

# ELCV Trustees Meeting Minutes

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Venue: Saltire Room, John Muir House, Haddington. Time: 14:00

Those Present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Paul Bevan, Paul Ince, Valerie Brown, Terry Page (Secretary) Dave Quarendon (Treasurer), Harry Blackley.

ELC: Dave Wild

EL Climate Hub: Jo Gibb for items 1 & 2.

Observer: Gillian Harris

Apologies for Absence: Zoe Goldstone, Anne Pearson.

- 1. Welcome:** The Chair welcomed the attendees and explained that Gillian Harris had expressed an interest in becoming a trustee and had come to the meeting to see what the committee did. Ron Tuck, who had also expressed an interest in becoming a trustee will come to the July meeting. Jo Gibb had asked to give the trustees a short presentation on the Healthy Hedgerows project that the Climate Hub were initiating.
- 2. Presentation on the Healthy Hedgerows Project:** The East Lothian Climate Hub is a team of 3 working across East Lothian. It is one of 20 Hubs across Scotland funded by the Scottish Government. It is independent of the Scottish Government and able to act as a critical friend. Part of its work is on biodiversity and as part of this it is piloting the development of hedgerows and rivers as wildlife corridors across East Lothian. It is working with landowners to restore hedgerows as many are in poor condition. The poor condition is largely due to a loss of skills since World War II and hedgerow management not being a top priority for farmers. For the pilot they aim to work with 4 or 5 landowners doing some planting but mainly restoration. The first step is to survey the hedgerows. To facilitate this, they have held a workshop, lead by an expert who has developed a Healthy Hedgerow App. The idea is that, with the landowner's/farmer's permission, trained volunteers can use the app to record the state of a hedgerow.  
  
This will be followed up with a workshop lead by Ranger Kristian Purchase who will start teaching hedgerow laying to about 15 people and on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, there will be an identification workshop. The Hub is looking for volunteers to take part in these activities. Any call for volunteers will be carried out by Dave Wild as he has contact information for all ELC registered volunteers not just the EVLC members. Jo will send Dave Wild the details of the 29<sup>th</sup> May event.  
  
Paul Ince will act as liaison officer with the climate hub.
- 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Accepted as circulated. Proposed by Harry Blackley and seconded by Paul Bevan
- 4. Resignation:** Anne Pearson has resigned as a trustee but will continue to help with funding applications etc.

## 5. Actions from the Last Meeting:

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

The quotation has been extended for 6 months which will allow time for an application to be made to the Ian Findlay fund. The meeting noted that if that application was successful a further £3,000 would need to be raised elsewhere. **Action continues.**

Harry Blackley has found out that the Dunbar Community Wind Power Benefit Fund may be able to supply funding for the ramp and the replacement handrail on the JMW Cliff Top Trail off Gun Green.

**Action 25-2/1** Dave Wild to ask Tara Sykes to obtain a cost for the repair to the Cliff Top trail handrail and to ask Zoe Goldstone to contact Harry Blackley about funding.

### 5.2 Action 24-3/3 Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencraig Information Boards

No progress, **Action Continues.**

### 5.3 Action 24-4/8 Dave Wild to speak to Tara Sykes to see if she has any plans to replace the John Muir Country Park information boards.

Dave will ask Tara to get quotes for replacing 1, 2 & 3 boards. **Action Continues.**

**Action 25-1/2** Dave Wild will ask Tara to send the files to Dave Quarendon who will attempt to recover them. Osprey are able to reproduce the boards. **Action is Closed**

Dave Wild will speak to Richard English about replacement information boards on the Pencaitland Railway Walk. **Action 25/2-3**

### 5.4 Action 24/6-1 Paul Ince to report back on progress of removing old tree shelters from the north end of Longniddry Railway Walk. Paul has cleared the woodland area leaving the corporate area to be done. Some of the shelters may be useful to ranger Kristian. Paul will sort out the reusable ones, let Dave Wild know when this is complete and Dave will organise a pickup. **Action Continues.**

### 5.5 Action 24/6-2 John Hardy will add an introduction to the draft trustee induction document that will explain what the trustees are trying to do. **Action 24/6-2.**

A draft was circulated at the previous meeting. **Action Complete.** Dave Quarendon will publish the document on the web site. **Action 25/2-4**

### 5.9 Action 25/1-3 Terry Page will write to Jenny Hargreaves offering the container and Dave Quarendon will look out the historical documentation. **Action Complete** We are waiting for a reply from Jenny Hargreaves.

### 5.10 Action 25/1-4 Dave Wild to establish the council's view on installation of a memorial bench or alternative memorial at Levenhall links. **Action Continues**

### 5.11 Action 25/1-6 Paul Ince to consult Dave Quarendon on using the @evlc email addresses. **Action Complete.** Paul will circulate the highlights of the minutes and ask if members wish to continue receiving information.

### 5.12 Action 25/1-7 Dave Quarendon to register East Lothian Countryside Volunteers on the Benevity database. **Action Complete.**

### 5.13 Action 25/1-8. Dave Quarendon & Paul Ince to man a display at the Green Futures Festival. **Action Complete,** see item 8.2.

## 6 North Berwick Law Path Survey.

The survey is in progress. Dave Quarendon to speak to Zoe Goldstone to find out how we get the money from the North Berwick Trust to pay for it. **Action 25/2-5**

## 7 Seafield

Some trees have been planted. Grants, of up to £1,500, for more trees may be available from Enhanced Parks and Green Spaces (Scotland). John Hardy to check with Tara Sykes and, if she is agreeable, to apply for a grant for trees and chase up the extant application to the Tree International Foundation. **Action 25/2-6**

## 8 Financial Report

**9.1 Current Balance:** We have a balance of £3,63.29 of which £3,071.39 is uncommitted.

### 9.2 Transactions Since Last Meeting:

Expenditure:               £1,064.02 for Tools for Musselburgh and Path Wardens  
                                  £650.00 for North Berwick Law Survey  
                                  £1,958.00 for Pencraig Path work

Income:                     £498.80 for Typha collection  
                                  £552.00 from Friends of Musselburgh Links

Balance                     £3,623.39

Commitments:           £552.00 for spending on Musselburgh Links

Uncommitted balance: £3,071.39

**9.3 CO-OP:** The CO-OP has funds available for community benefit. Small amounts can be approved locally and quickly. Paul Ince will contact the CO-OP to find out how we can apply for funds. **Action 25/2-10.**

## 10 AOB:

**10.1** Ponda had asked if we could supply Typha (Read Mace) stems for a trial. This could not be done at this time of the year as it could interfere with nesting. However, we cut the stems at North Berwic Law every autumn and these could be made available. Dave Quarendon will ask Anne Pearson to contact Ponda to see if they would be interested in these. **Action 25/2-7.**

**10.2** John Hardy thanked Dave Quarendon and Paul Ince for attending The Green Futures Festival in Musselburgh on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Paul identified a need for new business cards that would include an email address and our charity number. He has drafted some and will send to Dave Wild for printing. **Action 25/2-8.** Dave Wild will look out the ELCV flag for use at such events. **Action 25/2-9.** Paul also suggested we could do with a bigger variety of photos. John Hardy will work to get more varied photographs of volunteer activities suitable for display **Action 25/2-11.**

**10.3 Path Warden Projects:** Dave Wild has spoken to Path Warden Alan Lauder about drainage on core path 191. There is an important data cable in that area which makes

major digging impracticable. The work on Becky's Strip has been programmed for September.

**10.4** Nick Aitken is contacting Anne Pearson about installing picnic tables in Trapain Law Car Park.

**11. Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Fri 16 May 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1 (R1060) JMH)

**Meetings booked for the 2025 are:**

- Fri 18 Jul 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1)
- Fri 19 Sep 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1)
- Fri 21 Nov 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1)

**List of outstanding actions:**

Actionee	Action	Number
Zoe Goldstone	to work with Nick Aitken to progress the Whitesands ramp project and approach Paths for All for funding.	24-3/2
Dave Quarendon	to progress the Pencraig Information Boards	24-3/3
Dave Wild	Dave Wild will ask Tara Sykes to specify what work is needed on the John Muir Country Park information boards with the objective of ELCV taking it on as a project. Dave will ask Tara to get quotes for replacing 1, 2 or 3 boards.	24-4/8
Paul Ince	to report back on progress of removing old tree shelters from the north end of Longniddry Railway Walk. Paul will sort out the reusable shelters, let Dave Wild know when this is complete and Dave will organise a pickup	24/6-1
Dave Wild	to establish the council's view on installation of a memorial bench at Levenhall links.	25/1-4
Dave Wild	to ask Tara Sykes to obtain a cost for the repair to the Cliff Top trail handrail and to ask Zoe Goldstone to contact Harry Blackley about funding.	25/2-1
Dave Wild	to Richard English about replacement information boards on the Pencaitland Railway Walk.	25/2-3
Dave Quarendon	to publish the trustee induction document on the web site.	25/2-4
Dave Quarendon	to speak to Zoe Goldstone to find out how we get the money from the North Berwick Trust to pay for the North Berwick Law Path survey	25/2-5

<b>Actionee</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Number</b>
John Hardy	John Hardy to check with Tara Sykes and, if she is agreeable, to apply for a grant for trees for the Seafield area from Enhanced Parks and Green Spaces (Scotland) and chase up the extant application to the Tree International Foundation.	25/2-6
Dave Quarendon	to ask Anne Pearson to contact Ponda to see if they would be interested in Read Mace (Typha) stems in the autumn.	25/2-7
Paul Ince	to send new business cards to Dave Wild for printing.	25/2-8
Dave Wild	to look out the ELCV flag	25/2-9
Paul Ince	to contact the CO-OP to find out how we can apply for funds.	25/2-10
John Hardy	to get more varied photographs of volunteer activities suitable for display	25/2-11