



Registered Charity no
SCO43123

Murieston Environmental Group

Minutes of meeting 8th August 2024

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

1. Attendees

Arthur Marris, Kay Goldup, Andy Murray, Isabel Taggart, Shelagh Taylor, John Hepburn and Alan Murray.

1. Apologies for Absence

Jackie Tremain, Bernie Tremain, Gillian de Felice and Audrey Wright sent apologies

2. Approval of July's minutes

Isobel Taggart proposed, Arthur Marris seconded.

3. Treasurers report

The bank balance is £4,824. We are also awaiting a donation of £50 from Stuart Blakeley of Global KAM CBS.

£60 spent on tree loppers and safety equipment

4. Projects discussion

- Saturday 27 July - Pruning Event was less well attended than had been hoped. Nevertheless, a good amount of pruning was achieved. There is still work to be carried out on Robin's Lane and beside the football field adjacent to the children's playground.
- Alan and Gillian have attended 3 days INNS training and the final day is tomorrow. On successful completion they will be able to spray invasive plant species and is necessary kill them with plugs or stem injection. The training has highlighted a number of issues that need to be addressed; e.g. health and safety, amount of equipment requiring storage etc. They have arranged to meet with Grace Wilding from Forth Rivers Trust to make a plan. The objective will be to initially utilise FRT support but also to look at the problems highlighted during the course, and sharing equipment where possible.

5. Diary of events

- Throughout August - Our main activity is the Bio-diversity Survey at the Linhouse Circular. This will include the red ash paths in the area stretching to Oakbank. There is a QR code that can be scanned from the sign at the entrance to the loop which links inaturalist and Merlin Bird ID to the survey. So far 6 people have contributed to the survey.
- 28 September (10 am -12 noon): Next activity is to finish the work started in Cambridge Park. The mid-sized viewing platform needs to be cleaned. We also need to do a bio-diversity survey of the pond. Ross Taylor, Shelagh's son has agreed to do this.
- Saturday 7 September - Dog Show at the Gala Day, Livingston Cricket Club. We have been allocated 90 minutes from 1pm. Shelagh's husband, Ali, is doing posters for the event. Shelagh and Gillian will buy the rosettes and prizes as required. John and Alan will erect the gazebo and put out the table for collecting the entrance fee. We have agreed that the entry fee should be £2 per class or £5 for 3. Isobel will do posters to show what classes the dogs can enter. Isobel and Kay will man the tables to take the entry fee and do the necessary admin. It had been hoped that Kim Vance, one of the founder members of MEG, would agree to be the judge at the dog show, but unfortunately, she will be unavailable that day. Subsequent to the meeting, Michelle, a former MEG committee member has agreed to act as judge.

6. AOB

- Andy Murray asked about training for using a trimmer (strimmer). We agreed to do this. A two-day course is likely to cost £250 - £300.
- The Scottish Government invites citizens to contribute to a Play Sufficiency Survey. This looks at the opportunities for children to play in their local areas. If each member could complete the survey this would add opinion to keeping open spaces in our community.
- Arthur has submitted the OSCR Report and it can be seen on the OSCR website.
- The meeting closed at 8 pm

7. Date of next meeting

10 September 2024: 7.15 pm at the Cricket Club

Minutes produced by Alan Murray and Jackie Tremain (jackie.tremain@btinternet.com)