



Registered Charity no
SCO43123

Murieston Environmental Group

Minutes of meeting 18th Jan 2018

1. Attendees

Ian Jeffray, Arthur Marris, Michelle Van Eck, Pauline McCourt, Ainslie Jones, Alistair Hunter
Apologies: Isobel Lyman

2. Approval of last month's minutes

IJ Approved, MvE seconded.

3. Treasurers report

Balance on 18th January showed £2277.95. OSCR report has now been submitted.

Action for AM to add himself as a signatory to the bank account.

4. Projects update

IJ has successfully procured a container through gumtree and this is now sited at the cricket club. MEG share this with the cricket club in lieu of paying ground rent. The policy for sharing the container with the cricket club has been agreed by all parties and is as follows:

1. MEG have purchased a container to store their equipment - MEG own this container outright
2. Livingston Cricket Club (LCC) have allowed MEG to site the container on their premises
3. It has been agreed to share the use of this container between MEG and the LCC Bar and Social Committee
4. It has been agreed that MEG will use the left hand side of the container to store their equipment and the Bar and Social Committee the right hand side

MvE said her boyfriend Andrew would be willing to supply equipment and help with moving the hard core which has solidified on the path. It was agreed to hold a volunteer event at 10:30am on Sunday the 25th February to move this. Action for MvE to check this is OK with Andrew who will provide any necessary power tools.

AJ reported at September's meeting that the planters were being repeatedly vandalized. Action for IJ and AM to move these to a safer location nearer the nursery.

Williamston Wood project being pursued by Ainslie, Isobel, Alistair and Michelle. They have contacted Jean Frame of the Woodland Trust and discussed possible things that can be done. A face to face meeting was held on Tuesday the 7th November at Williamston Wood with Jean Frame, IL and MvE in attendance. The following was discussed:

1. Bench – The Woodland Trust would approve of MEG buying a bench for the wood.
2. Paths - The path needs an upgrade as it is boggy at the entrance nearest the school and there are two sections which could have drains cleared out and path scraped back. Jean Frame has spoken with her contractor and the contractor would be happy to lead this as a volunteer day with The Woodland Trust paying for material and providing equipment.
3. Information on site
4. Education

Action for MvE to contact Jean Frame of the Woodland Trust to take up their offer to provide a contractor and materials to upgrade the paths in Williamston Wood as a volunteer event. The intention is to hold the volunteer event in April

MEG has received communication Amy Fergusson of the River Forth Fisheries Trust asking MEG to support "Fish in the Classroom" at Williamston School. We agreed to part fund this as long as the nursery is included. Action for IJ to report back to Amy Fergusson.

There was discussion of the diary of events for the coming year. Pauline has been in contact with Lynn Yuill of the Ranger Service to discuss dates for pond dipping in the spring and another bat walk. Action for Pauline to confirm dates. The bat walk is expected to be held on the 18th September and the pond dipping in the last week of May.

We discussed repeating the popular toad watch organized by the Lothian Amphibian and Reptile Group <http://www.lothian-arg.org.uk/> . This involves going out on the day in March that toads migrate to ponds for spawning and picking them off the road so they don't get squashed. Action for IJ to provide contact details to AJ so she can try and organise it with LARG.

Action for AM to contact Harburn Development Trust to see if there are joint projects we can pursue.

A tentative diary of events was discussed and agreed. Action for IJ to put these on the website and for MvE to put something on the notice board by the pond:

25th February, 10:30am – Break up hardcore and distribute on paths

March – Toad Watch

April – Path work in Williamston Wood

May – Pond dipping

June – Tidy up around Campbridge pond (may be hold this on a weekday evening)

1st September - Dog show/gala day at the Cricket Club

18th September – Bat walk

5. Date of next meeting 15th February 2018, 7.00pm at Cricket Club.

6. Meeting closed at 9:15pm

Minutes produced by Arthur Marris (arthurm@cadence.com)