

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21 MARCH 2024
held at Williamston Primary School
web: <https://muriestoncommunitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

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

Apologies: Councillor Peter Heggie, Councillor Moira Shemilt, Clare O'Lone,

Residents: Gillian de Felice, Roger Harper, Ken Kirk, John Sharp, Irene Whitelaw

Arthur Marris acted as Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was available for only the first part of the meeting.

2. Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Councillor Fitzpatrick gave his report.

The catchment area for Williamston Primary School now includes Linhouse, although there are no houses there.

St. Ninian's Primary School has a problem with the floor which will be fixed during the summer break. The catchment area for St Margaret's Academy is changing.

Consultations are taking place with parent teacher councils and pupil councils on the timing of the 2026/27 year's school holidays. This year's school holidays will not change.

The Lanthorn will now open in May.

Operational Services are repairing potholes and lights in the Bankton Mains Park car park.

£500,000 will be allocated this year to pay the new living wage rate to child minders.

Livingston Skatepark has now been officially designated by Historic Environment Scotland as a Category B listed structure, meaning it is a historically important site.

16 trees at East Bankton Place were uprooted in the recent gale. The woodland will be tidied up and willows planted.

The timetable for receipt of Local Place Plans from community groups has been extended to the end of May.

Oakbank Community Recycling Centre is the busiest of the five CRCs. 7% of bookings are not being fulfilled. The booking system will be changed to offer the public options to reduce this percentage.

The toucan pedestrian crossing will be installed beside the Bright Horizons nursery in the Spring.

As a result of this year's Council Budget shortfall, a charge for uplifting brown bin refuse will be introduced from 1 June. Bins will need a permit displayed for the uplift of garden waste. Bins with only food waste will continue to be uplifted.

The new divisional commander for Lothians and Borders Police is Chief Superintendent Alwyn Bell. Chief Superintendent Bell has written to Councillor Fitzpatrick to advise that the police officers will be using body-worn video from the summer. Councillor Fitzpatrick has asked that Chief Superintendent Bell writes also to community councils and head teachers.

Ian Brown asked if there was a register covering the removal and replacement of trees. Councillor Fitzpatrick said he will confirm with the Council's ecology team.

Ian Brown asked if there has been an increase in fly-tipping following the introduction of the Community Recycling Centre booking system and whether this had affected the tonnage going for recycling, Councillor Fitzpatrick will ask whether there are any fees paid for disposal at Levenseat landfill site.

Gillian de Felice asked for a road sign at Campbridge warning of deer crossing. Councillor Fitzpatrick will ask Roads Service to consider. There is presently an electronic sign on the A71 at Adambrae.

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting following this item of business.

3. Minutes of the Meeting on 15 February 2024:

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 15 February 2024 was proposed by Ian Brown and seconded by Mark Robbie. Carried nem con.

4. Matters Arising:

None.

5. Finances:

Arthur Marris reported.

The data protection renewal fee of £35 has been paid to the Information Commissioner's Office by direct debit. The bank account stands at £2,509.94.

No further expenditure is expected before the end of the fiscal year on 31 March.

Arthur will prepare the annual accounts and present them at the April meeting.

6. Livingston South Local Area Committee:

Nothing to report.

7. Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - <https://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk> :

Arthur Marris reported.

A litter pick was held last weekend at a volunteers' day.

The Forth Rivers Trust will be planting willows at Campbridge Pond this Saturday.

8. Murieston Community Garden (MCG) - <https://murieston-cg.org.uk> :

Janey Cringean reported.

Edinburgh Airport Community Fund have awarded a grant of £7,000, as a result of a shortfall of funding takeup. With a top-up from Murieston Initiative, funding has now matched the grant of £26,000 from the Levensat Landfill Fund which required match funding. Work will start on the front garden on 6 May.

9. Murieston Community Development Trust (MCDT) – SCIO Scottish Charity No. SC052716

<https://murieston-cdt.org.uk> :

Janey Cringean reported.

The community café at Murieston Village Hall will open in early April. There are now 14 volunteers who will help with the running of the café and have been taking the appropriate hygiene and safety training.

Funding is available now to purchase audio-visual equipment to be used for cinema showings at the Hall. An Epson ultra-short-throw projector, large portable screen and Bose speakers have been purchased.

The website - <https://murieston-cdt.org.uk> - is now available as an information hub for Murieston.

10. Local Place Plan for Murieston

Ian Brown reported.

Murieston Community Development Trust is working with Murieston Community Council to produce the Local Place Plan (LPP) for Murieston. This will be jointly submitted to feed into the Council's forthcoming Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) which will be a 10 year plan for West Lothian from 2026. The Council has now extended the deadline for submission to 31 May.

The Council advises that the Planning Service will be running engagement events and workshops soon.

As a central part of preparing the LPP, we consulted the community of Murieston about what they consider important and what they would like within Murieston going forward. There were 269 responses received when the survey closed.

11. Community Council Boundaries

The boundary between Murieston and Bellsquarry Community Councils had been raised as an issue by two residents of Crathes Gardens. The Secretary will contact the Secretary of Bellsquarry Community Council to communicate the issues raised by the residents regarding representation.

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.

Tarbert Drive (ref. 1151/FUL/22)

Adverts for housing sales require planning consent which was submitted by the developer, Perella Homes retrospectively. Planning consent has been refused by planning officers under delegated powers and Perella Homes have the right to appeal.

The signs currently remain in place. Ian will follow up with the Planning Service.

Installation of Three Tennis Courts and MUGA Pitch at Livingston Cricket Club

Livingston South Community Sport and Wellbeing Hub has applied for planning permission to build a sports complex of three tennis courts and a MUGA pitch at Livingston Cricket Club.

The Development Management Committee has asked for a dust management plan from the developer before considering the planning application.

Other

The work on the traffic island at Skivo Wynd has been completed.

15. Correspondence:

None.

16. Any Other Business:

Gillian de Felice noted that Teviot Road will be closed on Monday 25th for engineering work by Scottish Water.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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