MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 DECEMBER 2024
held at Williamston Primary School
web: https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk

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

2. **Minutes of the Meeting on 21 November 2024:**
   Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 21 November 2024 was proposed by Arthur Marris and seconded by Janey Cringean, subject to a minor change. Carried nem con.
3. **Matters Arising:**
   On the topic of the restoration of the woodland on the west side of Easter Bankton which had been destroyed in the storm on 21 January, the Council's Chief Arboriculturist, Craig Sinclair will be attending a meeting arranged for 30 January at 7pm in Murieston Village Hall to give an update and answer questions.
4. **Finances:**
   Arthur Marris reported.
   The bank balance remains at £2,970.94.
   Arthur will investigate alternative banking which does not incur administrative and service charges as our current bank will be charging a monthly fee from January.
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 :**
   Morrisons Energy Services will be funding native bulbs that can be planted along the Trail etc.
   MEG has no planned activities during the winter period.
8. **Murieston Community Garden (MCG) - https://murieston-cg.org.uk:**
   Janey Cringean reported.
   The greenhouses have been delivered and their concrete bases will be installed when weather conditions are amenable. Four trees are due to be delivered over the winter.
   Two volunteers will be attending a tree pruning workshop run by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in January.
9. **Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) – SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC052716 https://murieston-cdt.org.uk :**
   Janey Cringean reported.
   The monthly programme of community cinema film showings at Murieston Village Hall continues.
   The film *Vindication Swim* was shown on Sunday 1st December.
   The film programme 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 is having a winter break during December and will resume on 11th January.
   The get-together for volunteers as 'a thank you' for their work was held at the Hall on Saturday 14th December. A number of the current volunteers attended, but no prospective volunteers who had indicated an interest at the recent public meeting.
10. **Future of Murieston Village Hall**

The meeting on 26 November co-hosted by the Joint Forum of Community Councils and the Voluntary Sector Gateway with Community Centre Management Committees did not progress solutions concerning the Council's proposals on ending financial support for community centres.
Options for road access to the Hall have been discussed with Chris Nicol of Transportation Services and Steve McLaren of Planning Services who advise that a planning proposal is needed to enable options to be determined. An outline proposal for a new-build community centre with a parking area is being drawn up.
Openreach will be installing broadband fibre to the Hall on 31st December. Bandwidth will be 145 Mbps.
The Hall will be a drop-off point for clothing for the School Bank soon.

11. Firework Control Zone

Under new legislation, local authorities can apply to create Firework Control Zones. Views were expressed at the meeting for and against introducing controls on the purchase and use of fireworks.

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.

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. Planning Service has asked for comments on the retrospective planning application by 2 January. Two objections have been received to date.
Ian has spoken with the planning officer and confirmed that soil samples will be taken from the bund and analysed. If the analysis report indicates contamination is present, we will object to the retrospective planning application.
The Cricket Club is holding two open nights in February to discuss arrangements between the Cricket Club and the Tennis & Sports Club.

Toucan Pedestrian Crossing on Murieston West Road

The Council Roads Services has adjusted the automatic operation of the toucan pedestrian crossing at the nursery to correct its alignment with traffic movement.

Tarbert Drive

Chris Dryden noted that the developer has been carrying out work to reline the SUDS basin on the new estate. Mud is being deposited on the roadway from works vehicles.
A point was raised about whether the developer was asked to pay a commuted sum in lieu of providing affordable housing on-site. The secretary will follow up with the Council.

Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)

The initial draft of LDP2 should be available at the end of December. Ian has written to Planning Services to ask about the promised community engagement programme for LDP2.

15. Correspondence:

The secretary has responded to the invitation to hold a CPR training session for the community but no response has been received to date.

16. Any Other Business:

Janey Cringean raised an issue about incidences of bad parking at the station. Some drivers park outside the bays when the carpark is full, thereby obstructing access routes. It was suggested that this could be addressed by having yellow hatch markings to denote no parking.
Options on increasing capacity of the carpark were considered.

Ian Brown will take up these issues with the Council.

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16 January 25 in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.