

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 18 APRIL 2024
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Arthur Marris, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick,

Apologies: Chris Dryden, Janey Cringean, Mark Robbie; Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Moira Shemilt; Ken Kirk

Residents: John Sharp

Arthur Marris acted as Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unavailable.

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 21 March 2024:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 21 March 2024 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Arthur Marris. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

None. Some points arising in the minutes will be addressed in the report by Councillor Fitzpatrick.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

Arthur presented and handed out the summary of the annual accounts covering the accounting period from 1 April 23 to 31 March 24.

All money allocated for the Murieston Community Garden has been spent. Income for the Community Council was £473 and expenditure was £532.67 for the full year. The balance of the bank account at the end of the accounting period is £2,509.94.

A motion to present and agree the annual accounts was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Ian Brown. Agreed.

Arthur will arrange for the independent examination of the annual accounts, which will be presented at the AGM on 20 June for formal acceptance and sign off.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave his report.

The Council has provided funding to Xcite to ensure that their staff are paid the National Living Wage. There have been 2,175 patient referrals to Xcite for programmes which will be beneficial to their health.

The Xcite Annual Impact Report for 2022/23 was circulated.

Williamston Primary has been presented with a Gold School Sport Award from Sports Scotland. Pupils celebrated their success with a whole school celebration day when all lessons had a sporting theme and children took part in various sporting activities.

In a national cyber competition run by the National Cyber Security Centre- part of GCHQ - a team of S2 girls from St Kentigern's Academy have been named Scottish champions. As Scottish Champions they were invited to Oxford University to attend the CyberFirst winners' event, and will attend the National Robotarium, the UK's centre for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, at Heriot Watt University soon.

Cosla have written to the new Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to point out that school rolls are falling and that Scotland's pupil-teacher ratio is the lowest in the UK, and keeping teacher numbers at an arbitrary level impacts the education budgets of some local authorities.

The President and Vice-President of COSLA visited the Council recently to discuss issues affecting local authorities.

Roadworks when building the toucan pedestrian crossing beside Bright Horizons Nursery was going to require Alderstone Road to be closed at that point for several days. However, the road will now only be closed during the hours of work and will be open until 9am and after 4pm each day.

A beacon will be lit at Beecraigs Country Park on 6 June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The beacon will be lit at 9pm and the commemoration will be open to the public.

The Electoral Commission is still to advise on photo ID which will be accepted in polling stations at the General Election. An elector can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if they have no acceptable photo ID. Applications have to be made to the Lothian Valuation Joint Board in Edinburgh.

The problem with RAAC in homes is only the responsibility of the Council where the property remains a council house. The Council has no responsibility for owner-occupier properties.

Scottish Enterprise has issued a report on housing. Landlords are now favouring housing for students over providing social housing. Grants for social housing have now been reduced.

Metered taxi fare tariffs will remain unchanged through to November 2025.

Two roe deer were killed on Murieston Road recently. Two wild animal road signs will be erected on the road.

Several questions were asked at the previous meeting which are covered by Councillor Fitzpatrick below.

Waste tonnage is recorded on the landfill depot weighbridge. Loads are often combined so attribution is not always possible.

The Council is charged for brown bin waste disposal at Levensat as there are several processes required to convert the waste to garden compost.

A register is maintained of trees which are removed in certain circumstances. Records are kept of ash dieback with an estimate of the numbers removed. Records are also kept of storm-damaged and unsafe trees, but records of individual trees removed are generally not kept.

Property Services will contact Murieston Initiative about the proposal to renew the door entry system at Murieston Village Hall.

John Sharp asked about whether various signs outside Bankton Retail Centre could be removed. Councillor Fitzpatrick said he will refer this to Council officers. The policy is generally to remove offensive, discriminatory etc. signs immediately.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting following this item of business.

Councillor Peter Heggie

Councillor Heggie has provided the written report [here](#)

6. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

Nothing to report.

7. Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - <https://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk> :

Nothing to report.

8. Murieston Community Garden (MCG) - <https://murieston-cg.org.uk> :

Work will start on the front garden on 6 May.

9. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) – SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC052716

<https://murieston-cdt.org.uk> :

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The Inaugural AGM is being held on Saturday 27 April at Murieston Village Hall. There are now 82 Ordinary Members who have been invited to attend. The meeting will be asked to vote on the accounts to date and elect Trustees for 2024/25.

The community café is now open on Saturdays at the Village Hall.

10. Local Place Plan for Murieston

Ian Brown reported.

Murieston Community Development Trust is working with Murieston Community Council to produce the Local Place Plan (LPP) for Murieston. This will be jointly submitted to feed into the Council's

forthcoming Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) which will be a 10 year plan for West Lothian from 2026. The Council has now extended the deadline for submission to 31 May.

The Planning Service should be running engagement events and workshops soon, although we have had no details.

The draft LPP for Murieston should be finalised in the next fortnight.

11. Community Council Boundaries

The boundary between Murieston and Bellsquarry Community Councils had been raised as an issue by two residents of Crathes Gardens. The Secretary has emailed the Secretary of Bellsquarry Community Council to communicate the issues raised by the residents regarding representation, and our support for cross-boundary planning and infrastructure issues.

12. Communications, including website - <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk> :

Nothing to report.

13. 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.

14. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

There are no new significant planning applications affecting Murieston.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 1151/FUL/22)

Adverts for housing sales require planning consent which was submitted by the developer, Perella Homes retrospectively. Planning consent has been refused by planning officers under delegated powers and Perella Homes have up to 3 months to comply. Ian will contact the Planning Service for an update.

Installation of Three Tennis Courts and MUGA Pitch at Livingston Cricket Club

Livingston South Community Sport and Wellbeing Hub has applied for planning permission to build a sports complex of three tennis courts and a MUGA pitch at Livingston Cricket Club.

The Development Management Committee asked for a dust management plan from the applicant. The planning application was granted by the Committee today. It was agreed that a planning condition will be that there should be a formal written agreement with Livingston Cricket Club on the terms of use of the toilet and changing facilities.

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16 May in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.