

ELCV Board Meeting Minutes

19th September 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, Paul Bevan, Ron Tuck.

ELC: Dave Wild

Visitor: Peter Quinn

Apologies for Absence: Zoe Goldstone, Paul Ince,

Welcome: The Chair welcomed the attendees. He noted that Valerie Brown had resigned as a trustee. He thanked Valerie for her contribution. He also expressed his thanks to Anne Pearson who has also resigned but will continue helping as a member.

The chair introduced Peter Quinn who had recently moved to the area. Peter has extensive experience in the environmental charity sector

1. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes were accepted as circulated.

2. **Matters Arising and Actions from the Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

3.1 **Action 24-3/3:** Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencaraig Information Boards

No progress.

3.2 **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.

The intention is to replace the board by the Skittery Burn that shows the birds present in the park. Osprey have estimated £1k for design and £1k for production; installation would be carried out by the ELC Countryside Department. Dave Wild will ask Tara to get a firm quote. **Action updated**

3.3 **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 would prefer not to have a bench as other benches in that area have been subjected to antisocial behaviour. The area ranger, Kristian Purchase, has suggested installing a plaque to remember the Friends of the Musselburgh Links, purchasing a trail camera to monitor wildlife and spend the remainder on trees. The board was satisfied with this idea and Dave Wild will ask Kristian for a costed proposal. Terry Page will inform Jason Rose from Friends of Musselburgh Links. (secretary's note; Jason has been informed) **Action updated.**

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

Two new notice boards are being funded by the Community council. Member Janet Gordon is assisting. **Action closed**

3.5 **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

An invoice is expected soon. **Action continues.**

- 3.6 **Action 25-4/2.** John Hardy will progress an application with the International Tree Foundation for trees at Seafield & 25/4-3 Dave Wild to check if the nature restoration money can be used for tree planting at Seafield and discuss with Tara Sykes.

Around £8k of funding is now available from Celebrant Scotland and the remaining cost can be covered by Nature Restoration Scotland. Volunteers may need to plant them. The actions now rest with ELC. **Actions closed.**

- 3.7 **Action 25/3-1.** Dave Wild to consider getting a new format for business cards that incorporates the features that Paul suggested.

The format is now agreed **Action completed.** Dave will investigate getting some printed. **Action 25-5/1**

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

Action superseded. Peter Quinn has a history of applying for and being awarded grants from the CO-OP. He will find out the dates for applications. **Action 25-5/2**

- 3.9 **Action-3/3.** Dave Quarendon will contact Laura Douglas to get a set of photos for displays.

Action complete.

- 3.10 **Action 25-4/1** John Hardy to convene a meeting with Zoe Goldstone, Harry Blackley, Nick Aitken and Tara Sykes to progress funding applications for the Whitesands ramp and Cliff Top Rail projects

The handrail may be funded by the Common Good Fund. Action now lies with ELC. The board noted that the lack of handrail was a significant safety issue.

An application has been submitted to BeGreen for funds for the Whitesands Ramp Project **Action Closed.**

- 3.11 **Action 25-4/4.** John Hardy will investigate the possibility of having a stall at Haddington Farmers Market and Terry Page will do the same for North Berwick Harbour Market.

Haddington Market would be free if we had our own pergola but they are booked up until December and we do not have a pergola. Terry has not found out about the North Berwick Market yet. The board decided that it would not be worth buying pergola. Harry Blackley has experience with another organisation having a stall at the Haddington Show and the board decided that would be more practicable and beneficial. **Action closed.**

- 3.12 **Action 25-4/5** Dave Wild to get a quote for two ELCV Feather Flags.

These would be to identify working parties. The price would be £130/flag but we would have to wait until October to get a design. Dave Wild will obtain a design. **Action Updated**

- 3.13 **Action 25-4/5** Paul Ince to circulate members to see if they have any suggestions for new projects.

Members have been circulated. The suggestions that have come back so far tend towards individual actions rather than infrastructure projects. As projects could impact on 3rd parties, e.g. landowners, they should be passed to Dave Wild for consideration prior to publishing. **Action complete.**

3.14 Action 25-4/7 Terry Page to circulate suggested amendments to the constitution.

Terry had circulated draft amendments to the constitution but now considers it is not necessary to amend it but board should approve new members. Approval of a list of new members will now be routine agenda item. **Action complete.**

4. Volly Jolly: The Volly Jolly will be held on 25th October at Chalmers Memorial Church Hall in Port Seaton. The programme, with the ELCV AGM the last item on the agenda, will be issued in about 10 days. The Chair hoped the trustees would be able to attend. In his annual report John Hardy will ask members if they would consider donating money to the charity by making a regular donation or giving to a Just Giving page.

5 Possible Funding from Sustrans. Sustrans can provide up to £25k of funding (called Love Your Network) available for community groups who want to help maintain the Sustrans Cycle Routes. This could be applicable to paths that are part of the Sustrans network. Dave Wild will establish which East Lothian paths are part of the cycle network. **Action 25-5/3.** Applications for funds must be made by February 2026. Note Sustrans are changing their name to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust.

6 Management of Volunteer List: Dave Wild has developed a survey for all countryside volunteers that, amongst other things, will ask if they wish to be members of ELCV. Recipients will have 3 weeks to respond. If they do not respond they will be taken off the volunteer list.

7. Annual Report to OSCR: This has been submitted. Terry Page is to purchase a present for the auditor. **Action 25-5/4.**

8. Financial Report. There have not been transactions since the last meeting. We are expecting about £1.5k from the tufa collection.

8.1 Current Balance: We have a balance of £3,623.39 of which £3,071.39 is uncommitted.

8.2 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

9 AOB:

9.1 Trustee Nomination: Peter Quinn was coopted as a trustee. He has considerable experience working in the environmental charity sector and has recently moved to East Lothian.

9.2 Volunteer Polo/Tee Shirts: Dave Wild asked if ELCV would fund the purchase of more polo or tee shirts that have previously been given to countryside volunteers for

use on activity days. The board did not consider them to be particularly popular and declined the request.

- 10. Date & Time of Next Meeting:** Fri 21st November 2025 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House (Saltire Room 1). This will be the last meeting of the year.

List of outstanding actions:

Actionee	Action	Number
Dave Quarendon	to progress the Pencraig Information Boards	24-3/3
Dave Wild	Dave Wild will ask Tara Sykes to get a firm quote for replacing the board by the Skittery Burn.	24-4/8
Dave Wild	Dave will ask Kristain Purchase for a firm proposal to provide a plaque, a trail camera and trees at Levenhall Links as a memorial to the Friends of Musselburgh Links.	25-1/4
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
Dave Wild	To obtain a design ELCV Feather Flags.	25-4/5
Dave Wild	To investigate printing new business cards.	25-5/1
Peter Quinn	To find out the dates for applications for grants from the CO-OP.	25-5/2
Dave Wild	To establish which East Lothian paths are part of the Sustrans Cycle Network.	25-5/3
Terry Page	To purchase a present for the auditor.	25-5/4