

MURIELSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on 19 JUNE 2025
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <http://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

This 2024/2025 AGM was held on Thursday 19 June 2025 at Williamston Primary School.

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Carol Bartholomew, Janey Cringean, Davidson McQuarrie, Margaret Prior; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Chris Dryden, Mark Robbie; Linda Halliday, John Sharp

Residents:

Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

Arthur Marris acted as Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unavailable.

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 8 community councillors in attendance, the meeting is quorate.

2. Minutes of the 2023/2024 Annual General Meeting on 20 June 2024:

Minutes of last year's AGM on 20 June 2024 were agreed and ratified. Adoption proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Janey Cringean. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising on Minutes of the 2023/2024 Annual General Meeting on 20 June 2024:

None.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Arthur Marris reported.

The annual accounts for the period 1 April 24 to 31 March 25 were approved and signed off at the April 2025 meeting.

The opening balance from the previous year for the Murieston Community Council account was £2,509.94. The annual Administration Grant for 2024/2025 was £473. Expenditure for the Community Council during the year was £63.25, comprising: the £47 annual subscription fee to the Information Commissioner; £12 for website hosting and £4.25 bank charge. The closing balance for the Murieston Community Council account is £2,919.69.

The Secretary will send the approved Statement of Income and Expenditure Account for 2024/2025 to the West Lothian Council Community Council Liaison Officer with an online link to the minutes of meetings for the 2024/2025 Session (facilitated via the community council website - www.muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk). The annual Administrative Grant for 2025/2026 will only be released after these documents are received and processed by West Lothian Council.

5. Election of Officers of Murieston Community Council:

It was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Davidson McQuarrie that the current officers continue in office until the election of the newly constituted community council takes place in October. The current office-bearers are :-

<u>Chair</u>	- Chris Dryden
<u>Treasurer</u>	- Arthur Marris
<u>Secretary</u>	- Davidson McQuarrie
<u>Planning Secretary</u>	- Ian Brown
<u>Webmaster</u>	- Janey Cringean

6. Any Other Competent Business:

None.

The 2024/2025 AGM was completed at 7.10pm.

An Ordinary meeting of Murieston Community Council continued after the 2024/2025 AGM was concluded. The meeting was held on Thursday 19 June 2025 at Williamston Primary School.

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Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Carol Bartholomew, Janey Cringean, Davidson McQuarrie, Margaret Prior; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Chris Dryden, Mark Robbie; Linda Halliday, John Sharp

Residents:

Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

Arthur Marris acted as Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unavailable.

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 15 May 2025:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 15 May 2025 was proposed by Carol Bartholomew and seconded by Janey Cringean. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

An update on actions was outlined :-

An update has been provided by the Chief Solicitor, via a freedom of information request, about the zoning of Linhouse Glen for planning purposes.

The defibrillator at the station will need to be replaced soon as it is an obsolete model and as a result consumables cannot be obtained. The secretary will investigate a suitable alternative model.

Craig Sinclair, Chief Arborist has now met with residents to outline plans for woodland at Easter Bankton.

The Planning Service has confirmed that trees will be replanted at the new Tarbert Drive estate as per planning conditions. This will occur during the tree planting season of November to March.

The Roads Service has confirmed that road hatching will be extended at the station carpark to improve safe parking.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The statement of accounts for the 2024/2025 fiscal year was outlined at tonight's AGM.

The bank balance now stands at £2,906.94.

The new bank account requires three authorised signatories controlling the account, with all transactions requiring two co-signatories.

The current Chair and Treasurer are authorised signatories; the current Secretary also needs to be an authorised signatory.

The Secretary outlined the requirement at the meeting.

It was resolved at the meeting that :-

- 1 The business internet banking post-registration amendments form was approved;
- 2 The bank will be requested and authorised to make the changes detailed in the amendments form;
- 3 The community councillors/committee members in terms of Murieston Community Council's constitution are authorised to sign the post-registration amendments form.

Community councillors/committee members completed and signed the business internet banking post-registration amendments form to request that the Secretary is made an authorised signatory of the bank account.

The Secretary will return the completed form to the bank.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt outlined her written report, which covers:-

Removal of trees at Easter Bankton and Tarbert Drive; Parking at the 40th anniversary celebration of Murieston United Community Football Club; Unauthorised Encampment at Brucefield Industrial Estate; Proposal for retail unit at the Bankton Retail Centre; Preparation of Local Development Plan 2; Future options and arrangements for community centres; Pathways to Work consultation.

The full report by Councillor Shemilt is available [here](#)

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave his report.

The Council will be giving more than £1.5m in support over the summer holidays. The money is part of the free school meals programme which ensures youngsters do not lose out during the six week summer holidays. £440,000 is also being provided for activities during the school holidays.

Pay rises of 3.5% and 4% have been offered over the next two years for Council staff.

The Council's Access2Employment team, supported by West Lothian College, hosted a jobs fair at Howden Park on 28th May.

The Corporate Policy and Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel will be considering tomorrow the responses to the consultation on the Pathways to Work Green Paper about reforming benefits and support to get Britain working.

The Council has paid £20M for the repairs to St Kentigern's Academy and a further £15M will be required.

The school rolls for James Young High School and St Margaret's Academy are expected to remain steady for the next 10 years.

Murieston United Community FC obtained a TTRO for traffic at their 40th anniversary celebration and Festival of Football last weekend. Parking had been organised at the station and at James Young High School.

There are now stricter conditions for qualifying for the Blue Badge scheme. As a result some existing badge holders are being refused when renewing their Blue Badge.

The Council's education network was the victim of a sophisticated ransomware cyberattack on 6 May. It has been confirmed that a small percentage of the overall data stored on the education network has been stolen. The Council is working with Police Scotland. Allowances were made for the examinations and the marking body has been advised. A programme is underway to clean all connected devices.

The war-blind Linburn estate at Wilkieston is being sold in one year's time. Councillor Fitzpatrick has written to the cabinet minister with responsibility. The charity has asked to meet Councillor

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> :

Nothing to report.

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

Janey Cringean reported.

Following completion of the bases by Ross Contractors, volunteers have started building and erecting the greenhouses. Five volunteers from Sky TV worked at the garden last Wednesday.

Sadly there have been some recent petty thefts and vandalism in the public and inner garden areas.

Councillor Shemilt offered to consult the community police if there is a repeat occurrence.

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

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

Janey Cringean reported.

The community café will not be open over the summer while Murieston Village Hall is being painted.

The Council has arranged for the Hall to be redecorated by a CJS team at no cost. Painting starts on 6 June.

The community cinema will continue during the summer.

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

29 June - The Great Escaper

17 August - Bridget Jones – Mad about the Boy

10. Local Place Plan for Murieston

Ian Brown reported.

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 'call for ideas' consultation which allows individuals, community bodies, developers etc. to submit ideas, proposals and sites to be considered for inclusion in Local Development Plan 2 (LDP 2) has now closed and responses will be processed by the Planning Service.

Up to date information about Local Development Plan 2 can be viewed at :-

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/78889/Local-Development-Plan-2-LDP-2>

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

Nothing to report.

12. 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.

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown and Davidson McQuarrie met Gregor Poynton MP and his staff on Friday 13th June. Views on the need for fireworks controls in the area were exchanged. The opportunity was also taken to raise topics of community policing, trail bikes on paths, capacity of the station carpark, proposals on the future of community centres and internet security policies.

The secretary will follow up with Gregor's staff and will aim to arrange another meeting at a date and time which is convenient to community councillors.

13. Four-Yearly Community Council Election in October 2025:

The Council has published the new four-year Community Council Scheme which will provide for the election of a new Community Council in October.

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.

Residents of Murieston are welcome to become community councillors and influence decisions that really matter for our area. Existing community councillors will be invited to stand for nomination.

Details on how to apply to join Murieston Community Council are explained at

www.westlothian.gov.uk/communitycouncils .

It was agreed that meetings of the Community Council will continue to be held on the third Thursday of the month from September 2025 to June 2026 at Williamston School. The Secretary will book monthly lets with Education Services for the Staff Room at Williamston School.

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston this month.

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. The Committee has set 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 September on adherence to the planning conditions.

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. It has been disallowed by the Council's Planning Service under delegated powers.

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.

The Council's road safety team is now putting together an order for some new road markings that will make it clear to drivers that they should not be parking obstructively. They will be able to take care of any other marking work required at the same time.

Linhouse Glen

The Chief Solicitor has now confirmed as the result of a Freedom of information request that Linhouse Glen was recategorised for planning purposes several years ago to include Use Class 6

– Warehousing, as well as the longstanding national safeguarded single-user site designation for large scale industry that would comprise "high-technology business / industrial development".

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

The secretary outlined that the defibrillator at the station is now an obsolete model and replacement pads can no longer be obtained. The secretary has contacted St John's Scotland for advice on a suitable replacement. St John's Scotland sell defibrillators at a discounted retail price and provide accompanying CPR training. .

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting will be on 18 September 25 *(to be confirmed)*.