

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 15 JUNE 2023

held online via Zoom at 7 pm

web: <http://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

An Ordinary meeting of Murieston Community Council continued after the 2022/2023 AGM was concluded. The meeting was held on Thursday 15 June 2023 at Williamston Primary School.

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Kevin Kerr; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies:

Janey Cringean, Nick Lansdell, Mark Robbie; Councillor Moira Shemilt

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 18 May 2023:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 18 May 2023 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Davidson McQuarrie. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

Councillor Fitzpatrick reported that there have now been improvements to the Horsburgh No. 9 bus service

4. Finances:

As advised at the AGM.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick outlined the events regarding the tragic death of the young pupil at St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn. It has been confirmed that the young person died of natural causes. Regrettably, local and national media engaged in irresponsible uninformed speculation, which caused serious and unwarranted distress to family and within the school.

A defibrillator is being installed at Bankton Mains Park tomorrow.

The Council has passed a motion to require that developers of large housing estates should include bungalows as a proportion of the build. This will require ministerial approval.

Local multi-storey car parks will be inspected to ensure there is sufficient load bearing capacity.

A new young persons' supported housing unit will be built on land to the west of Tony Macaroni's restaurant. The complex will have 45 housing units, with 10 staff. Construction will start next January and will cost £9.2m.

West Lothian Leisure is facing an acute financial situation and is proposing to close three swimming pools, including Bubbles, and also Howden Park Centre. WLL operates as an arms-length company to the Council. Bids for taking over and operating the facilities are open. The Council Executive met on Tuesday and agreed to fund £20k a month to Howden Park Centre until March 2024 to ensure that current contracts and ticket sales are honoured, and give time for a future for the Theatre to be secured.

Also due to budgetary shortfalls, the Council had been directed by the Integration Joint Board to close its three care homes. The budget for care is controlled by the Integration Joint Board, rather than the Council. The Integration Joint Board was set up 9 years ago by the Scottish Government to have management oversight of care homes and currently has a £17m deficit in its 3 year budget. Working to ensure that no care homes will close, nor will residents be required to leave. The Council is pressing the Scottish Government to restore £10m promised to compensate for COVID consequentials.

West Lothian schools have been performing well against their virtual comparators. Five of the twelve best schools in Scotland, which are outperforming government-set benchmarks for the proportion of pupils passing five or more Highers, are in West Lothian.

Arthur Marris noted that there has been diesel oil pollution on Murieston Water between old road bridge at Murieston House and the pedestrian bridge. Councillor Fitzpatrick said he will arrange to have the issue checked, albeit it was an issue for Scottish Water.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting following this item of business.

6. Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - <http://meg.btck.co.uk> :

Arthur Marris reported.

Livingston Cricket Club will be launching the new Community Sports and Wellbeing Hub on Sunday 25th. Community groups will be attending and showcasing their sports and other community activities.

7. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

SCIO constitution is being finalised and will soon be submitted with our application to OSCR to set up a SCIO.

8. Town Centre Fund:

Nothing to report this month.

9. Murieston Community Garden (MCG):

Nothing to report this month.

10. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Community advice is posted on the community website.

11. Livingston South Local Area Committee

Nothing to report.

Davidson McQuarrie will obtain the police report at the next meeting.

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. Schedule for Meetings

It was agreed that meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of the month from September to June 2024 at Williamston School.

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown advised there are no new planning applications and gave an update on ongoing planning matters.

Tarbert Drive

Planning conditions are still being breached. The wheel wash facility is in place but not being used. The developer has agreed to provide better tree screening where the houses overlook neighbouring properties.

Other

Ian Brown has had a response from the Council's Environmental Health Service about the impact of obtrusive light pollution in the area. There is no provision under the Environmental Protection Act to intervene.

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next meeting will be in September.