

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

held at Williamston Primary School

web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Kevin Kerr; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Carol Hallesy, Nick Lansdell, Arthur Marris; Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Maria MacAulay

Residents: Clare O'Lone, Mark Robbie

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 23 June 2022:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 23 June 2022 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Kevin Kerr, subject to a minor change. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

None

4. Finances:

The current bank balance is £3473.84.

Since June's meeting we have received the 2022/23 administration grant of £473 from West Lothian Council and spent £210 on leaflets for promoting the Community Council.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt outlined a number of points which she has reported in detail in her written report, see - <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Asxb5-sNHI2aoV4NMqiS97bJ0W55?e=w9Pc3B>

Councillor Shemilt outlined issues regarding school transport at Williamston Primary, a fire at Murieston Way, abandoned shopping trolleys, bus shelter on Murieston Road, an electric fence on land beside Murieston Road, the cessation of the Livingston Circular bus service, completion of the re-roofing of The Lanthorn Centre, new child care system.

Councillor Shemilt also provided the current report by the Police to the Livingston South LAC, see - <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Asxb5-sNHI2aoVxfEX3hi7zoZHQs?e=glMI4A>

and a report from the Fire Service on deliberate fires, see -

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Asxb5-sNHI2aoVuWyNWwFRf0cXjC?e=Eyz1dF>

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

There will be a ceremony commemorating the death of HM Queen Elizabeth on Sunday at the Civic Centre and a service at the Kirk O' Calder tomorrow.

The £92k spend on the electrical upgrade at Williamston Primary has been completed.

The £400k spend on the upgrade of the roof at St.Ninian's Primary has been completed.

The shop at St John's Hospital has been closed for the past month. Questions about its future have been raised in the Scottish Parliament.

The Development Committee made two important planning decisions yesterday.

1. Planning applications to build 2,200 houses at Drumshoreland were rejected.

2. A planning application to build 200 houses at Upper Bathville, Armadale was rejected.

Publication of the fourth National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) has now been delayed for over one year. Councillor Fitzpatrick has written twice to the Planning Minister and the Council has written to the Scottish Government Chief Planning Officer to ask for up-to-date guidance on calculating housing quotas.

Housebreaking is on the increase.

Police have been leafletting households regarding the misuse of quad bikes.

There have been several brush fires in the Camilty area recently.

Teachers are now balloting for strike action on their pay settlement.

Social rented houses are now being occupied in the new Wellhead estate.

Pressure on social housing, schools and NHS facilities continues as Ukrainian refugees are accommodated.

Ian Brown asked about whether the new pedestrian central refuge is being re-sited to another point on Murieston Road. Councillor Fitzpatrick will check.

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

Nothing to report

7. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The MCDT steering group met on 2 June to review plans for setting up and promoting the Trust, as Covid may be receding. Leaflets publicising the Trust were handed out at the Cricket Club's Gala and Family Day on Saturday 3 September.

The Community Action Plan can be viewed at :-

<https://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk/news/consultation-community-action-plan-for-murieston/>

8. Town Centre Fund:

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

On 14 June, Livingston South LAC approved £9155 for Murieston Community Garden Phase 2 (Sensory Garden & Storage Facilities). This is the maximum allocation available for Murieston in the current round of the Town Centre Capital Fund 2022-23.

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

Community advice is posted on the community website.

10. Livingston South Local Area Committee

Nothing to report. Davidson McQuarrie was unable to attend the LAC held on 1 September.

11. 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.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left at this point of the meeting.

12. Planning Applications:

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

Tarbert Drive (0314/FUL/22)

A fresh planning application has been made by a new developer, Perella Homes for 18 houses on the site. The design and footprints of the houses have changed. The Planning Service has asked Fairhurst to review the Remediation Strategy produced earlier for the previous planning application. In due course, the application will go to the Development Committee for decision.

The technical documents have been added to the case documentation for the earlier planning application instead of the current one. Ian has asked the planning case officer to resolve this.

Longhill Burn Windfarm (ref. 0359/FUL/19)

Cabling work has now been completed. Energiekontor has agreed to pay the Murieston community £20k as compensation for the prolonged disruption. Following a meeting with the headteacher at Williamston Primary, it has been agreed that the school will receive £10k and the Community Council £10k which will be used for the Murieston Community Garden.

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

The new planning application has not gone before the Development Committee yet.

13. Correspondence:

None.

14. Any Other Business:

Ian Brown reported that the application for bathing water status on the River Almond has been rejected by SEPA.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The next meeting will be on 20 October in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.