Registered Charity no SCO43123

Murieston Environmental Group
Minutes of Meeting 8 Oct 2026

http://muriestonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk/

1. Attendees

Alan Murray, Arthur Marris, Isabel Taggart, Jackie Tremain, Bernie Tremain, Shelagh Taylor, and Gillian de Felice.

2. Apologies for Absence

Lara Haken, Ella Haken, Kay Goldup, and Andy Murray

3. Approval of September's minutes

Arthur Marris proposed and Alan Murray seconded.

4. Treasurers report

Current Balance £2537.23 plus £156 in cash. The plan is to pay £150 into the account and keep the £6 back as petty cash. The insurance is due next month.
Shelagh has been having issues with paying for some things for MEG using the card provided by Virgin Money. She has suggested that we think about moving the account elsewhere. Arthur has had some communication from the bank and will see if there is anything he can do. However, Shelagh has spoken to the bank and they have said they will look into it. If that doesn't work then we should look at moving the account elsewhere. We will look at this again next month

5. Projects Update/ Discussion

- Wildflower Meadow in Progress - The initial scything and scarifying has started but needs to be finished. The hand tiller did a good job at scarifying. We need to order 100g of seed. Meadowmania can provide 100% British Yellow Rattle at about £35, compared with Scotia Seeds at £79, not including postage.
- 12 September - Bat Walk: Jackie, Bernie and Alan joined Calum, Hannah and Fiona to check the bat and bird boxes installed earlier this year. All the bat boxes and bird boxes that we found were numbered. All the bird boxes had been used, but there were no bats resident tin the bat boxes. However, other wild life such as Wasps, moths and other insects had made good use of them. We did not check the owl box as no one licensed to do so was present. The kestrel box looked as though it had been used but we were unable to check. Another owl box has been made and is ready to go up. Jackie has a swift box that she would like to donate to CSWG. Alan has said he will let them know.

6. Diary of events/Upcoming Projects

- Sunday 11th October: Wildflower Meadow - We will complete the scarifying and Shelagh will order the seed as soon as the Bank Card is working. We will co-ordinate a date and time for sowing the Yellow Rattle seed via WhatsApp.
- Signage for Wildflower Meadow: Lara was looking into this. We need to create a design including acknowledgement of the partners in this work. We will discuss this at the next meeting.
- Hannah Crow (WLC Ranger) thinks there is probably too much weed on the pond. The end of October would be a good time to clear at least a third of the weed. The weed needs to be left on the side for a short while to allow newts and invertebrates to get back into the water. The weed then needs to be moved elsewhere to rot down so nutrients don't leach back into the pond. Shelagh will investigate and try to order a specialised pond rake with a view to getting another if it is any good. We will set a date on WhatsApp for carrying out this work with regard to the weather.

- Rhododendron and Snowberry bashing: Hannah from WLC will co-ordinate a day for us to do this.
- Maintenance work (Trim and Train) needs to be carried out on the Willow Den at the Cricket Club. This is weather dependent and Shelagh will lead on this.
- Ian Brown of the Community Council has put Gillian in touch with Stephanie Johnstone from the Vincent Wildlife Trust, and Val Gall from the Eastern Lowland Red Squirrel Group. Gillian will liaise with them with regard to controlling grey squirrels by making and installing some pine marten boxes. Bernie and Arthur are happy to work on making some boxes.

7. AOB

- Storage in the container is becoming an issue. Maybe, some shelves and tool hooks could be added. Apparently, the container belongs to MEG, but quite a large amount of the space is being used by the Cricket Club.
- OSCR Report: The accounts have been examined. Alan and Arthur are liaising on this in order to complete the report by the end of the year.
- MEG Archives: Arthur has found a box of paperwork that probably needs to be stored in the container. Isabel has said that there is a plastic box with lid going spare at the Community Garden that they could donate to us. Jackie will sort this and bring the paperwork to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

8. Date of next meeting

12 Nov 2026: 7.15 pm at the Cricket Club.

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