

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL – 29 April 2024

Present: Councillors Alastair Bell, Barbara Govan, Jim Hardman, Anne King, Tina Longstaff and John McDarren (Chairman), George Slack.

19/24 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Patterson.

20/24 CUMBRIA POLICE – FRAUD PREVENTION

DC Claire Keyes from the Economic Crime Unit gave a presentation on the types of fraud that are current and how to prevent them. A link to a booklet containing advice is available on the PC's community information noticeboard:

<https://www.murton.org.uk/noticeboard/>

Key points highlighted were:

- If you've been a victim of fraud you are more likely to become a victim again. There are "suckers lists".
- Fraudsters talk to older people in banks and obtain a few personal details.
- Fraud can happen to anyone. Fraudsters create convincing and convoluted stories.
- They are good at obtaining your trust. They hook into something you are already dealing with.
- Many frauds occur when people are distracted by something they're already dealing with, a phone call while you're busy making tea, for example.
- Best advice:
 - STOP! Give yourself breathing space, don't be rushed into something.
 - CHALLENGE – check if someone/thing is genuine, eg police, website.
 - PROTECT – if you have fallen for a fraud, go to your bank asap and cancel the transaction.
- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. If the call is legitimate they will leave a message. If you answer, don't say anything, wait until they speak. The connection is voice-activated. If you don't speak, the call will be dropped.
- Call blockers are good, especially for older friends and family.
- If a caller says its ok for you to call them back to check their legitimate, wait at least five minutes as they can stay on the line and you are automatically reconnected.
- E-mails – check the sender's e-mail address and links in the e-mail by hovering over the link. Is the time it sent early in the morning? Are they trying rush you into doing something? Exclamation marks in the header and grammatical errors are often fraudsters.
- Passwords – its ok to write passwords down these days – we have too many to remember them! Your e-mail password is your most important one to make difficult and to keep changing. It is like the key to your front door and all your other online accounts.
- If you think you've been a victim of fraud contact **Action Fraud**
<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>
- And yes, detection rates are low because of the volume of fraud and the rapid development of new ways to defraud people.

21/24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave his annual report covering the following items:

- William Patterson was co-opted onto the Parish Council in May 2023. His background as an EDC Councillor and Chairman of the Planning Committee is especially useful.
- Highways – Keisley and Murton footbridges have been repaired. Hilton bridge is awaiting repair. Potholes can be reported on the W&F website.
- Cemetery – The mental health charity FixIt4Eden do a first class job maintaining the grass areas. The cemetery walls need constant repair. Volunteers tidied the cemetery.
- Anyone who would like to add a memorial to The Memorial Wall should contact the Parish Clerk.
- Thanks to the volunteers to collected 24 bags of litter at the annual litter pick.
- Five volunteers cut back the overhanging vegetation between Hilton bridge and Langton Gate.
- The PC electronic mailing list for distributing information about PC events is slowly building up.
- The PC has been awarded £2000 from the W&F Communities Fund for replacement benches in the parish

The full report is available on the PC website: <https://www.murton.org.uk/parish-council/meetings/>

22/24 APPLEBY HORSE FAIR

The Chairman reported that following a site visit and meetings with W&FC a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be implemented in Murton. This means that the police have the authority to move on any caravans intending on staying overnight on specific areas between the Middle Green up to the MOD car park. Temporary posts will be erected to support the TRO.

The posts are being donated by a resident and the cost of the signs will come from PC funds. The PC has not yet received the detail of the TRO.

The TRO covers a specific area in Murton only. The question of what happens if caravans move to Hilton was raised. As in the past there had been no issues raised over the few caravans that arrive in Hilton it had not been considered necessary.

The situation regarding caravans on the MOD car park was not clear and was being pursued by the Chairman.

The Chairman was thanked for his efforts.

23/24 Date of next Meeting

Annual Council Meeting followed by Ordinary Meeting – Monday 13 May 2023 starting at 7.00 pm

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm