

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 20 APRIL 2023**  
**held at Williamston Primary School**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

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**1. Present:**

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

**Apologies:** Chris Dryden, Nick Lansdell; Ken Kirk

**Residents:** John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw

**Arthur Marris acted as Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unable to attend.**

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 16 March 2023:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 16 March 2023 was proposed by Kevin Kerr and seconded by Ian Brown, subject to minor changes. Carried nem con.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None.

**4. Councillors' Reports:**

**Councillor Moira Shemilt**

Councillor Shemilt outlined a number of issues which she has reported in detail in her written report, see :- <https://1drv.ms/w/s!Asxb5-sNHI2aqEpsCdRHbOCIRdKM?e=Tghid7>

Councillor Shemilt outlined issues :-

Memorial bench which has been vandalised; Livingston Skate Park; Changes to McGill's Bus Services; Changes at Community Recycling Centres; Housing Provision for the Homeless; Lanthorn Play Area; Talking Bins; New Crofthead Cycling Facility.

Councillor Shemilt also outlined a briefing she had attended on the new National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) concerning biodiversity and climate change.

**Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick**

Additional parking spaces have been installed as part of the new traffic management plan for Williamston Primary. This should alleviate queueing on Bankton Lane at school drop off and pickup times.

The planning application by the developer of the Tarbert Drive site was continued by the Planning Committee for a further two months.

The road bridge on Murieston Road will be closed overnight on 22 June to allow Network Rail to structurally check the bridge.

Congratulations go to St Paul's Primary, East Calder who won the West Lothian Euroquiz for P6 pupils.

Sky proposes to lose over 300 jobs from Livingston. There will be some scope for redeployments.

A defibrillator has been purchased and installed at the Crofthead Centre. This has been funded by a family which has suffered the bereavement of a family member.

Councillor Fitzpatrick met Lord Offord, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to the Scotland Office recently to press the UK government on providing public service jobs. West Lothian is the only local authority area in Scotland which does not have a university presence and has the lowest number of public service jobs proportionately.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has visited Q2 Solutions at the Alba Campus, which provides medical services and employs 1,400 staff locally.

West Lothian Scouts will be holding their annual District Parade this Sunday.

Commemoration of the International Workers Memorial Day is being held on Friday 28 April at the Workers Memorial at Bathgate Sports Centre.

The Council will hold a service at Kirk of Calder in Mid Calder on Thursday 4 May as part of the Council's plans to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Councillor Fitzpatrick has attended a recent COSLA meeting on local authority obligations for the travelling community.

The Council has allocated £3m for temporary accommodation for homeless persons. No grants are available from central government to meet this need.

**Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting following this item of business.**

**5. Livingston South Local Area Committee:**

The next Livingston South LAC meeting will be on 5 May.

**6. Finances:**

Arthur Marris advised there was no change from last month.

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

Nothing to report.

**8. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT):**

Janey Cringean reported.

The draft Constitution, covering the charitable purposes and governance of the Trust, has now been prepared and we have asked SCVO and DTAS if they can informally review it before we submit our application to OSCR to become a SCIO.

The draft Business Plan/Strategic Plan will be ready for review soon.

**9. Town Centre Fund:**

Janey Cringean advised that three invoices covering purchases for the Community Garden have been passed to the Treasurer.

**10. Communications, including website - [murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk](http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk)**

Davidson McQuarrie reported that £21.96 has been paid to Delta Digital for web hosting facilities. The Community Council now intends taking direct control of the website.

**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. There are no new planning applications to report.

**Tarbert Drive (ref. 1151/FUL/22)**

Planning conditions are still being breached. The truck wheel wash has been removed. Soil is now being deposited on the road and only washed down with a hose rather than by a street sweeper.

**Other**

Ian noted that West Lothian Council has funded a fish counter at the Mid Calder weir on the River Almond. There is no mains power supply so solar panels have been installed to operate the counter. However, more hydrological facilities could be provided if powered by a mains supply.

Councillor Shemilt said she will check with Council officers whether this can be arranged.

Ian Brown and Chris Dryden attended a meeting at the Scottish Parliament organised by Environmental Rights for Scotland regarding environmental issues, including land contamination. It is evident that SEPA has limited enforcement powers.

**13. Correspondence:**

None.

**14. Any Other Business:**

None.

**The Meeting closed at 8.25pm.**

**The next meeting will be on 18 May in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.**