MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 16 JANUARY 2025
held at Williamston Primary School
web: https://murieston community council.org.uk

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1. **Present:**
   Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Carol Bartholomew, Janey Cringean, Davidson McQuarrie, Margaret Prior, Mark Robbie
   Apologies:; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt
   Residents: John Sharp

2. **Minutes of the Meeting on 19 December 2024:**
   Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 19 December 2024 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Chris Dryden, subject to a minor change. Carried nem con.

3. **Matters Arising:**
   The Council's Chief Arboriculturist, Craig Sinclair will be attending a meeting arranged for Thursday 30 January at 7pm in Murieston Village Hall to give an update and answer questions, specifically regarding the restoration of the woodland on the west side of Easter Bankton which had been destroyed in the storm on 21 January and will also cover maintenance of the Linhouse Trail etc.

   St John's Scotland will be running a CPR training session for the community at Murieston Village Hall on Monday 3 February at 7pm. St John's staff will demonstrate CPR and use of a defibrillator, and then let people practice on demonstration mannequins. Everyone is welcome to attend the session.

   Ian Brown has had a response from West Lothian Council about vehicles parking illegally (i.e. outside parking bays) at the station. The council can take no action and it is a matter for the police. The Roads Service will raise this with the police as there have been repeated incidents. There are no plans to change the boxed junction area or parking, or increase parking capacity.

   The secretary has asked West Lothian Council about the community benefits in relation to the new estate on Tarbert Drive. No details to date.

4. **Finances:**
   Arthur Marris reported.
   The bank balance remains at £2,970.94.
   Arthur is investigating alternative banking which does not incur administrative and service charges as our current bank will start charging a monthly fee from this month.

5. **Councillors' Reports:**
   Councillor Fitzpatrick
   Councillor Fitzpatrick is unable to attend tonight and has submitted a written report, available **here**

6. **Livingston South Local Area Committee:**
   Nothing to report.

7. **Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - https://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk :**
   MEG has no planned activities during the winter period.

8. **Murieston Community Garden (MCG) - https://murieston-cg.org.uk:**
   Janey Cringean reported.
   Work on erecting the new greenhouses and delivery of four trees have been delayed due to the inclement weather.

9. **Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) – SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC052716 https://murieston-cdt.org.uk :**
   Janey Cringean reported.
   The 2025 AGM will be held at Murieston Village Hall on Monday 27th January, starting at 7pm.

A newsletter advertising the AGM has been dropped to all houses in Murieston.
The community cinema's film programme at the Hall for the start of 2025 will be :-
Freud's Last Session on 26th January, *The Critic* on 23rd February and *Conclave* on 23rd March.
The community café on Saturdays has introduced a lunch menu of soups and sandwiches. The café will be resuming on Saturday 18th after the winter break.

10. **Murieston Village Hall**
Janey Cringean reported.
Full fibre broadband was due to be installed by Openreach at the end of December but has been delayed until further trenching work is undertaken.
A regular robotics workshop for children aged 7 to 11 is starting on Saturday.
Murieston Initiative has opted to take a two year lease when the current support from West Lothian Council is withdrawn in 2026. The management committee with Murieston Community Development Trust are developing plans to continue running the Hall and build a replacement community centre when funds are available. A key factor in making the future of the Hall financially viable is the provision of road access and parking at the Hall.
11. **Communications, including website - https://murieston communitycouncil.org.uk :**
Nothing to report.
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. **Planning Applications:**
Ian Brown reported.
There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.
Creation of a soil bund for Murieston Tennis & Sports Club at Cricket Club (ref. 0934/FUL/24)
The developer of the new tennis courts has submitted a planning application in retrospect to create a soil bund beyond the perimeter of the cricket pitch from soil excavated during the building of the new tennis courts. The Planning Service has asked for the developer to submit a new contaminated land remediation report. The developer will need to conduct a soil sample analysis of the bund.
Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)
The Planning Service has written to invite evidence engagement from stakeholders as the first stage of preparing the new LDP2 to set out the evidence base in an Evidence Report. We are invited to make submissions to the engagement on the draft topic schedules. Ian will ask whether a separate Evidence Engagement Response Form has to be used for each item / comment. Responses to the engagement on the draft topic schedules are required by 28th February. The Call for Ideas for development proposals will then follow afterwards.
14. **Correspondence:**
Nothing to report.
15. **Any Other Business:**
None.

The Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20 February 25 in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.