

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 18 MAY 2023
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Ian Brown, Janey Cringean, Davidson McQuarrie, Mark Robbie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Apologies: Chris Dryden, Arthur Marris, Kevin Kerr, Nick Lansdell; Councillor Moira Shemilt; Ken Kirk

Residents: Gillian de Felice, Roger Harper, Clare O'Lone, Irene Whitelaw

Ian Brown acted as Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 20 April 2023:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 20 April 2023 was proposed by Janey Cringean and seconded by Ian Brown, subject to minor changes. Carried nem con.

3. Matters Arising:

Councillor Fitzpatrick explained that no request has been received from McGill's Buses for specific funding in respect of their changed timetable. The Network Support Grant is a discretionary grant paid by Transport Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers, replacing the COVID-19 Support Grant schemes which ceased on 31 March 2022. The enhanced Network Support Grant Plus scheme ended on 31 March 2023.

4. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

The Horsburgh No. 9 bus service has been affected by a shortage of drivers post-Covid. There are now two drivers in training so the problem should be alleviated soon.

Mrs. Alison Kennedy, former depute headteacher at Williamston Primary and headteacher at Knightsridge Primary, has been awarded the OBE for services to education and literacy, specifically for her work with under privileged children in West Lothian.

A new deputy lieutenant for West Lothian has been appointed to support Lord Lieutenant Mrs. Moira Niven, MBE.

The Council hosted a service at the Kirk of Calder in Mid Calder on Thursday 4 May to celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

WH Smith will be taking over and re-opening the former shop in St John's Hospital in July.

West Lothian Leisure are facing an acute financial situation and are proposing to close three swimming pools, including Bubbles, and also Howden Park Centre. A public meeting is being held soon.

Due to budgetary constraints, the Council is putting up its four care homes for commercial sale. The budget for care is now controlled by the Integration Joint Board, rather than the Council. There will be a transition to a commercial undertaking and no care homes will close, nor will residents be required to leave.

West Lothian has the most rapidly ageing demographic of any local authority areas in Scotland.

In this year's Accounts Commission's overview of local government available online, they report that demand and workforce pressures have been deepening after the pandemic and funding is forecast to reduce in real terms. The Accounts Commission note that radical change, through greater collaboration, is urgently needed if councils are to maintain services.

On Tuesday 16th, Councillor Fitzpatrick attended a Polish National Day Concert at St Giles' Cathedral.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting following this item of business.

5. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

Nothing to report.

6. Finances:

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

8. Murieston Community Garden:

Janey Cringean reported.

Thirty wooden sleepers have been purchased to be used to make raised planter boxes.

More volunteers have joined the group.

There will be a session tomorrow to clear the area to provide allotments for Williamston School.

More climbers are being planted to dress the perimeter fence at Murieston Village Hall.

9. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT):

Janey Cringean reported.

Janey, Mark Robbie and Davidson McQuarrie had an online meeting with Pamela Barnes of the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) on 3 May to review the draft Constitution.

DTAS are currently finalising a revised model SCIO constitution and advise us to use our version of the constitution and proceed with our application to OSCR to set up a SCIO.

DTAS will provide a letter for OSCR, if necessary, to support the formation of the SCIO as a Community Development Trust.

10. Town Centre Fund:

Nothing to report.

11. Communications, including website

New website hosting is being set up. Delta Digital will facilitate re-direction from the current ISP hoster.

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 planning applications to report.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 1151/FUL/22)

Roof heights on some houses bordering the existing estate have been lowered as required by planning condition. Privacy is also being enhanced by improved screening provided by trees and fences.

Other

Ian noted that there is a voluntary scheme operated by the UK Government to provide community benefits arising from power transmission upgrades.

14. Correspondence:

Boundaries Scotland has published provisional proposals for new constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. The consultation runs until 17 June. It is proposed that Almond Valley will become Livingston constituency and comprise Livingston South, Livingston North and East Livingston & East Calder multi-member wards.

15. Any Other Business:

Janey Cringean reported a problem with light pollution from the house perimeter lights in West Cairn View. Ian Brown is going to take up the matter, and also the obtrusive lighting scheme for the Day-Today convenience store at the Bankton Centre, with the Council's ecology team as this unnecessary light pollution impacts nocturnal wildlife.

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The next meeting will be the 2023 AGM on 15 June in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.