

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 JANUARY 2023
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Janey Cringean, Kevin Kerr, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie, Mark Robbie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

Apologies:

Nick Lansdell; Councillor Peter Heggie; Moiz Amjid, Clare O'Lone, Alison Wright

Residents: Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 15 December 2022:

Minutes of the previous meeting on 15 December 2022, which had been abandoned due to circumstances outwith our control, were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The current bank balance is £16,170.74. This includes £10,000 received from Energiekontor as a compensatory payment to the community for the routing of the power cabling for the Longhill Burn windfarm through Murieston. £13,428 will be provided to Murieston Community Garden.

5. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Potholes have been repaired at the Williamston bridge.

The Lizzie Brice roundabout lanes will be re-lined soon.

Essential works on the bridge which carries the eastbound slip road exiting the M8 at junction 3 will require the replacement of the bridge parapet and substantial structural repairs. As a result of this major work, BEAR will close the slip road for 25 weeks from 13th February. Clear warning signs will be displayed on the M8 so that motorists can divert at the preceding junction.

The teachers' unions have announced a rolling programme of strikes.

The contract for the 27 bus service was transferred from First Bus to McGill but their application has now been withdrawn as McGill have insufficient drivers. There are also problems with Horsburgh bus services due to a shortage of drivers.

The Council Executive has agreed to an increase in the treatment fees for pest control.

The Council has commissioned a consultancy to assess the impact of decriminalising parking fine enforcement.

The Council has asked the Scottish Government to reconsider their proposal for a centralised schools tribunal service.

The leaders of the 32 local authorities have written to the First Minister to ask for more funding to cover the budget gap, estimated at £1.1bn.

The COSLA President has written to the Deputy First Minister to invite him to a meeting to relax the ringfencing of the majority of the block grant.

The Council will be observing Holocaust Memorial Day next week.

The Divisional Commander, Catriona Paton will be giving a presentation next week to the Council Executive about cuts in policing.

Local dental practices are not accepting new registrations currently. A list of dental practices which are accepting registrations is held at each practice. The Emergency Dental Service at Chalmers Dental Centre in Edinburgh will accept patients where there is a pressing need for treatment.

Councillor Moira Shemilt

Councillor Shemilt outlined a number of points which she has reported in detail in her written report,

see -

https://1drv.ms/w/s!Asxb5-sNHI2apn8HVn1A_Ounv5yF?e=gheVa1

Councillor Shemilt outlined issues regarding the Murieston Trail; substance misuse policy; local authority funding; Police Scotland update; Winter service update.

Councillor Shemilt also noted that the setting of the Budget had been difficult. The two recent public consultations by the Council regarding the Budget had response rates of 2.9% and 1.38%.

Councillor Peter Heggie

Councillor Heggie has submitted a written report -

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Asxb5-sNHI2apwBEUI7R652UGHCb?e=vLYu4>

Councillor Heggie's report covers the Winter Ready service; Education update; Council Budget.

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

Arthur Marris referred to Councillor Shemilt's report which provides an update on issues regarding the Murieston Trail.

Ian Brown asked if countryside rangers have been asked about introducing predators to predate pest species.

7. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT):

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The MCDT steering group met recently on 9 January on Zoom.

The steering group has decided to proceed directly with registering the Trust with OSCR as a SCIO. A draft constitution is being prepared which sets out the charitable purposes and governance of the Trust.

The steering group will be meeting regularly now to prepare processes, procedures etc. in advance of the granting of SCIO status.

8. Town Centre Fund:

The Council will be awarding an additional £2,000 from the Town Centre Capital Fund for the Murieston Community Garden.

9. Communications, including website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Community advice is posted on the community website.

10. Livingston South Local Area Committee

Nothing to report.

11. 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.

12. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported.

Tarbert Drive (0314/FUL/22)

Objections have still not been updated to the Planning Portal.

There is a boundary issue on the placement of border fencing.

The air monitoring devices were removed before Christmas. Wheel washing has also stopped and the road is not been washed down. Councillor Fitzpatrick will ask the Planning Service to confirm whether this complies with the planning conditions.

Pedestrian Refuge on Murieston Road

A formal complaint has been made about the placement of the new pedestrian refuge. Ian Brown has asked the Chief Executive in a FOI request for the technical assessment underpinning the decision to position and install the refuge.

13. Correspondence:

None.

14. Any Other Business:

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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