

ELCV Trustees Meeting Minutes

22nd March 2024

Venue: Saltire Room, John Muir House, Haddington

Time: 14:00

Those Present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Dave Quarendon (Treasurer),
Paul Ince, Terry Page (Secretary).
ELC: Nick Aitken

Apologies for Absence: Zoe Goldstone, Valerie Brown, Anne Pearson, Dick Gill, Dave Wild (represented by Nick Aitken)

1. **Welcome & Opening Remarks:** The chair opened the meeting by thanking the attendees. He pointed out that the meeting was not quorate so although we could discuss matters the meeting could not take major decisions. If any decisions were required there would be an email vote.
2. **Actions from the Last Meeting:**
 - 2.1 Dave Wild to ask volunteers if they would like to become trustees:

Dave is asking new volunteers and if there is a positive response passing details to John Hardy. So far John has contacted three of which one may be interested. This is now routine so the action is closed.
 - 2.2 Volunteer Management System:

Dave Wild has been in discussion with the ELC Sports section and Outdoor Learning but there has been little progress, mainly due to the cost. **Action D Wild** to keep the board informed.

Dave Quarendon has been trying to set up an on-line demonstration of the system but has not been able to find suitable dates for all concerned. He is waiting more suggestions from the suppliers.

Paul Ince has received the membership list from Dave Wild and is receiving updates.
 - 2.3 Dave Wild to discuss revising 'Mud in Your Eye' with Val Brown and Dave Q:

Mud in Your Eye will be taken forward in a new format. A draft will be circulated and further discussions will consider the content. Action Continues.
 - 2.4 Dave Wild to ask Tara Sykes if volunteers are needed to transplant reeds in the Seafield Ponds:

This is not a full task for the ELCV. Tara plans to carry out a planting trial this year and possibly buy and plant more plant plugs next year. Action complete. **New action - Dave Wild** to update the trustees when appropriate.
 - 2.5 Spartina Grass at Tynninghame:

John Harrison has led a team of rangers and volunteers to map the extent of the spartina grass. There was 744 square metres of the grass and it would take 186 person hours in order to dig it out versus the spraying using a wetting agent to aid potency. The

map has been sent to NatureScot for advice. Jen Newcome (biodiversity officer) and Tara will consider the way forward which will have to balance the damage caused by removing the grass. Any action will require permission for NatureScot. **Action Continues Dave Wild** to keep the trustees informed.

- 2.6 Dave Wild to contact Nick Aitken to see if volunteers from the Dunbar Group would lead on 7 (Whitesands Viewing Platform) and 8 (Traprain Law Drystone Wall):

Nick reported that no one from the Dunbar Group wanted to lead on these projects. Action complete.

Tarmac may be willing to provide funding for the viewing platform. **Action Nick Aitken** to approach Tarmac for funding for this project.

- 2.7 Dave Wild to ask Jen to clarify what would be required on butterfly transects once she has returned to work:

Nick Aitken said he could provide training on carrying out butterfly transits. Action Closed.

- 2.8 Dick Gill to contact Kristian Purchase for an update on the Levenhall floating islands:

Nick Aitken had spoken to Kristian Purchase, the area ranger. Kristian has decided that there is too much casual use of the pond to make it suitable for a swan nesting island. Action Closed.

- 2.9 Dick Gill to write a plan to effect the ELCV Awareness Plan for discussion at the next meeting. **Action Continues**

- 2.10 Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencraig Information Boards. **Action Continues.**

- 2.11 John Hardy to liaise with Nick Morgan re the Pencraig Path:

The farmer has installed a new wire fence that satisfies his requirements. This has come in under budget. The fence will be paid for once the council send in an invoice. Anne Pearson is obtaining a quote to tidy up the dry-stone walling disturbed by the fencing. **Action Continues.**

- 2.12 John Hardy to contact Gordon Patterson to discuss options for tree cell removal:

If we filled builders' bags with old tree guards there is a company that will collect and recycle them for a £50 fee. Action continues.

- 2.13 John Hardy to discuss how we could access East Lothian Climate Action Network grants and what they could be used for with Leigh McCrum:

We have missed the current round of grants but there may be opportunities for the next round. We will be kept informed of future grant opportunities by ELCAN via email.

- 2.14 John Hardy to speak to Zoe Goldstone to see if she would take responsibility for fund raising:

John has contacted Zoe and will speak to her again. Action continues.

- 3 **ELCV Charity Annual Report.**

The annual report for OSCR is due on 30th September. **Action Terry Page** to circulate the link to OSCR guidance and last year's annual report.

4 **Possible representation of path wardens on the Access Committee:**

The committee felt that most path wardens are only familiar with a small area so it would be difficult for them to speak on other areas. This will require more discussion with Nick Morgan. **Action John Hardy** to discuss representation of path wardens on the Access Committee with Nick Morgan.

5 **Charity Regulation Changes.** OSCR have made changes the charity but the committee did not feel it would have much affect ELCV.

6 **Spending the £1000 grant from Bailie Gifford:**

The committee felt it would be appropriate to spend this money in the West part of the county. **Action Dave Wild** to speak to Kristian Purchase about possible used for the Bailie Gifford grant in the West of East Lothian.

7 **Business Plan and Awareness Plan.** Not discussed. **Action Terry Page** to contact Dick Gill to find out progress on the business and plan to effect the Awareness Plan.

8 **Progress on Projects**

8.1 Typha Head Collection: We received £564.00 for the Typha.

8.2 Other Projects: Covered in section 2.

9 **Finance/Banking:**

9.1 Current Balance: We have a balance of £10,351.86 of which ~£3,500 is uncommitted. That includes the £1,000 from Bailie Gifford.

9.2 Transactions Since Last Meeting:

Expenditure: None

Income: £564.00 received from Duncan FW for the Typha heads.

£500.00 received from the Community Rail Partnership for the Pencaraig path.

9.3 John Hardy requested a refund of £30.50 for the printing and laminating of photos used at the Green Futures Festival. He provided receipts to the treasurer. As the committee was not quorate Trustees will be asked to approve by email. **Action Terry Page.** *Secretary's note: the email was sent and all trustees, except John Hardy, approved the payment.*

10 **AOB:**

10.1 Camera Equipment for Aberlady:

The equipment has been purchased by ELC and the treasurer will reimburse ELC once he receives an invoice.

11 **Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Friday 31 May 2024 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1)

Meetings booked for the rest of the year are:

Fri 26 Jul 2024 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 2)

Fri 27 Sep 2024 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 2)

Fri 29 Nov 2024 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 2)

List of outstanding actions:

Actionee	Action	Minutes Reference
Dave Wild	To keep the board informed about developments on the Volunteer Management System	2.2
Dave Wild	To update the trustees on the Seafield Ponds when appropriate.	2.4
Dave Wild	To keep the trustees informed on developments about the spartina grass at Tynninghame	2.5
Nick Aitken	To approach Tarmac for funding for the Whitesands Viewing Platform	2.6
Dave Wild	To discuss revising 'Mud in You Eye' with Val Brown and Dave Q	2.3
Dick Gill	To write a plan to effect the ELCV Awareness Plan for discussion at the next meeting.	2.9
Dave Quarendon	To progress the Pencraig Information Boards	2.10
John Hardy	To liaise with Nick Morgan re the Pencraig Path	2.11
John Hardy	To contact Gordon Patterson to discuss options for tree cell removal	2.12
John Hardy	To speak to Zoe Goldstone to see if she would take responsibility for fund raising	2.14
John Hardy	To discuss, with Leigh McCrum, how we could access East Lothian Climate Action Network grants and what they could be used for	2.13
Terry Page	To circulate the link to OSCR guidance and last year's annual report.	3
John Hardy	to discuss representation of path wardens on the Access Committee with Nick Morgan	4
Dave Wild	To speak to Kristian Purchase about possible uses for the grant from Bailie Gifford in the West of East Lothian.	6
Terry Page	To contact Dick Gill to find out progress on the business plan and plan to effect the Awareness Plan.	7