



Registered Charity no
SC043123

Murieston Environmental Group

Minutes of meeting 12th September 2024

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

1. Attendees

Arthur Marris, Kay Goldup, Andy Murray, Isabel Taggart, Shelagh Taylor, Gillian de Felice, John Hepburn, Jackie Tremain, Bernie Tremain and Alan Murray.

1. Apologies for Absence

None received

2. Approval of July's minutes

Kay Goldup proposed, Arthur Marris seconded.

3. Treasurers report

The bank balance is £4,218.91.

4. Projects discussion

- Gillian, Alan and Grace from FRT have started treating the knotweed but found some that had already been sprayed; presumably by the people who live at Murieston House. There is more to treat along by the river and also some more up at Skivo. They are planning to some more treatment in the next couple of weeks. We have acquired some equipment from FRT and we have bought some ourselves. Knapsacks and stem injectors have been bought by MEG as these are better for the environment. FRT have donated bags to carry the equipment. Gillian and Alan are planning to return, along with Grace, in October.
- Any member of MEG can help with the eradication as long as one of the licence holders is present.
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- Trimmer/Strimmer Course - The course in Stirling will cost approximately £250-300 per person, although it is cheaper if booked directly. The course takes about 3/4 days but this is to be confirmed. John and Andy are the potential volunteers for this course. Gillian will email Willy Johnson to confirm costs and length of course; and put together a proposal for the next meeting.
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- Bio-survey - there were 9 responders for the survey. There were 172 observations of which 115 were different species. It is proposed to carry out the survey again next August to see how the data compares. It is possible to send the data to various environmental agencies.
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- Andy has met with a lady from Scottish Woodlands with regard to the power/telephone lines and the overgrown trees along Skivo Path, but since then OpenReach have been dealing with them
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- Dog Show - many thanks to all who helped with this. All the competitors seemed to enjoy the show. Michelle did a good job as judge and was presented with some flowers. However, there were comments from some participants that the Dobermann Dog Show, also taking place at the Gala that day, were trying to poach our competitors. This seems to be reflected in that we only took £71 this year compared with £125 last year. We made a profit of £20. It seems that 2 dog shows at the Gala Day are counter-productive and this was the first time that this had happened. It was decided that we need to provide feedback to Jenny Anderson about this.

5. Diary of events

- 28 September (10 am -12 noon): the event planned to finish the work started in Cambridge Park has been cancelled due to clashes with other events. In the meantime, Isabel has been down and has cleaned and tidied the deck at Cambridge Pond.
- Saturday 12 October - 10am onwards. It is planned to continue the clear and tidy at Cambridge Pond and also do some work at the Play Park. We will be meeting at the Cricket Club at 10am to pick up the necessary equipment.
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6. AOB

- Jackie and Bernie will get a spare key for the notice board and some extra magnets.
- OSCR report - Arthur has done this, but OSCR have suggested that we need to review our governing document as it has not been done for three years. We agreed to put it in the agenda to discuss at our next meeting. A copy of the constitution should be brought to the next meeting.
- Website - this probably needs more active input with respect to events, etc but we need to find someone who is happy to take this on.
- Willow den for the Sanctuary Garden at the Cricket Club is on hold at the moment.
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- The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

7. Date of next meeting

10 October 2024: 7.15 pm at the Cricket Club

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