

# ELCV Trustees Meeting Minutes

27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Venue: Saltire Room, John Muir House, Haddington

Time: 14:00

Those Present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Paul Ince, Valerie Brown, Terry Page (Secretary).

ELC: Dave Wild

Apologies for Absence: Dave Quarendon (Treasurer), Zoe Goldstone

**1. Welcome & Opening Remarks:** The Chair opened the meeting pointing out that although summer had passed there was still lots to do in the countryside. He noted that the meeting was not quorate so any significant decisions would have to be agreed by email.

**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:

Dave Wild was exploring the requirements of other council groups. He is currently contacting East Lothian Works. **Action continues.**

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

Three contractors have been contacted but only one, A. G. Thompson & Sons Ltd of Dunbar had replied. Nick Aitken is considering an alternative arrangement that would leave the existing ramp in place as a viewing platform and providing a new access ramp. **Action continues.**

**2.4 Action 24-3/3** Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencreig Information Boards

No progress, **Action Continues.**

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

Anne Pearson has found a Northumberland based firm, Tubex, who will recycle tree shelters (i.e. tree cells). [Secretary's note: from their web site it appears that they will provide collection bags and pick up full bags free of charge and they do actually recycle.] **Action completed.** Paul Ince will look at the possibility of removing the tree shelters that are at the north end of the Longniddry Railway Walk and send Dave Wild the exact location and estimate of the number involved. **Action 24/5-1.** It was noted that we would need landowner permission and this may be Railtrack or Scotrail property.

- 2.6 **Action 24-4/2**, John Hardy to look at the Common Good Register and report to the next meeting.

It looks as if Common Good Funds may be able to provide finance for the areas they cover. Jenny Hargreaves has been asked if this is possible. **Action continues.**

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

Terry reported that he had some difficulty locating the correct parts to circulate. **Action closed** [but see 2.9].

- 2.8 **Action 24-4/3**. Dave Quarendon will convert the pdf to a Word version. **Action Complete**

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

The report, the accounts and the Independent Inspectors Report have been submitted to OSCR. **Action complete.** In response to our annual report OSCR have pointed out that we do not have an induction process for new trustees. Terry will draft an induction document for Val Brown to review prior to circulating the other trustees for discussion. **Action 24/5-2**

- 2.10 **Action 24/4-6**. 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. Action closed.**

The Typha collection has been completed at North Berwick and was very successful although no one present knew the quantity collected. The material has been transferred to storage awaiting collection.

- 2.11 **Action 24/4.7** John Hardy to speak to Anne Pearson about the quotation for tidying up the Pencraig Path.

**Action complete.** Anne has received a quote from a contractor who would carry out the within the available funds but cannot carry out the work in the required timescale. Dave Wild said he could supply the details of an alternative contractor. **Action 24/5-3.** Alternatively, we could ask for an extension of the funding from the Area Partnership.

- 2.12 **Action 24/4-8 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.

Val has inspected the boards and discussed their state with Richard. One needs to be replaced and moved to stop it being used for air rifle target practice. The others need cleaning which Val will undertake. **Action complete.** Val noted that the path needs some serious drainage work to stop it flooding and the surface being washed away. [Secretary's note; Val has subsequently submitted this as a suggested path project].

- 2.13 **Action 24/4-9:** John Hardy to organise a display for ELCV at the East Linton Community Group meeting

**Action complete.** Dave Quarendon, Anne Person and John Hardy attended the meeting.

**2.14 Action 24/9-10:** John Hardy to pass Zoe Goldstone's name to Laura Douglas as champion for upgrading the paths on North Berwick Law.

**Action complete** and Zoe has reported by email that the application form for funding with North Berwick Trust for the path at the Law is under progress and submissions close on 2nd October so it will be in by then. She will update on this as and when we hear back about funding.

**2.15 24/4-11:** 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.

**Action complete** and several projects have been suggested, see section 5.

#### **4 Uses for the grant from Bailey Gifford**

Kristian Purchase has provided John Hardy with a list of tools he would like to buy for use by volunteers at Levenhall. John will circulate these to the trustees asking for approval. **Action 24/5-3.**

#### **5 Projects Suggested by Path Wardens:**

9 projects have been suggested by 5 different path wardens. 8 had been forwarded to Dave Wild; one was suggested at the meeting (see 2.12). Dave has discussed the first 8 with Nick Morgan (Access Officer) and he will visit one site with Nick. Dave will now discuss the project with the relevant rangers and provide a response. **Action 24/5-4.**

#### **6. Access from John Muir Park Car Park to Belhaven Beach.**

It has been deemed impracticable to stabilise the existing path for horse access so a new route is being devised that would be financed by the riding community. There is no need for ELCV involvement.

#### **7. Spartina Grass at Tynninghame.**

The grass has been sprayed twice and the contractor will return for a further spray. This is being financed by the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund. An attempt was made to vacuum up the seeds but this was unsuccessful but may be retried when the seeds are ready for dispersal.

#### **8 Finance/Banking:**

8.1 Current Balance: We have a balance of £10,248,28 of which £3414.28 is uncommitted.

8.2 Transactions Since Last Meeting:

Expenditure: £19.80 for the hire of the Star Room at the John Gray Centre for the Trustees' Meeting when the Saltire room was unavailable due to the general election.

Income: 6 donations from a corporate event totalling £55.00

John Hardy will arrange to thank the doners **Action 24/5-5**

Commitments: £834.00 for Plant survey at NB Law

£6,000.00 for Pencraig Path

John Hardy purchased a £12.00 bottle of wine to thank the Independent Inspector of our accounts and annual report to OSCR. Terry Page to circulate the trustees for approval to reimburse John. **Action 24/5-6**

**9 AOB:**

- 9.1 Dave Wild noted that half the places for the Volly Jolly had been booked.
- 9.2 Dave Wild stated that they were short of some volunteer tools, particularly secateurs for the path wardens and he would like a drain snake. Terry Page will circulate the path wardens to see if they have any requirements. Action 24/5-7 and Dave Wild will consult the rangers. Action 24/5-8

**10 Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Fri 29 Nov 2024 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 2)

**Meetings booked for the 2025 are:**

- Fri 31 Jan 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1 (R1060) JMH)
- Fri 4 Apr 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1 (R1060) JMH)
- Fri 16 May 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1 (R1060) JMH)
- Fri 18 Jul 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1 (R1060) JMH)
- Fri 19 Sep 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1 (R1060) JMH)
- Fri 21 Nov 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1 (R1060) JMH)

**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 Pencreig Information Boards	24-3/3
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
Paul Ince	to will look at the possibility of removing the tree shelters that are at the north end of the Longniddry Railway Walk and send Dave Wild the exact location and estimate of the number involved.	24/5-1
Terry Page	To draft an induction document for Val Brown to review and circulate to the other trustees.	24/5-2

<b>Actionee</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Number</b>
John Hardy	To circulate the list of tools Kristian Purchase would like us to finance for use by the volunteers at Levenhall.	24/5-3
Dave Wild	To discuss the path wardens' suggestions for path projects with the relevant rangers and provide a response.	24/5-4
John Hardy	to thank the donors from the corporate event	24/5-5
Terry Page	to circulate the trustees for approval to reimburse John Hardy for the purchase of a bottle of wine used to thank the Independent Inspector of the accounts and annual report submitted to OSCR	24/5-6
Terry Page	to circulate the path wardens to see if they have any requirements for tools	24/5-7
Dave Wild	to consult the rangers about any requirements for tools.	24/8-8