

**MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 20 OCTOBER 2022**  
**held at Williamston Primary School**  
**web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>**

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**1. Present:**

Chris Dryden, Ian Brown, Nick Lansdell, Arthur Marris, Davidson McQuarrie; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Moira Shemilt

**Apologies:**

Carol Hallesy, Kevin Kerr, Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Maria MacAulay

**Residents:** Moiz Ahmed, Janey Cringean, Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, Clare O'Lone, Mark Robbie, John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 15 September 2022:**

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 15 September 2022 was proposed by Chris Dryden and seconded by Ian Brown, subject to a minor change. Carried nem con.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None

**4. Finances:**

Arthur Marris reported.

The current bank balance is £12,418.84. £9,155 has been received from the 2022/23 Town Centre Fund and will be allocated to Murieston Community Garden.

£207 was spent on printing and distributing leaflets publicising Murieston Community Council and Murieston Community Development Trust.

**5. Councillors' Reports:**

**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-sNHI2apEBf5CRTRG46G5Vv?e=9oG8fZ>

Councillor Shemilt outlined issues regarding the new pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road with a site meeting proposed; dust monitoring requirements at the Tarbert Drive site, the re-routing of the X27 bus service away from Dedridge West, and cost of living crisis.

**Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick**

There will be a ceremony commemorating the death of HM Queen Elizabeth on Sunday at Howden Park Centre and a service at the Kirk O' Calder tomorrow.

Councillor Fitzpatrick attended Scottish Opera performance at Linlithgow and Taiwan reception in Edinburgh recently.

It is sad to report that Nigel Boddice, who was principal conductor of the West Lothian Schools Orchestras and fundamental to their laudable achievements from 1984 to 2013, has died.

Libraries are holding an open day tomorrow.

The X27 bus service has been re-routed away from Dedridge West. A meeting with Lothian Country is being sought.

Overgrown branches on the paths in Bankton Mains Park have been cut back by the NETs Team.

Teacher unions have announced a strike on 23 November.

A new traffic management plan for Williamston School traffic is out for consultation.

The Council Planning Service is studying the Construction Management Plan produced by the developers at Tarbert Drive.

The Scottish Government Reporter has granted a planning appeal to build 300 houses at Brotherton.

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

Arthur Marris reported.

MEG met recently at the Cricket Club.

An open event is being held on Saturday for the maintenance of paths.

Pond dipping is being organised as part of the Fish in the Classroom project, organised by Forth Rivers Trust.

A meeting is being set up with the Council countryside rangers to discuss the need for a strategic plan for maintaining the Murieston Trail.

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

Davidson McQuarrie reported.

The MCDT steering group met on 2 June to review plans for setting up and promoting the Trust, as Covid may be receding. Leaflets publicising the Trust were handed out at the Cricket Club's Gala and Family Day on Saturday 3 September. The Facebook page for Murieston Development Trust is being refreshed and will be renamed Murieston Community Development Trust.

The steering group has agreed that the Trust will be registered with Companies House as a Company Limited by Guarantee, named Murieston Community Development Trust Limited. CLG companies are suffixed Limited by default when registered online. It is likely that in due course, when the charitable purposes of the Trust are clarified and manifest, the Trust will apply to OSCR to become a SCIO; a route followed by other community trusts.

The Community Action Plan can be viewed at :-

<https://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk/news/consultation-community-action-plan-for-murieston/>

**8. Town Centre Fund:**

Nothing to report.

**9. Communications, including website - [murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk](https://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 advised there are no new planning applications and gave an update on ongoing planning matters.

**Tarbert Drive (0314/FUL/22)**

A fresh planning application has been made by a new developer, Perella Homes for 18 houses on the site.

A dust analysis baseline survey has been completed but not published yet. Three dust monitoring meters have been installed, powered by solar panels. No calibration certificate for the equipment has been supplied. The Construction Plan, required before any on-site work, has still to be provided. The technical documents have been added to the case documentation for the earlier planning application instead of the current one. Ian has asked the planning case officer to resolve this and the issue remains.

**Councillor Fitzpatrick left at this point of the meeting.**

**Longhill Burn Windfarm (ref. 0359/FUL/19)**

Cabling work has now been completed. Energiekontor has agreed to pay the Murieston community £20k as compensation for the prolonged disruption. Following a meeting with the headteacher at Williamston Primary, it has been agreed that the school will receive £10k and the Community Council £10k which will be used for the Murieston Community Garden.

**Restaurant / Bar and Cafe / Hot Food Takeaway at the Bankton Centre (0604/FUL/22)**

The new planning application went before the recent Development Committee and has been deferred as the parking capacity has to be clarified. A document originally produced by the Transport Service has been withdrawn from the planning website.

**Pedestrian Refuge on Murieston Road**

Nick Lansdell explained the agreement and planning condition to which the developer of the Wellhead Farm estate should adhere. The pedestrian refuge should be sited within 20m of Murieston Court. It is instead being sited in the wrong place with no pavement, yet is supposed to be on the safer route to school.

Ian Brown has asked the Chief Executive in a FOI request for the technical assessment underpinning the decision to position the refuge.

**Tree work at Wellhead**

Planning consent is sought to remove ash trees at the footpath. The Council arborist is providing a report.

**Other**

The Scottish Government Reporter has granted planning permission to build 300 houses.

**13. Correspondence:**

The Council is conducting a consultation. Your Council Your Say, to help plan the future of council services - <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/WL2028>

**14. Any Other Business:**

Signage for Murieston East/West Road is not visible at the railway bridge junction. Councillor Shemilt will follow up with Roads Services.

Moiz Ahmed asked if a hybrid facility for a basketball court could be built in Bankton Mains Park.

This could be a matter for Murieston United FC to consider as a worthwhile addition to their facilities.

**The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm**

**The next meeting will be on 17 November in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.**