

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 20 NOVEMBER 2025
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Mark Robbie, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie

Apologies: Carol Bartholomew, Margaret Prior; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt; Gillian de Felice, Roger Harper

Residents: Ken Kirk, Clare O'Lone, John Sharp, Isabel Taggart, Irene Whitelaw

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 Inaugural and Regular Meetings on 16 October 2025:

Acceptance of the minutes of the inaugural and regular meetings on 16 October 2025 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Mark Robbie, subject to a minor change. Carried nem con.

4. Matters Arising:

None

5. Matters Arising:

Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira McKee Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt submitted a written report, provided in this link [here](#).*

6. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The bank balance is £2,666.46.

Expenses of £33.98 has been paid to Ian Brown to reimburse his purchase of a wireless front doorbell to be used for access at Community Council meetings.

7. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

The secretary attended the recent LAC meeting. Reports by officers representing various Council services departments were given.

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

Gillian de Felice has provided a short written report as she is unable to attend tonight.

Not much to report from MEG as we've had our last meeting for the year. We are working on a management plan to be submitted to the council. We have finished INNS treatment for the year and have agreed with Forth Rivers Trust to assist them in treating Killandean Burn and Harwood next year.

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

Isabel Taggart reported.

There are now two joint presidents of Murieston Community Garden.

Plants to the value of the £250 grant have been purchased and planted in the front public garden.

Some more fruit trees have been purchased and may be planted this Sunday.

A decision has to be made on whether to erect more raised beds as the area identified at the back of the garden is waterlogged. There may be surplus mini-sleepers if no further raised beds are erected.

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> :

Mark Robbie reported.

The Trust has had an offer of help which will involve volunteers from HSBC Bank to help working with the Trust in developing the programme to plan and build a new community centre on another site in Murieston. The Trust has produced a project summary / brief with objectives and skills requirements which will form the basis to advertise in the HSBC Edinburgh centre and across the organisation for volunteers with suitable skillsets to assist in the project.

Under the volunteering programme, staff in HSBC can spend two days a year on voluntary work. It is hoped that a group of staff from the wide network with a mix of professional skillsets will become involved. Some staff are likely to be based locally in Edinburgh; others based elsewhere could contribute online and via remote meetings.

11. Murieston Village Hall

Mark Robbie reported.

A public meeting was held at the Hall on Monday 22nd September at 7pm to present and discuss the options for the future of Murieston Village Hall. There are three options offered by West Lothian Council to community centres. The options do not address the need to spend £200,000 over the next six years on scheduled maintenance and remediation of the Hall, which is now some 40 years old. Murieston Initiative is proposing an alternative option which should be financially beneficial to Murieston Initiative and the Council.

The Board of Murieston Initiative is waiting for a response from Scott Hughes of WLC Property Services on whether to consider the proposal for the alternative management option.

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 LDP2. The deadline for responses was 30th May.

Nothing further to report.

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

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

The proposal 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. This would have encroached on the SUDS area and an area proposed for the children's play area.

It is noted that some 70 trees are still to be planted according to the planning conditions.

Christmas Tree

Ian has asked the Planning Service if planning permission is required to position a Christmas tree in the central oval at the station. Advice is that planning permission may not be required and, accordingly, Ian has instead requested a 'letter of comfort' in order to proceed. Ian will provide a utility services drawing to the Council to confirm there will be no infrastructure issues.

15. Correspondence and Publications Received:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

Access to Tarbert Drive will be closed for two days to enable manhole enclosures to be replaced. The roadworks opposite the Cricket Club have been in place for over two months, though progress is unclear. This will be taken up with the Council who will have a registered no. for the roadworks.

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 18 December 25 in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.

*** Disclaimer**

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