

ELCV Board Meeting Minutes

21th November 2025

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

Those Present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Terry Page (Secretary) Dave Quarendon (Treasurer), Paul Bevan, Ron Tuck, Paul Ince, Peter Quinn.

ELC: Dave Wild

Member: Joyce Stephens

Apologies for Absence: Harry Blackley, Zoe Goldstone.

- 1. Welcome:** The Chair opened the meeting welcoming Joyce Stephens who attended to see what the trustees did. [Note that the trustees elected at the AGM, except Zoe Goldstone, had held a short meeting after the AGM and reappointed the John Hardy as Chair, David Quarendon as Treasurer, Terry Page as Secretary and Paul Ince as Membership Secretary.]

Ron Tuck questioned whether it was sensible for all of the trustees to have to resign at the AGM and then stand for re-election. He said that in other organisations only a portion of the trustees would resign so the members would have to vote for, say, 4 trustee positions. The board thought this was an idea worth considering but, as it would require a change to the constitution, this should be considered at the July meeting and any proposal agreed at the September meeting for submitting to the AGM in October/November.

- 2 Minutes of the last meeting:** Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Ron Tuck and seconded by Paul Bevan and agreed unanimously.
- 3 New Members:** 3 new people, Peter Quinn, Kate Thomson, had applied to join since the last board meeting. The board endorsed their membership.
- 4 Matters Arising and Actions from the Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

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

We will try to get a grant from East Linton CO-OP for the interpretation boards (see action 25-5/2). Dave Quarendon will prepare a draft and send it to Dave Wild for comments from other council departments. **Action updated.**

- 4.2 Action 24-4/8:** Dave Wild will ask Tara Sykes to get a firm quote for replacing the information board by the Skittery Burn.

The board agreed to finance one or two boards up to a cost of £2,200. John Hardy will see if a grant could be obtained from the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund. If not, the money would be taken from ELCV using the money obtained from the sale of Typha. **Action updated**

- 4.3 Action 25-1/4:** Dave Wild to 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.

Kristian has developed some wording for the plaque and is considering types of trail cameras. **Action continues.**

- 4.4 **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
We still do not have an invoice. **Action continues.**
- 4.5 **Action 25-5/1.** Dave Wild to investigate printing new business cards.
Dave Wild distributed cards to those present. **Action complete.**
- 4.6 **Action 25-5/2** Peter Quinn to find out the dates for grant applications from the CO-OP.
The next window for applications will be in February or March. Peter said it is possible to get up to £1,500 from shoppers and that would be matched by the CO-OP. It is best to find the biggest CO-OP near the project. If the project is chosen by the CO-OP, we would then need some marketing to persuade the customers to vote for our project. We should discuss again at the January meeting. **Action complete.**
- 4.7 **Action 25-4/5** Dave Wild to get a quote for two ELCV Feather Flags.
Flags would cost £130 each. Dave Wild showed a design that could be modified to suit ELCV. He will circulate a draft that includes the words “Countryside Volunteers” and “We Care About the County” and using the colour scheme from the old business cards. **Action updated**
- 4.8 **Action 25-5/3** Dave Wild to establish which East Lothian paths are part of the Sustrans Cycle Network.
The paths that are on the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (Sustrans) network are at Levenhall and the Longniddry and Pencaitland Railway Paths. Dave Wild considers that code lockable wheelie bins containing litter pickers and bags plus some path warden tools would be beneficial and within the scope of what was on offer. Paul Ince and Dave Wild will cost an application. **Action updated.**
- 4.9 **Action 25-5/4** Terry Page to purchase a present for the auditor.
Action complete.
- 5 **Dunbar Handrail:** The handrail has been completed.
- 6 **Information Boards on Pencaitland Railway Walk:** Work is progressing on the boards. A further board situated at the Crossgate Hall Car Park also needs replacing. Dave Wild will obtain a quote to replace the board. **Action 25-6/1**
- 7 **Other Projects:**
- 7.1 **Reducing Wildlife Damage from Dogs.** On behalf of ELCV Ron Tuck had attended a meeting with Laura Douglas – Senior Ranger, Harry Blackley – ELCV, Emily Brunton – Seabird Centre and Kerrie Flockhart – Scottish Coastal Clean Up where this was discussed. The main emphasis was on producing leaflets and cards to educate dog owners. Laura Douglas will apply for funding through NatureScot and produce a proposal.
- 7.2 **North Berwick Law Path:** Peter Quinn had attended a meeting with East Lothian Council, Nature Scott, McGowan Group and Geoff Knight (an ELCV volunteer) to discuss McGowan’s report on the Law path. There is not enough stone on the Law to improve the path so they propose using stone from Markle Quarry. This would be bagged and helicoptered up the Law then laid by hand. Costs would be in the order of £400K. ELCV could be involved in a fund raising capacity. Peter suggested that it would be easier approaching donors if the council could ring fence a pot of money for the project. He has also suggested crowd funding as he previously raised £10ks quickly

on a similar project. He noted that the Law gets around 120,000 visits a year. McGowan will refine the report and produce a budget cost. ELC will raise a proposal.

- 7.3 Vegetation Survey Aberlady Bay:** A sheep grazing project has run at Aberlady Nature Reserve since 2007. The aim is to use grazing to improve biodiversity of flowering plants. The vegetation at 51 survey sites (both within and out with the grazing area) have been monitored annually. There are 10 current surveyors, all ELVC members under the direction of John Harrison

Graham Pettigrew has been analysing the 19 years of data and this analysis is at a stage where it would benefit from the input of a professional botanist before proceeding to publication. Graham says the survey team would benefit from a field session with Ben Averis where he discusses his approach to defining habitats and marker species.

Ben Averis is ideal for this task since he wrote one of the original reports describing habitats and potential survey sites at Aberlady.

Graham's proposal, which is still in discussion, is for:

1 day discussion of data analysis and conclusions - Ben Averis (with Graham Pettigrew and John Harrison in attendance) £350

0.5 day field trip to Aberlady reserve - Ben Averis (with current plant surveyors in attendance) £200

Total £550

The board wanted to know what the end product would be. Paul Ince will contact Graham to enquire. **Action 25-6/2**

- 7.4 Path from Tynninghame to Binning Woods:** Nick Morgan is considering resurfacing this path. The cost would be around £25K. John Hardy will work with Nick on this proposal. **Action 25-6/3**

- 8 Management of Volunteer List:** Dave Wild updated the response to the volunteer survey. He has received c.250 returns from the volunteer survey and there are 50 yet to be determined. They will be contacted before the exercise is finished. Dave hopes to produce a revised volunteer and ELCV membership lists by Christmas.

ELC are still looking at Volunteer Management Systems. There is a free app called Spond, designed for management of sports teams, that has all the required functionality. Dave Wild is developing the options.

- 8. Financial Report.** There have not been any transactions since the last meeting. We are still expecting about £1.5k from the Typha 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

- 10. Date & Time of 2026 Meeting:** Trustees think that Friday afternoons are an inconvenient time for some people. Volunteer activities are frequently arranged for

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays so Monday afternoons would be the preferred time. Dave Wild will look at room bookings for the 3rd Monday of the month.

Joyce Stephens indicated her agreement to attend the next meeting in January with a view to becoming a Trustee at some time in the future.

List of outstanding actions:

Actionee	Action	Number
Dave Quarendon	Dave Quarendon will prepare a draft and send it to Dave Wild for comments from other council departments.	24-3/3
Dave Wild John Hardy.	Dave Wild will ask Tara Sykes to proceed with the replacement of the information board at the Skittery Burn provide the cost does not exceed £2,200. John Hardy to approach the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund to finance.	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 circulate a draft design for ELCV Feather Flags that includes the words “Countryside Volunteers” and “We Care About the County” and using the colour scheme from the old business cards.	25-4/5
Dave Wild & Paul Ince	To cost an application to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (Sustrans) for code lockable wheelie bins, litter pickers and some path warden tools.	25-5/3
Dave Wild	To obtain a quote to replace the PRW Crossgate Hall Car Park information board	25-6/1
Paul Ince	To contact Graham to enquire what would be the end product of the proposal to hire Ben Averis to advise on the Aberlady Vegetation Survey.	25-6/2
John Hardy	To work with Nick Morgan on the proposal to resurface the path from Tynninghame to Binning Woods.	25-6/3