

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**held at Williamston Primary School**  
**web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>**

---

**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Mark Robbie, Davidson McQuarrie; Councillor Moira Shemilt

**Apologies:** Janey Cringean, Arthur Marris; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Margaret Prior

**Residents:** Carol Bartholomew, Gillian de Felice, Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 20 June 2024:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 20 June 2024 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Chris Dryden, subject to minor changes. Carried nem con.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Councillors' Reports:**

Councillor Fitzpatrick is absent as he is attending the annual COSLA conference.

**Councillor Moira Shemilt**

Councillor Shemilt apologised for not attending recent meetings and explained the nature of the circumstances.

Councillor Shemilt outlined her written report, which covers:-

Proposed dog park at Murieston Castle; speed of traffic on Murieston Road; housing for the homeless; brown bin permits; re-opening of the Lanthorn Centre; provision of nurseries; demolition and development of the former Bubbles site; future of community centres.

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

**5. Finances:**

Davidson McQuarrie reported on behalf of Arthur Marris.

The bank balance stands at £2,970.94.

Since the last meeting we have received our annual administration grant from WLC of £473.

**6. Livingston South Local Area Committee:**

Nothing to report.

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

Gillian de Felice reported.

MEG recently carried out their annual Biodiversity Survey at the Linhouse Loop. With the help of 9 volunteers, 125 species of flora and fauna were identified, including 1 migratory bird species on the endangered list.

Two volunteers are trained on removing Japanese Knotweed. Several areas have been sprayed.

There is support for re-zoning the area of the Linhouse Trail as a protected area in the new Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2).

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

Nothing to report.

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

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

Mark Robbie reported.

The Trustees are working on developing a plan exploring the options and their financial implications to continue Murieston Village Hall as a viable concern when Council funding is withdrawn from community councils. This plan includes options for providing better access.

The next meeting of the Board is on Thursday 3 October.

The community café has now been open on Saturdays at the Village Hall for several months. The café has been well attended and is generally turning a profit each week.

**10. Local Place Plan for Murieston**

Ian Brown reported.

Murieston Community Development Trust with Murieston Community Council have now compiled and submitted the Local Place Plan (LPP) for Murieston to West Lothian Council. After some changes requested by the Council, the LPP has now been accepted and registered, and will now feed into the Council's forthcoming LDP2 which will be a 10 year plan for West Lothian effective from 2026.

The Council has registered six LPPs from communities across West Lothian so far.

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

Nothing to report.

**12. COVID Issues:**

Vaccinations are now all being done centrally, rather than through medical practices. Advice on getting vaccinations can be viewed at :-

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/the-vaccines/coronavirus-covid-19-booster-vaccination/>

Phone: 0800 030 8013.

**13. Planning Applications:**

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

**Tarbert Drive (ref. 1151/FUL/22)**

There are some issues affecting perimeter fences of existing properties.

**14. Correspondence:**

None.

**15. Any Other Business:**

Carol Bartholomew noted that the replanting to restore the woodland on the west side of Easter Bankton has not started yet. This was to occur by the winter and will need to start soon to ensure saplings are growing next year.

**The Meeting closed at 8pm.**

**The next meeting will be on Thursday 17 October in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.**