MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 17 APRIL 2025
held at Williamston Primary School
web: https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk

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1. **Present:**
   Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Janey Cringean, Davidson McQuarrie, Margaret Prior, Mark Robbie
   Apologies: Carol Bartholomew; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt; Gillian de Felice, Carol Hallesy, Roger Harper
   Residents: Linda Halliday, Ken Kirk, John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw
2. **Minutes of the Meeting on 20 March 2025:**
   Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 20 March 2025 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Ian Brown. Carried nem con.
3. **Matters Arising:**
   None.
4. **Finances:**
   Arthur Marris reported.
   The bank balance is £2,915.44.
   The annual accounts for the year to the end of March 2025 have been prepared and examined.
   Arthur gave a summary of the income and expenditure between April 24 and March 25.
   The annual accounts for 2024/25 were approved by community councillors in attendance. The Chair signed the summary of the accounts.
   Arthur confirmed he has successfully made test transactions between the old and new bank accounts.
   The completion of the move of the bank account to the new bank account and closure of the old bank account was agreed. Arthur will complete the agreed actions.
5. **Councillors' Reports:**
   Councillor Fitzpatrick
   Councillor Fitzpatrick submits his apologies as he is unable to attend tonight and has provided a written report which can be viewed **here** .
6. **Livingston South Local Area Committee:**
   Nothing to report.
7. **Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - https://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk :**
   Gillian de Felice is unable to attend this meeting and sends her apologies. Gillan has provided a written report on the recent work of MEG :-
   1. For the next few Thursdays we will be clearing the path behind Skivo; making it wider and litter picking. We won't be pruning back branches for the moment.
   2. We are going to be surveying the park around Campbridge Pond for improvements needed. We will work with WLC Rangers for this.
   3. We will be embarking on a recruitment drive, especially for committee members.
   Gillian still has not heard back from Craig Sinclair or Jane Begg regarding tree talks and will chase them up.
   Four beech and sycamore trees have been cut down behind the Tarbert Drive Perella Homes estate bordering Murieston Trail. It has been suggested the trees were diseased or low quality trees. The mature trees were understood to be in good health and not posing any safety risk. The Planning Service has responded that the removal of trees was in compliance with the approved removal plan for the new estate, and noted that other trees have been approved for removal in accordance with the removal plan. It is arguable whether this felling is compliant with the approved Arboricultural Method Statement which identified the locus of trees to be removed and, in any event, felling should be avoided during the nesting season.
8. **Murieston Community Garden (MCG) - https://murieston-cg.org.uk:**

Janey Cringean reported.
Ross Contractors are due to finish the greenhouse bases when weather permits. The greenhouses will then be erected.

9. **Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) – SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC052716 https://murieston-cdt.org.uk :**
Janey Cringean reported.
Preliminary planning has started on options to build a new community hub. Different scenarios and locations are being considered.
The screening on 23rd March of the multiple Oscar nominated *Conclave* was relatively popular with 14 tickets sold.
The next screening will be family film *Paddington in Peru* which will be shown on the afternoon of Sunday 27th April.

10. **Murieston Village Hall**
Janey Cringean reported.
The Board of Murieston Initiative met with Scott Hughes and Ralph Bell of the WLC Property Services on 7th April to progress negotiations on the transfer in 2026 to a lease agreement, which as previously agreed will not include a repairs contract. Running costs for the Hall exceed income from room lets so a long-term lease will not be sustainable, particularly as there are considerable maintenance costs projected for the near future.

11. **Communications, including website - https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.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. **Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2):**
West Lothian Council's Development Plan Scheme (DPS) 2025 has been approved by elected members. The DPS can be found through the following website link
- 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 next stage of the plan preparation process is a 'call for ideas' which allows individuals, community bodies, developers etc. to submit ideas, proposals and sites to considered for inclusion in LDP2.
The call for ideas commenced on Monday 24th March and will close on Friday 30th May.
The Council will issue an update to community councils to explain the process for submitting proposals to the call for ideas.

14. **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 application will be heard by the Development Management Committee on Wednesday 23rd April. Ian will be attending to make representations on behalf of the Community Council.
Station Parking
Ian will meet with Kenneth Brown, Roads Network Manager on 22nd April at the station to propose the extension of yellow box hatching to alleviate bad parking at the station carpark.
Linhouse Glen

Ian has had no response from the Planning Service so far regarding the purpose and outcome of the recent surveying work.

15. Correspondence:

The secretary outlined correspondence received recently, which has been circulated to community councillors.

1. The Community Council is invited to nominate one community councillor to attend the VE Day 80 anniversary service at the Kirk O' Calder on 8th May.
2. The government is inviting the public, volunteer networks and community groups to come together and get in the community spirit for VE Day 80 by taking part in Tip Top Towns and are encouraged to get their postcode ready for Monday 5 May, whether that be preparing community gardens, hosting craft events to create street party decorations, sprucing up their local areas or encouraging children to draw pictures to put in their windows. The public are invited to share their pictures of activity on the government's VE and VJ Day webpage and across social media using the #VE80 hashtag, with VE Day certificates available to all who participate.
A dedicated webpage has been launched with latest information and ways to get involved: https://ve-vjday80.gov.uk/tiptoptowns/
3. A Fireworks Safety Awareness Raising event will be held in Blackburn Partnership Centre on 29th April.
4. An online Engaging Communities Toolkit Training session is being held via Microsoft Teams on 14th May.
5. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have published new surface water flood maps, The publication of the surface water maps supports the implementation of the Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029 and was a focus under Climate Resilience in the SEPA Annual operating plan for 24-25. Visit SEPA's flooding pages for information on how to prepare for flooding as well as interactive maps and other data to check the risk of flooding
6. SEPA are launching a consultation on a proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS) - a fair way of reporting on how businesses are meeting their responsibilities. The full consultation is available here - EPAS Consultation FINAL 31.03.25.pdf.

16. Consultation on stricter regulations on sale and use of fireworks

Gregor Poynton MP has written to the Community Council to ask if we can arrange a meeting with him to explore how we can work together to promote responsible firework use and ensure the safety and well-being of all residents in Livingston.
The secretary has contacted Gregor's constituency office and some dates in May and June have been suggested. A date suitable for Gregor Poynton and members of the Community Council will be agreed.

17. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 15 May 25 in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.