

East Lothian Volunteer Path Wardens (ELVPW)

Minute of Trustees Meeting - AGM

May 23rd, 2017, Boggs Community Hall

Present:

Trustees: David Oldham, David Quarendon, Graham Pettigrew, Duncan Priddle,

Access Officer: Nick Morgan

Pathwardens: Harry Blackley, Andy Burns, Rob Brown, Jane Campbell, Dave Habgood, Paul Ince, Joyce Kent, Ian Pryde, Morag Reeves

Apologies: Angus Currie, Andy Stevenson

<i>Numbered points refer to Agenda items</i>		<i>Action</i>
1	DP introduced the meeting and welcomed the path-wardens	
2	Chairman's comments In the absence of AS, DO acted as chairman. He described the progress made with setting up the East Lothian Conservation volunteers as a charitable Trust. The last of several meetings of the steering group will be in June and an application will then be sent to the Charity regulator. A new Board of Trustees will be formed based on voting rights across the conservation volunteers. It is hoped that this larger body will be able to attract more financial support and will allow greater coordination with other conservation bodies in East Lothian.	
3	Treasurer's report DP reported a quiet year on the financial front with a surplus of about £2000 to be retained within the aegis of the Path-wardens. A bid for a Tesco Community grant failed and no grant was applied for under the Small grant scheme. In future, Path-wardens will apply separately for grant money within ELCV but with consultation and potentially some cooperation with other groups. The Treasurer's report was approved by the meeting.	
4	Office Bearers The Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected. In the absence of AS, the re-election of the Chairman will be deferred until the next meeting.	
5	Minutes Minutes from the last Trustees meeting on 27 th March 2017 were circulated and approved. Minutes from the last AGM on 24 th June 2016 were not available at the meeting and will be circulated for approval.	

Matters arising

6.1 Go Explore App

DQ has investigated the availability of the Go Explore App which contained walking routes in East Lothian and had been produced by the Council. The council is not willing to devote resources to an upgrade and will instead concentrate on delivering descriptions of core paths via their website. DQ offered to investigate whether he could take on the job of upgrading the App himself.

DQ

6.2 Pathwarden walks

Two walks have been completed:

- East Linton to Dunbar on the Tyne path (11 walkers)
- Bolton to Gifford and return (8 walkers although 4 more had signed up but could not manage on the day).

The walks were well-received

Walks had been advertised in the Living Well magazine and via a monthly council print run sent to Council buildings. For both walks, leaflets were also taken to a variety of outlets by the walk leaders. Other means of spreading the word were discussed. The Trustees do have a Twitter account (although a show of hands indicated that Twitter was not a 'go to' medium for most of those present!). It would also be useful to build an email list of those who have been on a walk and wish to be contacted in future.

GP,DQ

Next walk: Hopes circuit, David Habgood, August 8th (evening)

6.3 Athelstaneford/ Pencraig/Tyne path aspirational links

GP described the possibility of a walking route between Athelstaneford and the Tyne path at Sandy's Mill. The first section of the route requires negotiation of the very busy B1347 road. The proposal is to use a field verge on the east side of the road to reach an unclassified road going east towards Pencraig. This route would involve step building and a simple bridge to cross a small stream. GP will contact the landowner (Sir David Kinloch) and the tenant farmer (James Logan) to discuss the proposed route.

GP

The second section of the route continues through woodland and field to reach the A199 will then be investigated.

6.4 Tyne Team

The new procedure involving delivery and operation of the grass-cutting machines by Gus and Ali is in place. Pathwardens are helping with the cutting routine and also carry out other tasks such as hogweed removal while the cutting is being done.

7	Path warden reports John Laws is still housebound and recovering from his illness. DP asked that May, June and July reports not be submitted until the beginning of August. While DP is away, urgent issues should go to Jennifer, Nick or Neil.	
8	Priorities for 2017/18 Athelstaneford/Tyne path link Merger to form ELCV	
9	AOB Ian Pryde asked about landowner permission for work he is planning on an old miner's path near Macmerry. NM advised that he write to the landowner describing the plans for planting trees and sowing wildflower seed. DQ noted that there is a facility on a web site page to have changes on a page notified to you by email. No particular plans are being considered to replace the Council involvement in the Big Nature Festival with a different activity. The BNF will not run next year.	
10	Date of Next Meeting GP will circulate a couple of dates for consideration	GP

The AGM was followed by two presentations:

Golden Eagle Project in the Southern Uplands

DP reported on plans to reinforce the very small population of eagles that have been recorded in the Southern Uplands despite the abundance of favourable habitat. Chicks will be removed from Highland nests and reared and released at a rate of about 5-10 chicks each year with a projected starting date of Autumn this year.

The working group has consulted very widely and built a collaborative venture between Estates and Conservationists. They are looking for help in sightings, spreading the word, collecting eagle food and helping with eagle feeding in aviaries.

www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk

Path Descriptions

Pathwardens are encouraged to write descriptions of their paths that would be useful to walkers. NM discussed his work on single page descriptions of walks and circulated examples of these along with other variations on East Lothian path descriptions. A longer description is also a possibility and an example of a Garvald area walk by Dave Habgood was available.