

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21 MAY 2026
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

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

Apologies: Arthur Marris, Carol Bartholomew; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; 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 16 April 2026:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 16 April 2026, subject to a minor amendment, was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Chris Dryden. Carried nem con.

4. Matters Arising:

None.

5. Matters Arising:

Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt gave a verbal report to the meeting.

Councillor Shemilt clarified a point in her report of last month regarding the planning application made by Persimmons Homes to develop the former Ethicon site at Simpson Parkway, Kirkton for housing. Councillor Shemilt explained in detail that she had felt obliged but had not been obligated to call in the planning application.

The Council is consulting on proposals to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement across West Lothian, which have already been introduced at 23 councils in Scotland. A paper was presented to the LAC which sets out the proposed strategy to give the Council responsibility for parking enforcement on public roads and car parks (**West Lothian Parking Strategy**). Income from penalties etc. should pay for the system and surplus would go towards roads maintenance. There are no plans to introduce parking charges at the stations.

The public consultation is open until Friday 3 July and is also available on the Council's Facebook page.

The NETs team has had 40 complaints on littering at the station. Fixed penalty notices are only occasionally issued.

A short-life working group has been set up to review and advise on the travellers' encampment strategy in West Lothian. This will also include the impact on neighbours and the environment.

The proposal is that Council officers will meet with travellers initially when they set up an encampment and will aim to work with the travellers in reaching an equitable solution.

A paper is going initially to the Council Executive and will then proceed to the full Council.

Margaret prior asked that this proceeds under a tight schedule.

A well-received presentation was made to the full Council by Sgt. Scott McCulloch about talks he has been giving to school children concerning domestic abuse. There has been an increase of 10% in reported incidents in the past two years.

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick is unable to attend tonight and has provided a written report [here](#) and [CAB report](#).

6. Finances:

The bank balance remains at £2,619.46.

The annual accounts for the fiscal year to the end of March 2026 will be formally presented at the AGM in June for approval and sign-off.

7. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

The secretary did not attend the recent LAC meeting.

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

Gillian de Felice is unable to attend tonight and has advised that MEG will be meeting up with Central Scotland Wildlife Group tomorrow to check the bat and bird boxes.

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

Isabel Taggart reported.

Isabel circulated the annual accounts for the Garden at the last meeting. The AGM has now been held.

Seeds are being germinated in the new greenhouses and the beds planted up.

Cedarbank School has gifted a large planter which will be used to grow herbs.

There is room to create two further raised beds at the back of the site.

10. 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 23 March at Murieston Village Hall was marginally inquorate and will now be rearranged for a date in June. This will likely be a remote meeting on Zoom which 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.

The community cinema will continue over the summer. An application for a further grant has been made to Generation Arts which will then fund regular film presentations through to next Spring.

11. Murieston Village Hall

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

Murieston Initiative did not accept any of the management options proposed by West Lothian Council and, as of 1 April, handed over the management of the Hall to the Council for operation by council staff.

Letting rates have now changed in line with rates charged in Council premises for community and commercial room lets. Room bookings are now made directly with Community Services.

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

Nothing to report.

13. Local Development Plan 2 (LDP 2):

West Lothian Council's Development Plan Scheme (DPS) 2025 has been approved by elected members, see - <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 LDP 2 has been prepared and submitted at the Gate Check stage to the Scottish Government Reporter who has required more information on several aspects.

Updates to the evidence base have been made following the return of the Gate Check Report which have been put out to consultation with stakeholders before the Council submits a revised Evidence Report.

There are 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.

The intention is to seek full Council approval of the revised Evidence Report for submission to Gate Check in June 2026.

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

14. Local Place Plan (LPP):

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 and will also be available via the website and on Facebook.

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

15. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

Storage Units at Bankton Centre (ref. 1004/FUL/25)

Work has started on erecting the two storage units at the back of Bankton Centre.

Nursery at Skivo (ref. 0257/FUL/26)

A planning application has been made for a nursery on land to the south of Skivo House.

Tarbert Drive

Ian will follow up on correspondence with the Chief Executive concerning Tarbert Drive.

General

Ian reported that an outcome of the ongoing review of local governance may be reflected in the Local Democracy Bill which will empower communities to formulate Community Action Plans or Community Plans for Place ([Democracy Matters - A Route Map to Reform](#)).

16. Correspondence and Publications Received:

Various publications have been received and circulated to community councillors :-

Shaping the future of Scotland's forests survey - <https://forms.gle/QRtq65TCXVW7bzxD7>

Democracy Matters Route map.

West Lothian Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Consultation - [Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Consultation - West Lothian Council](#)

Webinar for Community Councils

Local Development Plan 2 – Updated Evidence Base Engagement -

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/ldp2-updates>

17. Any Other Business:

Linda Halliday noted that when the station carpark is full, there is now overspill parking in Murieston Valley.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next meeting will be the 2026 AGM on Thursday 18 June in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.

*** Disclaimer**

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