

ELCV Trustees Meeting

28 July 2023

John Muir House, Haddington

Present: Dick Gill (Chairman), Peter Wells (Treasurer), Jen Newcombe (ELC), Anne Watson, Terry Page, Eric McDonald, John Hardy, Val Brown, Paul Ince, Zoe Goldstone, Dave Quarendon (observer),

Apologies: Anne Pearson, Colin Ballantyne, Dave Wild.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to the new trustees (VB, PI & JH), Zoe G (prospective trustee) and Jen Newcombe attending on behalf of Dave Wild.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 May 2023

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 Notification of the co-option of John Hardy, Val Brown and Paul Ince as trustees was circulated by Dick G on 7 June 2023. Zoe Goldstone had indicated her willingness to be a trustee as of the AGM in September 2023.

3.2. Jen N reported that Dave W is continuing to evaluate software tools that would be of practical application within the ELC Volunteer sector and help bring together the groups, improve communication and allow volunteers to alter roster commitments. **Action: Dave W**

3.3 Terry P reported that as a result of canvassing path wardens on the potential requirement for tools and a hedge trimmer, it is clear that there is a need for a hedge trimmer (11 pathwardens requested). In addition, rangers had identified the need for more tools. Estimated costs are £959 for the hedge trimmer with associated equipment and £512 for tools. Training can be provided for volunteer users of the hedge trimmer to ensure compliance with ELC insurance cover. Since there is £1485 available for path warden activities, Dick G requested a proposal from Dave W to show the separate costs for tools and the hedgetrimmer for circulation to and approval by the trustees. **Action: Dave W**

3.4 Peter W corrected the amount from £259 to £200 shown in the minutes for equipment at Aberlady.

3.5 Dick G referred to the need to amend the Constitution in paragraph 57.1 to replace 'no more than 3' with 'no more than 12' to be approved by the trustees and the AGM. The revised wording to be circulated prior to the AGM. **Action: Dick G**

4. Update on projects

4.1. Giant Hogweed - Dave Q reported that the Tyne and also the Esk had been successfully cleared.

4.2. North Berwick Glen notice boards - The new boards are due to be installed and should be in place in time for the annual judging of the Britain in Bloom visit in August.

4.3. North Berwick Law marsh path - Some minor improvement to the path remains to be completed and this project can be removed from the list.

4.5. Linkfield salt marsh 'dry' path- Discussions are continuing with the possible involvement of NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund although there are discrepancies between its views and the requirements of horse riders. ELCV may not need to be involved further with this project.

4.6. Seafeld ponds - NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund funding of the project must be based on the premise that it must benefit wildlife only and not leisure/ recreation. Tara S is continuing to pursue this project and it should remain on the agenda.

4.7. Levenhall floating Islands – Eric M will follow up on this with the new ranger responsible (Christian Purchase). Menshed may do the work with the £300 funding still required from ELCV.

Action : Eric M

4.8. Pencraig information boards – nothing to report since the last meeting.

4.9. Typha collection 2023 - there are provisional plans to collect towards the end of September. Anne P liaising with John Harrison and Jen Newcombe for Aberlady and North Berwick Law respectively. **Action: Anne P**

4.10. Dick G asked trustees to look to the future and consider this list with the intention of seeking potential for new projects. **Action: All.**

5. Financial report

5.1 The balance at the bank remains at £4271 with current commitments of £1324 prior to consideration of the proposal to acquire tools and the hedgetrimmer equipment for the path wardens.

5.2 The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) annual return including accounts had been prepared and circulated for approval. Subject to a minor adjustment to show membership of ELCV at 201 from a total of more than 400 volunteers, the accounts are being submitted to an external auditor prior to approval by the trustees. There were no questions raised by trustees. **Action: Peter W.**

6. AGM

6.1 The Chairman explained that to satisfy OSCR requirements ELCV must hold an AGM with a quorum of at least 19 members.

6.2 After some discussion it was agreed that the AGM should be linked with the Volly Jolly scheduled for 30 September 2023 at Gifford. A proposal would be made to Dave W as organiser that a trustee would make a presentation about ELCV during the early part of the Volly Jolly to increase awareness of the trust and encourage membership. If possible, a short AGM could then be held around the time of the lunch break with the agenda -

- *Welcome/ Review of the year / Treasurer's report*
- *Constitution change – e-banking*
- *Stepping down of current Trustees & election of new Trustees*
- *Election of new office bearers by the new trustees (after the AGM)*

6.3 Current trustees completing their maximum term are Dick Gill, Anne Pearson, Colin Ballantyne and Peter Wells. Eric thanked them all for the hard work they had done for ELCV to put it in a secure position for the future. Eric McDonald informed the meeting that he would not be standing for re-election at the AGM and encouraged the new trustees to ensure the western part of East Lothian was included in future projects. **Action: Chairman and Dave W.**

7. AOB

John H informed the meeting of a potential problem with Spartina as an invasive species of grass seen in the Tyne estuary. It was agreed that John should look into this further for discussion at the November trustees meeting. **Action: John H.**

8. The next meeting.

The next meeting of the trustees will follow the Volly Jolly on 30 September 2023 with the specific intention of appointing officer bearers.