

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 DECEMBER 2022
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Kevin Kerr, Davidson McQuarrie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Janey Cringean, Nick Lansdell, Mark Robbie; Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Moira Shemilt; Ken Kirk, Irene Whitelaw, Alison Wright

Residents: Clare O'Lone, John Sharp

2. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick presented his report below, then left to attend a Zoom call with COSLA.

The Kirking of the Council was held with a festive service (festival of nine lessons and carols) last Tuesday at Kirk of Calder, Mid Calder.

The Directors of Finance from each of the 32 local authorities have written to the Deputy First Minister to warn that local services could be reduced or stopped without proper funding. The Directors of finance are asking for the restoration of £1bn funding. West Lothian has a deficit of £57m for the five years of the new council administration.

The revised planning application for a restaurant / bar and café / takeaway at the Bankton Centre (0604/FUL/22) went before the Development Committee yesterday and was turned down as failing to meet nine planning policies.

The next teachers' strikes by three education unions will be on 10 January for primary schools and on 11 January for secondary schools.

St Margaret's Academy has appointed a new headteacher, Mrs. Isla Wright.

A new appeals system for school placements is proposed, transferring procedure from Councils to the Tribunal system.

Four rapid EV car chargers are now available at the Morris Square car park and the Football Stadium.

Following the tragedy in the West Midlands earlier this week, local schools are telling pupils they must stay off the ice on the frozen Dedridge Ponds.

Funding is needed to manage ash dieback which threatens to destroy up to 95% of infected ash trees. 17,000 ash trees are expected to be lost in West Lothian. Councillor Fitzpatrick noted that there is evidence that a small percentage of ash trees exhibit resistance.

No date has been set for the re-opening of the shop at St John's Hospital.

The Council executive will consider a planning paper on 20 December on the new National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which will be finalized by the Scottish Parliament early in the new year.

Scottish Government Reporters are currently adjudicating on appeals in respect of a number planning applications in the area and have indicated they are minded to approve several, including planning consent for an extra 300 houses at Brotherton.

The fence on the path at Murieston Village Hall has now been fixed.

The path from Murieston Drive to the playing fields has now been cleared of heavy leaf litter.

Junction 3 (Eastbound) of the M8 will be closed in February for 6 months. There are major structural problems, requiring a rebuild.

Livingston South station and Livingston Inn car parks have a supply of rock salt in preparation for the winter.

Councillor Moira Shemilt:

Councillor Shemilt is unable to attend tonight and has provided this report :-

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Asxb5-sNHl2apiG09SKXBm9S-Bfx?e=SkfdDJ>

Topics covered are: Clearing obstructed signage on Murieston East Road; new traffic management plan for Williamston Primary school; Meetings regarding the clearance of the Tarbert Drive development site; replacement of X27 bus service at Dedridge West; leasing of land at the Cricket Club to Murieston Tennis and Sports Club; refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge to close poverty attainment gap; Early Learning and Childcare deferred entry to primary school; cessation of minibus

services for community organisations; winter maintenance programme; 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

Councillor Peter Heggie:

Councillor Heggie is unable to attend tonight and has provided this report :-

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Asxb5-sNHI2apiL9hEUdK66EcmN3?e=CH9v6D>

Topics covered are: Police Scotland – Tackling anti-social behaviour; ‘decoy bus’; ‘It’ll cost you’ campaign; raising awareness in off-licences; improving road safety.

NETs – Updating the woodland inventory; involving primary schools with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code; gritting and winter maintenance.

3. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The current bank balance is £16,170.74. £1,440 has been paid to Ross Contractors for the uplift, delivery and erection of a securable shipping container for the Murieston Community Garden.

4. Minutes of the Meeting on 17 November 2022:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 November 2022 was proposed by Kevin Kerr and seconded by Davidson McQuarrie. Carried nem con.

5. Matters Arising:

None

THE MEETING WAS TERMINATED AT 7.30pm AS THE SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SOUNDED AND THE BUILDING WAS EVACUATED.

A written report on planning issues had been provided by Ian Brown as he could not attend and is included below.

Restaurant / Bar and Cafe / Hot Food Takeaway at the Bankton Centre (0604/FUL/22)

The revised planning application went before the Development Committee yesterday and has been declined. The developer has now the right of Appeal through the Scottish Government process.

Tarbert Drive (0314/FUL/22)

Application withdrawn by the developer.

Tarbert Drive (1151/FUL/22) {new application} Erection of 18 no. houses with associated infrastructure and landscaping (Amendment to 0927/FUL/18 for substitution of house types and changes to boundary fences)

Much of the documentation is unchanged from the withdrawn application. Drawing indicates that the fence line of the houses adjacent to Murieston Valley and Teviot Drive have been pulled back from the plot perimeter.

There have been a number of interventions by West Lothian Council but no formal STOP notices served as the developer appeared to comply with the Councils request.

Pedestrian Refuge on Murieston Road.

FOI received from West Lothian Council, still to sort out documentation received into some logical process of decision making. Nick Lansdell has also received information so will merge the two together and see what it reveals.

The next meeting will be on 19 January 2023 in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.