



Registered Charity no  
SCO43123

# Murieston Environmental Group

## Minutes of Meeting 13 November 2025

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

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### 1. Attendees

Alan Murray, Isabel Taggart, Gillian de Felice, Arthur Marris, Kay Goldup, Bernie Tremain and Jackie Tremain.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Shelagh Taylor and Andy Murray

### 3. Approval of October's minutes

Gillian proposed and Alan seconded

### 4. Treasurers report

Current bank balance is £3836.73. The insurance was due on 1st December 2025 and was £190.40.

### 5. Projects Update/ Discussion

- INNS Spraying - Alan and Gillian have been our spraying with Forth Rivers Trust (FRT) and have killed knotweed on Harwood Water and Killandean Burn. They have also been, separately, to respray the areas covered last year in Murieston. There is a huge difference.
- Alan attended a meeting with the FRT (INNS Working Group). The minutes of this meeting will be put on Google Drive, with a view to sharing information and to have a cohesive strategy for the Almond and Avon catchments. It was agreed that we would do our own area next year, plus Harwood Water, Killandean Burn and West Calder Burn (north of West Calder).
- Bernie and Arthur did a clean-up of Campbridge Pond using a kayak to reach the floating debris, supported by Jackie on the bank. Fortunately, there was not too much to recover.
- Gillian has received an email from Martin Bilyk of Scottish Power, concerning a poplar tree that has been interacting with the conductors of the overhead HV network. There are also some ash trees that have succumbed to die-back, and several cherry trees growing very close to the network. He was asking for consent to fell the poplar and ash die-back trees, coppice the elder nearest the poles and reduce the height of an oak tree growing directly beneath the network. He also proposed to reduce the height of the cherry trees, which should last about 3 years. He has also contacted West Lothian Council with regard to this work.
- Gillian had not yet been able to upload the Management Plan. WLC are keen for us to develop a plan for: i) Campbridge Park - routine jobs eg cleaning and pruning, ii) refurbishing paths and steps iii) better accessibility, iv) bat boxes and owl boxes.
- Proposed Achievements for 2026:
  - 1) Campbridge INNS - continue work and assist FRT
  - 2) Cut and harrow area identified for wildflower meadow (opposite the stone bridge); plant yellow rattle. We need to identify a sacrifice spot in the trees for cuttings by August 2026, harrow the ground and plant yellow rattle by November 2026 at the latest.
  - 3) Develop area by the stone bridge for tree planting in Autumn 2026 - native fruit trees have been suggested. Possibly liaise with the Woodland Trust.
  - 4) Tree Work (branches) - October to February
  - 5) Scrub management - all year round.
  - 6) Pond maintenance - Sept to February

- What we want to do:
  - 1) Aim for Spring - Cambridge Refurb. Including upgrading the paths and steps, better drainage, improving accessibility for all, and installing bat and owl boxes. Tackling the INNS such as Snowberry and Rhododendrons is also a priority.
- Wishlist: Fire-proof benches, removal of old MEG bench and change to a MEG stone cairn bench, wildlife signs, historical pictures, and new totem poles!
- We will need to fundraise for this work and this will include applying for grants.
- Strimmer Course - there is still funding for this but no-one available to do this at the moment.
- Gillilan to send Ecology Calendar to Bernie for uploading to the google Drive
- For clarification: Andy, Arthur, Gillian and Alan are trustees, with Gillian and Alan being post-bearers as Vice-chair and Chair respectively. Shelagh is happy to continue as Treasurer but is unable to come to meetings for the foreseeable future. Alan is to become a further signatory with respect to Finance.

## **6. Diary of events/Upcoming Projects**

- We are working on a more cohesive plan for next year's projects.

## **7. AOB**

- There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

11 December 2025: 7.15 pm at the Cricket Club. This will be a Christmas Social rather than a formal meeting.

Minutes produced by Jackie Tremain ([jackie.tremain@btinternet.com](mailto:jackie.tremain@btinternet.com))