

ELCV Board Meeting Minutes

6th June 2025

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

Those Present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Terry Page (Secretary) Dave Quarendon (Treasurer), Harry Blackley.

ELC: Dave Wild

Apologies for Absence: Zoe Goldstone, Paul Bevan, Paul Ince, Valerie Brown.

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed the attendees and explained that although we were not quorate, he felt it was worth holding the meeting to get updates to monitor progress.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Harry Blackley, seconded by Dave Quarendon and agreed by the board.
3. **Matters Arising and Actions from the Minutes of the Last Meeting:**
 - 3.1 **Hedgerows:** There had been a good turnout for the Hedgerow Workshops. Survey work will be carried out in the near future but work that affects the hedgerows physically will not be carried out until after the nesting season.
 - 3.2 **Action 24-3/2:** Zoe Goldstone to work with Nick Aitken to progress the Whitesands ramp project and approach Paths for All for funding.

Zoe had sent in the following update: “For the Whitesands ramp we unfortunately cannot use the Paths for All funding. Their response last month was: “Unfortunately, the Ian Findlay Path Fund grant year ended 31st March and we are awaiting a decision on whether it will be continued for this current financial year. That said, any new monies will only be allocated to previously identified projects, and which were included within a pipeline proposal, so we would not be able to consider any support for your own project. Your project should be eligible under the [Scottish Landfill Communities Fund Object C](#) and you are within the required vicinity of a landfill site.”

I have therefore looked at the Scottish Landfill Communities funding options and it looks like we’d be eligible but you can’t apply through them, it needs to be through the companies they suggest. So next step is contacting those companies which I admittedly haven’t had a chance to go back to and complete yet.

Another option for funding is CWP Energy which Harry very helpfully put me in touch with and they sent application forms in April. Apologies I’ve not had the chance to look at them properly and fill them out but will get onto that soon and keep you all in the loop. Harry is CC’d into the emails so has a copy of the forms.”

During the meeting we followed the link to the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund but the local fund, The Valencia Communities Fund is closed to applications.

Harry reported that Be Green have asked if we are still interested in funding. Harry Blackley will contact Zoe Goldstone to see if she could use any assistance. He will keep Nick Aitken and Dave Wild informed. [secretary’s note, this is complete]. **Action continues.**

- 3.3 Action 24-3/3: Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencraig Information Boards**
No progress. This will be picked up after the Giant Hogweed season.
- 3.4. 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.**
Osprey are sending a quotation. **Action continues.** When the quote is available John Hardy will approach Anne Pearson for help in applying for a grant from the local area partnership.
- 3.5 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 will sort out the reusable shelters, let Dave Wild know when this is complete and Dave will organise a pickup**
Paul had emailed that this action was complete. **Action complete.**
- 3.6 Action 25-1/3 Terry Page will write to Jenny Hargreaves offering the container and Dave Quarendon will look out the historical documentation.**
This action was completed at the last meeting but we have not had a reply from Jenny Hargreaves. Dave Wild will chase this up.
- 3.7 Action 25-1/4: Dave Wild to establish the council’s view on installation of a memorial bench or alternative memorial at Levenhall links.**
The council are happy in principle with installing a bench and Kristian Purchase is obtaining quotations for both wood and metal benches. If there was not enough money for a bench, other installations would be considered. **Action continues.**
- 3.8 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.**
Awaiting quotations **Action continues.**
- 3.9 Action 25-2/3: Dave Wild to speak to Richard English about replacement information boards on the Pencaitland Railway Walk.**
Richard considers one board needs to be replaced and moved to avoid it being used for target practice. He is obtaining a quote with a view to approaching the area partnership for funding. **Action continues.**
- 3.10 Action 25-2/4. Dave Quarendon will publish the trustee induction document on the web site. Action complete.**
- 3.11 Action 25-2/5. 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**
Zoe had emailed that “We have not been invoiced for the NB Law path survey yet. I’m assuming that’s because McGowan’s have yet to write their final report and will invoice on completion of that. Once we receive the invoice, we’ll then drawn down on the funding from NB Trust.””
An initial map has been sent to Laura Douglas. **Action continues.**
- 3.12 Action 25-2/6. 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.**
There had been meeting but John had not heard any results. **Action Continues.**

3.13 Action 25-2/7. Dave Quarendon to ask Anne Pearson to contact Ponda to see if they would be interested in Reed Mace (Typha) stems in the autumn.

Action continues

3.14 Action 25-2/8. Paul Ince to send new business cards to Dave Wild for printing.

This **action is complete** but Dave has been advised that the EVLC logo could be considered to the East Lothian Council Countryside Logo under current ELC brand guidelines; the only difference is colour. After much discussion the board decided that they did not want to change the logo unless it was absolutely necessary. Dave Wild will consider getting a new format of business card that incorporates the features that Paul suggested using the current logo. **Action 25/3-1.** Dave Quarendon will send Dave Wild the artwork for the old logo. **Action 25/3-2.**

3.15 Action 25-2/9 Dave Wild to look out the ELCV flag.

The flag is available. **Action complete.**

3.16 Action 25-2/10 Paul Ince to contact the CO-OP to find out how to apply for funds.

Paul is waiting for a reply from the CO-OP. **Action continues.**

3.17 Action 25-2/11 John Hardy to get more varied photographs of volunteer activities suitable for display.

John has done this but the selection is quite limited. The Rangers Facebook page would be a good source of photos and Dave Quarendon will contact Laura Douglas to get a set of photos for displays. **Action 25-3/3.** Dave Wild will remind rangers to get before and after pictures of tasks for inclusion on the rangers Facebook page.

4. Financial Report

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

4.2 Transactions Since Last Meeting:

Expenditure:	None
Income:	None
Balance	£3,623.39
Commitments:	£552.00 for spending on Musselburgh Links
Uncommitted balance:	£3,071.39

5 AOB:

5.1 Dog Fouling Signs. Alan Lauder and Paul Ince have requested some signs to discourage dog walkers to clean up and bin dog poo. Dave Wild showed some drafts which the board agreed to.

5.2 Volly Jolly & AGM. The provisional date for the Volly Jolly and ELCV AGM is the 25th October in Port Seaton.

5.3 Beaches. All the council beaches have been given a Beach Award by Keep Scotland Beautiful, DW thanked volunteers for their contribution in keeping the sites and the coastline free of litter.

5.4 PPE for Giant Hogweed Removal: Dave Quarendon to discuss what PPE would be beneficial for members removing giant hogweed with James Wyllie. **Action 25-3/4**

5.5 Tesco Fund Raising. John Hardy will speak to Tesco about their community fund raising. **Action 25-3/5.**

5.6 Seasonal Ranger. A seasonal ranger, who will start once routine paperwork has been completed, has been recruited on a 4 month contract.

11. Date & Time of Next Meeting: Fri 18 Jul 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1)

Meetings booked for the rest of 2025 are:

- 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
Terry Page	to write to Jenny Hargreaves offering the Aberlady Hub container to the council.	25-1/3
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 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
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 contact the CO-OP to find out how to apply for funds.	25-2/10

Actionee	Action	Number
Dave Wild	to consider getting a new format for business cards that incorporates the features that Paul suggested.	25-3/1
Dave Quanderon	to will send Dave Wild the artwork for the old logo.	25-3/2
Dave Quanderon	to contact Laura Douglas to get a set of photos for displays.	25-3/3
Dave Quanderon	to discuss what PPE would be beneficial for members removing giant hogweed with James Wyllie.	25-3/4
John Hardy	to speak to Tesco about their community fund raising.	25-3/5