'll repurpose it as a bug hotel. We'd also like to put in a stone cairn instead. We have discussed with Rangers and Ecologists from WLC regarding this and have been quoted around £8000 just for the paths, however we are going to try and raise up to £20K for all the improvements! Any ideas of who to ask for money welcomed!!!

On 1st March we are being joined by WLC Ecologists and volunteers from Central Scotland Wildlife Group to tackle INNS (rhododendrons) around Campbridge and also install bird and bat boxes. Today Alan Murray and myself went to the Volunteering for Nature West Lothian focus group. We had presentations from Buglife and TWIC (The Wildlife information Centre) and discussed how we can get more people involved with Citizen Science. This is a recurring focus group which includes WLCAN, FRT, SWT, and other volunteering charities. Very useful indeed!.

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

Isabel Taggart reported.

The volunteers will be resuming their weekly sessions at the Community Garden at the start of March

£200 is available to purchase seeds. The new greenhouses are now available and will make gardening more productive.

The Garden is advertising for more volunteers to help.

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

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

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The Trust has had an offer of help which will involve professional volunteers from HSBC Bank to work with the Trust in developing the programme to plan and build a new community centre on another site in Murieston. HSBC is advertising internally for volunteers and it is hoped that a project group of volunteers can be established soon.

11. Murieston Village Hall

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Murieston Initiative has not accepted any of the management options proposed by West Lothian Council and, as of 1 April, will hand over the management of the Hall to the Council for operation by council staff. Murieston Initiative is liaising with the Council on the transition to the new management and operational arrangements.

Letting rates will change in line with rates charged in Council premises, which will apply to existing user groups, including Simply Play.

An addendum to the Community Council and Murieston Community Development Trust joint Local Place Plan (LPP) has been prepared which changes the locus of the proposed community centre to the site at the junction of Murieston East Road and Murieston Road at the rail bridge. This joint addendum has been submitted to the Council in order that it will be fed into the Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2).

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 be considered for inclusion in the LDP2. This stage has completed but the responses to the 'call for ideas' have not been published yet.

The LDP2 has now been reviewed and currently rejected by the Scottish Government Reporter.

The current status of LDP2 is available [here](#).

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

Illuminated totem sign at Bankton Centre (ref. 0085/A/26)

A decision is to be made on an application to erect a freestanding illuminated sign at the entrance to the Bankton Centre.

Proposal for two single-storey storage units with associated security gate (ref. 1004/FUL/25)

The proposal is for two storage units to serve existing commercial units at Bankton Centre. The units would replace temporary storage containers and improve site layout and security.

The planning application is currently awaiting decision.

Change of use of open space to private garden at Tarbert Drive (ref. 0406/FUL/25)

The application for retrospective consent for change of use and erection of a 1.8m fence at plots 12 and 13 has been refused under delegated powers on the grounds this would have encroached on the SUDS area and an area proposed for the children's play area.

An appeal has now been lodged by the developer.

15. Correspondence and Publications Received:

Ian Brown and Davidson McQuarrie attended a half-day workshop *Getting Started in Community Energy* at West Lothian College on 4th February. This was aimed at helping those working in public centres and buildings to take the next step toward energy-efficient, low-carbon community spaces. The workshop included a visit to the College's ECOHOUSE skills centre for sustainable living.

There is a drop-in session at the Lanthorn Centre on Tuesday 24th February to view and discuss proposals for the long-term management of woods across Livingston with the Council's tree and woodland team.

An online webinar for community councils about the Local Governance Review is being held on Wednesday 25th February. This review is considering changes to the powers and authority which is currently vested in community councils.

16. Any Other Business:

Apologies from Carol Bartholomew for being unable to attend the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 19 March in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.

*** Disclaimer**

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