MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2024
held at Williamston Primary School
web: https://murieston community council.org.uk

---

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

   Arthur Marris acted as Chair tonight as Chris Dryden was unavailable.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting on 17 October 2024:**
   Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 October 2024 was proposed by Janey Cringean and seconded by Ian Brown, subject to a minor change. Carried nem con.
3. **Matters Arising:**
   None.
4. **Finances:**
   Arthur Marris reported.
   The bank balance remains at £2,970.94.
   The Bank has advised that on 14 January 25 they will be changing our Treasurers' Account to their new Community Account which is designed for non-profit organisations. The Bank will then start to charge an Account Maintenance fee of £4.25 per month and also for day-to-day banking services. Arthur will investigate alternative banking which does not incur administrative and service charges.
5. **Councillors' Reports:**
   Councillor Fitzpatrick
   Councillor Fitzpatrick is unable to attend tonight and has submitted a written report, available **here**

   Councillor Moira Shemilt
   Councillor Shemilt outlined her written report, which covers:-
   Completion of work on Murieston House Bridge; Ash Die-back programme; abuse of fireworks at Bonfire Night; Mentors in Violence Prevention Domestic Abuse project; reducing violence and anti-social behaviour; crime stats for Livingston South ward; work of Beatlie School; potential closure of nurseries; the new West Lothian Local Development Plan; Social Work annual report; re-development of the former Bubbles site; the Polar Academy training centre.

   The full report by Councillor Shemilt is available **here**

6. **Livingston South Local Area Committee:**
   Nothing to report.
7. **Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - https://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk :**
   A written report was given by Gillian de Felice who is unable to attend tonight.
   The last project for the year has been carried out where the overgrowth from the path at the Park was trimmed back. There are no plans for significant work until next Spring.
   MEG was contacted by Callum Ford from Morrisons Energy Services, who are doing work in the area, about donations for any ongoing projects. MEG has asked for native bulbs that can be planted along the Trail etc.
8. **Murieston Community Garden (MCG) - https://murieston-cg.org.uk:**
   Janey Cringean reported.
   Greenhouses are due to arrive next Wednesday and their concrete bases will be installed when weather conditions are suitable. Four trees are due to be delivered over the winter.

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. *Baltimore* was shown on 27 October and was well attended. The next film *Vindication Swim* will be shown on Sunday 1st December at 7pm. The monthly film programme for early 2025 will soon be agreed.

Murieston Community Cafe is now open on Saturdays from 11am - 2pm and has introduced a lunch menu of soups and sandwiches. A further volunteer has joined the catering team.

A get-together for volunteers as 'a thank you' for their work will be held at the Hall on Saturday 14th December at 3pm. All members of the Community Council are invited.

10. Future of Murieston Village Hall

The public meeting on 21st October to discuss options for the future of Murieston Village Hall was attended by 132 people. Following the meeting, 8 residents offered to become trustees and 35 offered to serve as volunteers in some capacity.

The consensus of the public meeting was that Murieston Initiative should agree a two year lease with the Council. This will provide time to develop plans for asset transfer of the Hall to the community and its future replacement.

A meeting has since been held with managers from the Council Roads Services and Planning Services to open discussion on finding an option to provide vehicular access to the Hall. Trustees are meeting next week to start work on a draft plan for the long-term replacement of the Hall.

The Joint Forum of Community Councils and the Voluntary Sector Gateway are co-hosting a hybrid meeting on 26th November with Community Centre Management Committees to share their responses to the Council's proposals on ending financial support for community centres. Two trustees from Murieston Initiative will be attending.

Openreach will be providing fibre broadband to the Hall in December.

The Hall is now a drop-of point for clothing for the School Bank.

11. Firework Control Zone

Under new legislation, local authorities can apply to create Firework Control Zones. West Lothian Council has decided not to take action at this time. Two motions have been discussed and approved at full council (see section 3 of Councillor Shemilt's report outlined at item 5 above).

This item will be discussed more fully at next month's Community Council meeting.

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.

The former November Collection store will be reclassified as a Class 3 category café.

Soil which has been removed during the build of the tennis courts at the Cricket Club is being piled up at the car park. This is contrary to the conditions of the planning consent which stipulated the method of soil removal and reinstatement. A report is being produced.

The Council Roads Services is reviewing the automatic operation of the toucan pedestrian crossing at the nursery, which may need adjustment.

Two Scots pines have been chopped down in Robin's Lane as the trees were overhanging the nursery grounds. Ian will confirm with the Planning Service that due process was followed.

The new Local Development Plan (LDP2) is being compiled by the Council Planning Services. The first formal stage, the Evidence Report, will be published by the end of the year.

The ‘Call for Ideas’ to provide suggestions, sites etc. for inclusion in LDP2 will be launched in Q1 of 2025.

15. Correspondence:

We have been invited to engage in Community Resilience planning.

The Scottish Government’s Resilient Communities Team, in partnership with the Improvement Service, has distributed an online survey to gather insight and information from representatives of Community Councils on a range of resilience issues. The survey is designed to understand better how Community Councils are supporting local people through emergencies and challenging situations, and what further support might be needed. The secretary has responded to the community resilience survey.

We are advocating the installation of a blood trauma cabinet at the station, sited beside the defibrillator cabinet. A grant to fund the blood trauma kit and cabinet may be available; the funding application needs to be made by January.

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

16. Any Other Business:

Ian Brown, Chris Dryden and Davidson McQuarrie attended a ‘Securing Environmental Justice in Scotland’ evening at the Scottish Parliament on 13 November. The evening covered three main themes: people’s lived experience of environmental injustice in Scotland, the need for a Scottish Environment Court and working for a healthy environment in Scots law.

Carol Bartholomew raised the issue 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 had said the work required would be assessed during the summer and replanting would take place during the winter, but there have been no sign of progress or updates. Councillor Shemilt said she will follow up. Craig Sinclair will be asked to attend a community council meeting to set out the Council’s plans for restoring the woodland. The secretary will log this and other actions to monitor progress.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 19 December in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School.