

ELCV Trustees Meeting

8 July 2021

Sunken Garden, Haddington

Present: Dick Gill (chairman), Anne Pearson (secretary), Terry Page, Mike Sharp, Abbie Marland, Peter Wells, Katty Baird, Dave Quarendon.

Apologies: Kate Odling, Colin Ballantyne.

In attendance: Jenny Hargreaves, Jen Newcombe from East Lothian Council Landscape and Countryside.

1. Welcome

Dick Gill opened the meeting and welcomed Jenny Hargreaves and Jen Newcombe, representing East Lothian Council Landscape and Countryside, to the meeting.

2. Business plan

This was approved with minor modifications to the text (names of local groups updated and numbering corrected) and discussion of the points below.

The need to identify other volunteers to represent the main groups at meetings was identified particularly those groups not already covered by The Trustees. It was decided that specialist survey groups and animal checkers could link with Rangers, other ELC Countryside staff or ELCV Trustees if they needed to, in order to keep ELCV meetings to a manageable size.

Yellowcraig, Levenhall Links and Junior Rangers are groups not currently represented at ELCV meetings. Dick Gill will contact the rangers Nick Aitken (Levenhall Links), Dave Wild (Yellowcraig) and Richard English (Junior Rangers) to identify volunteers, or Rangers to represent these groups.

Action Dick Gill.

3. Frequency of meetings

It was decided that Trustees would meet every three months to discuss progress on projects, paths and any other issues. Anne Pearson will put round some dates for the next four meetings. The chairman will check on the progress of actions at appropriate times between the meetings.

Action: Anne Pearson and Dick Gill

4. Publicity

Dave Quarendon has written an article for the next 'Mud in Your Eye' and agreed to take responsibility for ensuring regular articles are produced by members of ELCV. Jenny Hargreaves will forward him dates for copy.

Action: Dave Quarendon and Jenny Hargreaves

Business cards were discussed and changes to the layout were suggested to include a picture of the award the Giant Hogweed project received. Jenny Hargreaves agreed to look out the original artwork for the business cards and link with Dave Quarendon to make any changes. Dave Quarendon agreed to look into circulating Public Libraries that are open with the Giant Hogweed Award and some of the cards once they have been updated.

Action: Jenny Hargreaves and Dave Quarendon

As a recruitment drive Terry Page agreed to draft an A4 poster asking for new Path Wardens, which would be put on appropriate posts or notice boards on those core paths which do not have a current Path Warden, Jenny Hargreaves agreed that ELC Countryside would provide waterproof paper. Terry will also circulate a list of vacant core paths to the Trustees.

Action: Terry Page and Jenny Hargreaves

5. Project identification

Priority projects listed on the business plan were discussed,

Tools for Path Wardens

Terry Page had asked the Path Wardens to add to the list of tools already identified as important for purchase (saws, loppers, spades, secateurs). Trolleys to help in litter collection, and loops to help keep open litter bags were other tools identified by the Path Wardens. Scythes were only thought to be usable in group activities and then only after training. Jenny Hargreaves agreed to look in the ELC store to see if trolley and loops were in stock and liaise with Terry on buying up to £750 worth of the tools needed, Money would come from ELCV funds already ring-fenced for Path Warden activities.

Action: Terry Page and Jenny Hargreaves

Entrance Boards for The Glen, North Berwick

Anne Pearson is happy to take this forward with the Ranger (currently Jen Newcombe and after August Meryl Norris), with another volunteer from North Berwick Conservation volunteers to be identified to help. Possibilities for sources of funding discussed were North Berwick Area Partnership, Rotary and the housebuilders.

Action: Anne Pearson and Jen Newcombe

Longniddry Path upgrade

Dick Gill will contact Paul Ince and Graham Pettigrew to see if they would be willing to lead on this project for the ELCV.

Action: Dick Gill

Boardwalk marsh area

Peter Wells will contact other NBCVs Angus Curry and Neil Barnes to see if they would be willing to help get this project underway. Peter will liaise with Jen Newcombe on these activities.

Action: Peter Wells and Jen Newcombe

Traprain Fencing and path levelling

On hold until Laura Douglas the Ranger has heard back from Historic Environment Scotland to gain their acceptance of the project.

6. Other future projects

Information boards at Pencraig Hill layby looking North at the old viewpoint.

Longniddry Bents 2. To ensure a permanent freshwater area where there is currently a semi-permanent one, which will be excellent for education purposes for children being safe and easily accessible by groups.

7. AOB

For information:

Mike Sharp reported on a large stand of Giant Hogweed at the Tarmac owned Bangleby Quarry. He has spoken to various employees but has had no success yet in getting them to get rid of it.

Peter Wells is chasing up Cala Homes who promised money for the Aberlady Hub project.

Dick Gill as Treasurer is going to talk to RBS about setting up online Banking on the ELCV account.

8. Next Meeting of Trustees

This will be held in three months' time (October) either by zoom or outdoors whichever is the preference followed by dates in January April and July.