

ELCV Trustees Meeting Minutes

26th July 2024

Venue: Saltire Room, John Muir House, Haddington

Time: 14:00

Those Present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Dave Quarendon (Treasurer),
Zoe Goldstone, Valerie Brown, Terry Page (Secretary).

ELC: Dave Wild

Apologies for Absence: Paul Ince (Trustee), Anne Pearson (member)

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks: The Chair opened the meeting.

2. Actions from the Last Meeting:

2.1 Action 24-3/1 D Wild to keep the board informed about developments on the Volunteer Management System:

There is no finance available within the ELC Countryside dept. currently. Dave is checking with other departments to see if there were any similar systems already being used. The cost is far more than ELCV could manage. **Action continues.**

2.3 Action 24-3/2 Zoe Goldstone to work with Nick Aitken to progress the Whitesands Ramp project

One contractor would not come onto the site as funding had not been secured. Funding cannot be secured at this stage as we need estimates or quotes. Dave Wild has supplied a list of alternative contractors. **Action continues.** Note the requirement is for a ramp, not steps/viewing platform as previously minuted.

2.4 Action 24-3/3 Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencraig Information Boards:

No progress, **Action Continues.**

2.5 Action 24-3/4 Dave Wild to Nick Aitken to see if any of his volunteer group would be interested in taking the dry stone wall training course and ask Nick to contact Anne Person with a flyer on the course which she would take to the East Linton Repair Café

Nick Aitken has spoken to the Dunbar Conservation Volunteers but only two were interested. In addition, at present, Nick does not have sufficient time to oversee such work and that would be required for health and safety and insurance purposes. It was not considered worthwhile going out to a wider range of people as the only significant dry stone walling in East Lothian was the wall that needs repairing on Trapain Law. Consequently, the plan has been dropped. **Action Complete.**

As the Trapain wall is part of a site that is scientifically significant to lichens there might be Scottish Government money that could be used to bring in a contractor that could offer opportunity for volunteer training.

2.6 Action 24-3/5, John Hardy to contact Gordon Patterson to discuss options for tree cell removal.

John has contacted Gordon and is waiting for a response. **Action continues.**

2.7 Action 24-3/6, Dave Wild find out if Common Good Funds could be used as a source of finance.

The Common Good Funds principal function is to allow for the maintenance and repair of the Common Good assets. The funds can also be approached to provide funding to support activities and events which will benefit the inhabitants of the former Burghs.

The area of each common good fund is defined by Burgh maps from 1973 and only residents or organisations that live or operate within these areas can apply for common good funding. More details can be found at https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210560/your_council/12253/common_good_funds

Action complete.

New Action 24-4/2, John Hardy to look at the Common Good register and report to the next meeting

2.8 Action 24-3/7. Terry Page to circulate the link to OSCR guidance

Terry has still to circulate the guidance, The annual report for OSCR is due on 30th September. **Action continues.**

We have a pdf version of the previous annual report but not a Word version. Dave Quarendon will convert the pdf to a Word version. **Action 24-4/3.**

Action 24-4/4. John Hardy to progress the production of the annual report.

2.9 Action 24-3/8, Paul Ince to liaise with Dave Quarendon and John Hardy to set up a membership@elcv.org.uk email address that can be used for communicating with members. Action complete

2.10 Action 24-3/9 Dave Wild to speak to Jen Newcome to organise the biodiversity survey of North Berwick Law.

Jen is organising the survey. **Action complete**

3 Typha Collection.

Dave Wild to inform Terry Page of what has been organised for North Berwick Law and John Hardy to contact Anne Pearson and John Harrison about the arrangements for Aberlady. **Action 24-4/6**

4 Uses for the grant from Bailey Gifford

Kristian Purchase has put together a list of items he would like to purchase. This will be sent to John Hardy.

5 Spartina Grass at Tynninghame

Spraying is in progress with no involvement of ELCV.

6 Finance/Banking:

6.1 Current Balance: We have a balance of £10,213.08 of which £3,379.08 is uncommitted.

6.2 Transactions Since Last Meeting:

Expenditure: None

Income: None

Commitments: £834.00 for Plant survey at NB Law

£6,000.00 for Pencraig Path

John Hardy will speak to Anne Pearson about the quotation for tidying up the Pencraig Path.

Action 24-4/7

7 AOB:

- 7.1 **Information Boards:** Some information boards in the John Muir Country Park are becoming illegible. Dave Wild will speak to Tara Sykes to see if she has any plans to replace them. If this becomes a project John Hardy would lead for ELCV.

Valerie Brown will check the state of information boards on the Pencaitland Railway Walk and Dave Wild will speak to Richard English to see if he thinks they any work.

Action 24-4/8

- 7.2 **East Linton Group Meeting:** A meeting of community groups will be held in East Linton on 25th Aug. John Hardy will organise a display for ELCV. **Action 24-4/9.**

- 7.3 **AGM & Volly Jolly:** The Volly Jolly will be held on 26th October in Dirleton Village Hall. It is proposed that the Chair's AGM address is included in the main part of the programme. This will finish about 14:35 to be followed by a short AGM.

- 7.4 **Seasonal Ranger:** ELC has obtained funding for a seasonal ranger who will cover Meryl Norris's area for four months starting in August.

- 7.5 **Giant Hogweed:** Dave Quarendon reported that the Tyne was cleared of Giant Hogweed by 1st July and the Esk was close to having no flowering plants although there are a few areas of intense infestation, mainly on railway land. The National Biodiversity Network are putting on an exhibition in the Scottish Parliament and have asked for an exhibit on Giant Hogweed.

- 7.6 **North Berwick Law:** The paths on NB Law need upgrading. Laura Douglas has obtained a quote from a suitable firm to carry out a survey of the paths to determine what could be done. The firm has carried out similar work on Arthur's Seat. The cost for the survey will be £6.5k and Laura has been on touch with the North Berwick Trust to see if they would provide funding. However, she would like a ELCV member to champion the work and apply for the funding. Zoe Goldstone volunteered to champion the work. Dave Wild will pass Zoe's name to Laura. **Action 24-4/10**

- 7.7 **Core Path Improvement Projects:** Terry Page will ask the path wardens if they can suggest any projects (major maintenance or upgrades) for their paths and if they would be willing to take a lead on these in conjunction with the rangers and trustees. **Action 24-4/11.**

- 8 Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Fri 27 Sep 2024 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 2)

Meetings booked for the rest of the year are:

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

List of outstanding actions:

Actionee	Action	Number
Dave Wild	To keep the board informed about developments on the Volunteer Management System	24-3/1
Zoe Goldstone	To work with Nick Aitken to progress the Whitesands ramp project	24-3/2
Dave Quarendon	To progress the Pencraig Information Boards	24-3/3
John Hardy	To contact Gordon Patterson to discuss options for tree cell removal	24-3/5
Terry Page	To circulate the link to OSCR guidance	24-3/7
Dave Wild	to speak to Tara Sykes to see if she has any plans to replace the John Muir Country Park information boards	24-4/8
John Hardy	to look at the Common Good Register and report to the next meeting	24-4/2
Dave Quarendon	to convert the pdf version of last year's annual report to a Word version	24-4/3
John Hardy	to progress the production of the annual report.	24-4/4
Dave Wild & John Hardy	Dave Wild to inform Terry Page of what has been organised for North Berwick Law and John Hardy to contact Anne Pearson and John Harrison about the arrangements for Aberlady.	24/4-6
John Hardy	to speak to Anne Pearson about the quotation for tidying up the Pencraig Path.	24-4/7
Valerie Brown	to check the information boards on the Pencaitland Railway Walk and Dave Wild to speak to Richard English to see if he thinks they any work.	24-4/8
John Hardy	to organise a display for ELCV at the East Linton Community Group meeting	24-4/9
Dave Wild	to pass Zoe Goldstone's name to Laura Douglas as champion for upgrading the paths on North Berwick Law.	24-9/10
Terry Page	to ask the path wardens if they can suggest any projects (major maintenance or upgrades) on their paths and if they would be willing to take a lead on these in conjunction with the rangers and trustees.	24-4/11