



Registered Charity no
SCO43123

Murieston Environmental Group

Minutes of meeting 25th October 2018

1. Attendees

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

2. Approval of last month's minutes

IJ Approved, MVE seconded

3. Treasurers report

Balance on 16th August 2018 was unchanged at £1948.94 an increase of £63 due to the cash from the dog show being banked. Ainslie still has some unclaimed expenses.

IJ reported that Murieston Environmental Group has been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round starts this Sunday, 28 October 2018. From this date, Co-op Members can choose your cause to give their 1% to when they spend on selected own-brand products and services. The funding period will run for 12 months until the 26 October 2019.

The yearly accounts have been presented and approved at the AGM. IJ will arrange for an audit of the accounts before submittal to OSCR before the 31st December.

4. Projects update

Williamston Wood project now on hold due to disease control. Jean Frame from Woodland Trust has reported that diseased trees have been found at Williamston Wood. The trees are displaying symptoms of black ooze on the lower bark, strongly indicating the presence of phytophthora disease. Samples from five trees were taken and sent to Forest Research at Roslyn for analysis.

There are various forms of phytophthora, which is a serious and usually terminal disease for trees, such as sycamore and beech. Diseased trees need to be felled if presenting a public safety issue. Two trees close to Williamston School are high risk and will need to be felled immediately.

If disease is confirmed, notices will be put up at the woodland asking the public to avoid using the woodland. The Forestry Commission will offer advice on action which should be taken.

Phytophthora can be rapidly spread by birds, animals, as well as on footwear and bike tyres etc. Logs from diseased trees need to remain on site to prevent spread. Where viable, a 300m quarantine buffer is set when diseased trees are felled. There should be no dog walking in the woodland.

The dog show on 1st September was a great success. Thank you to everybody who helped out.

Bat walk on 18th September. This was also a success. Thanks to Lynn Yuill from West Lothian ranger service for conducting and to PMcC for organizing the bat walk. Action for Pauline to book Lynn for next year's events.

Jenny has reported that she had spoken to Jim the groundsman and Iain the chairman. Jenny is happy to say that we have the go ahead to create a community garden at the cricket club. MEG need to decide who will be responsible for the upkeep of the garden. Action for all committee members to ask people involved in youth activities to ask if they would like to participate.

PMcC suggested that MEG should participate in the big garden birdwatch in January

It was agreed that next year's fish in the classroom should target the nursery and possibly Bellsquarry Primary school assuming the school is interested in participating.

5. Diary of events

- 28th October –Joint litter pick to be held with Murieston Community Council

6. AOB

There was discussion about the fallen trees in neighbourhood. Action for AM to contact Lawrence Fitzpatrick to tackle the one blocking the path near the cricket club.

There was discussion about maintenance of the stone bench. Action for PMcC to contact Neil to see what he can suggest. However, it appears someone has now repaired it.

There was a brief discussion on whether MEG should get more involved in the planning process and submit comments or objections to planning applications. The consensus view is that MEG is not a campaigning organisation and is not in position where it wants to take on individuals wishing to do development in Murieston.

7. Date of next meeting 21st February 2019, 7pm at Cricket Club

8. Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

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