



Registered Charity no
SCO43123

Murieston Environmental Group

Minutes of meeting 12th January 2023

<http://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk/>

1. Attendees

Arthur Marris, Shelagh Taylor, Jackie Tremain, Bernie Tremain, and Isabel Taggart.

Andy Murray, Jill Simpson, Audrey Wright, and Kay Goldup, sent apologies

2. Approval of December 2022's minutes

Shelagh Taylor approved, Jackie Tremain seconded

3. Treasurers report

The balance on 12th January 2023 was £5,205.41

4. Projects update

Held a successful path maintenance event on Saturday the 3rd December. See the Facebook page for more details. Agreed to hold a follow up event on the 21st January

Andy Murray, Arthur Marris, Jackie Tremain, and Bernie Tremain met with Tracy Smith, Countryside Ranger of West Lothian Council's NETs, Land and Countryside Services at Cambridge pond and walked the Murieston trail. There was productive discussion regarding how Tracey and MEG could work together to improve the paths.

- Discussion on the walk around the trail, with officer and MEG members included:
 - Removing the first boardwalk, that isn't over the river. Possible funding has been mooted for this work but it has yet to come to fruition or as to where it might come from.
 - WLC officer stated that this work would not be her priority owing to other scored priority paths in the region.
 - If funding was available, the work would have to be put out to tender and, hopefully, completion by end of financial year 23/24.
 - A concern was raised about the steps to the pond. WLC officer suggested that work could be carried out by MEG but that it could also be added to above work, should funding transpire.
 - Further concerns were raised about flooding but officer said that there isn't much that can be done about nature.
 - The repairs on the ramps at the bridges have held up well. There was a section of scouring under the second bridge that WLC recommended that MEG contact the structures team at WLC to have checked.
 - The small section of the boardwalk near the concrete steps needs to be removed and replaced with a path and a culvert installed to remove the water that comes from the steps. This area is difficult to access due to the steps and the bridges. WLC suggested that this work could be a WLC ranger led project, carried out with MEG volunteers and scouts as a lot of people will be required in order to move the stone.
 - Drainage and path projects that MEG might be able to shoulder were discussed.
 - WLC have agreed to run sessions in February and March to teach MEG volunteers the techniques used for path and drainage works. The plan would then be to run a larger volunteer session in the summer to remove the boardwalk near the concrete steps.
 - Other possible collaborative projects were discussed including possible tree planting and rhododendron removal. WLC requested that any work be carried out in consultation with them, to ensure that actions accord with the Ecology and Biodiversity team's vision for West Lothian.

5. Diary of events

- Path maintenance event on 28th January 2023 at 2pm

6. AOB

None

7. Date of next meeting

2nd March 2023 at the cricket club

8. Meeting closed at 7:25pm

Minutes produced by Arthur Marris (marrisarthur@gmail.com)