

ELCV Board Meeting Minutes

19 Jan 2026

Venue: Meeting Room 23 John Muir House, Haddington. Time: 14:00

Those Present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Dave Quarendon (Treasurer), Harry Blackley, Paul Bevan, Paul Ince, Peter Quinn, Ron Tuck.

ELC: Dave Wild

Members: Joyce Stephens, Anne Pearson

Apologies for Absence: Terry Page (Secretary), so DaveQ is taking the minutes

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed the attendees

We are concerned about Zoe Goldstone, as we have been unable to contact her recently. JohnH and DaveQ to pursue. New **Action 26-1/1**

2 **Minutes of the last meeting:** It was pointed out that “New Members: 3 new people, Peter Quinn, Kate Thomson, had applied to join” should read “...2 new people...”. With this correction the board unanimously approved the minutes.

3 **New Members:** 2 new people, Ruth Ellis, Cameron Wynne, had applied to join since the last board meeting. The board endorsed their membership.

NB: Cameron Wynne also becomes a new part-time ranger, to share duties with Meryl Norris

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

4.1 **Action 24-3/3:** Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencraig North Interpretation Boards

Draft design & plan was sent to all interested parties.

No Coop funding is currently available.

Dave Quarendon to pursue design with Tara Sykes and Laura Douglas, and funding with Peter Quinn and Anne Pearson **Action updated.**

Dave Quarendon reported that the Pencraig South interpretation board has disappeared. Anne Pearson will take up with Dunpender Community Council. Consider pursuing the North and South boards as a joint project.

Anne Pearson noted that Lisa Douglas (lisa@creativelink.tv) in Haddington is a potential board designer alternative to Heather Christie.

The pros and cons of using QR codes on information boards was discussed, to point at information on websites (especially ELC Ranger pages, now easier to update) instead of actually displaying the info. This would reduce the size and therefore cost of boards. But would be significantly less engaging for the public. There is also a small danger of scamming. We should consider their use on a case-by-case basis.

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.

[NB: Skittery is a local name, the name on maps is Hedderwick Burn]

No notable progress. **Action continues**

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

No notable progress **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

Invoice has been received. But payment should wait until the final version of the report is provided (to be confirmed by Laura Douglas). **Action continues.**

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

Time has been allocated in February to finalise the design. **Action updated**

4.8 Action 25-5/3 Which East Lothian paths are part of the Sustrans Cycle Network?

This action has morphed into a proposal to acquire maintenance equipment for several paths. Funding application downloaded. **Action updated.**

4.9 Action 25-6/1 Information Boards on Pencaitland Railway Walk:

Discussions between the council and the landowner continue. **Action continues**

4.10 Action 25-6/2 Aberlady Vegetation Survey and Field Trip with plant surveyors

There are 3 end-products: a paper for the Glasgow Naturalist, likely to be useful for John Harrison, and Volunteer Training. There was discussion about the value/relevance to ELCV of the survey, but undoubted the value to the attending volunteers. Due to past experience, it is important to ensure the consultant delivers in a timely fashion. The funding for £550 was approved (by 5 votes for, to 2 against)

4.11 Action 25-6/3 Resurface Path between Tynninghame & Binning Woods

John Hardy continues to work with Nick Morgan on this proposal. We await official notice, but we have received funding from Brown Forbes for the surfacing. **Action continues**

5 Other Projects:

5.1 New Projects. We do not need any new projects, the ones currently in progress are enough

5.2 Whitesands Ramp

Proposal is with NatureScot (previously SNH) for approval, as it is an SSSI. Dave Wild is pursuing approvals. John H to accept the £10k grant funding, as the deadline is next Monday (26 Feb), despite consent and planning not yet agreed. If not obtained, the monies could simply be returned. New **Action 26-1/2**

5.3 Reducing Wildlife Damage from Dogs. Discussions and producing leaflets and cards to educate dog owners are on-going. Laura Douglas has applied for £2k to produce a video.

5.4 North Berwick Law Path: Discussions on-going.

5.6 Management of Volunteer List: This is now completed by Dave Wild. Many obsolete names have been removed, and the list now has 250 active volunteers, of which 210 are ELCV members.

AOB

A1 Dave Wild to distribute new business cards to Rangers to give to volunteers who want them. New **Action 26-1/3.**

A2 Peter Quinn agreed to be a funding coordinator. [NB: Zoe also has that role]

A3 Joyce Stephens was co-opted as a new trustee, proposed by Dave Quarendon, seconded by Ron Tuck. [DaveQ note: Her name & image has since been added to our [website trustees page](#), as have other missing images]

A4 Cleaning Information Boards

Information boards are sometimes dirty, and rangers do clean them. But volunteers could also do this. Dave Wild to find out what cleaning products are/are not acceptable (new **Action 26-1/4**)

A5 Giant Hogweed (GH)

There was an article about GH in the Courier recently.

New GH spotters are needed. Dave Wild will send out a suitable email to all volunteers (new **Action 26-1/5**). Dave Quarendon to ensure a similar call-out is included in the next MIYE (new **Action 26-1/6**)

- A7 The issue of swans being killed by dogs at West Barns pond was raised, including the lack of warning notices, and the effectiveness of them
- A8 Our annual OSCAR report for 2025 can now be progressed, by John H and Dave Q. New **Action 26-1/7**

8. Financial Report.

The balance sheets for 2025 and 2026 had previously been emailed, and were distributed at the meeting. NB: Some year numbers were (obviously) incorrect, as they had not been updated by 1 year

- 8.1 **Current Balance:** We had a balance of £5,185.39 of which £4,633.39 was uncommitted. With today's decision to allocate £550 for the Aberlady Vegetation Survey, the uncommitted balance is now £4,083.39

8.2 Transactions Since Last Meeting (including today's decisions)

Since the last meeting we have received payment for the Typha collection.

Expenditure:	None
Income:	£1,580.00
Balance	£5,185.39
Commitments:	£552.00 for spending on Musselburgh Links area £560.00 for Aberlady Vegetation Survey (approved today)
Uncommitted balance	£4,083.39

8.3 Core Funding

Peter Quinn suggested our uncommitted funds level was quite low. If it were higher we could fund more projects. And provide seed funding for projects, and apply elsewhere for match funding, extending the range of possible funders. Grants can be obtained for such 'core funding', eg £5k annually, even possibly from ELC. Peter Quinn to explore this (new **Action 26-1/8**).

ELC are considering a tourist tax. Such income would likely be ring-fenced for 'tourism' related activity. John Hardy & Peter Quinn to pursue getting a regular annual donation from those receipts (new **Action 26-1/9**)

9. Date & Time of next meeting:

Monday 16/03/2026 at John Muir House, Meeting Room 23, First Floor

List of Outstanding Actions:

Actionee	Action	Number
Dave Quarendon Peter Quinn	Dave Quarendon to pursue Pencraig North and South interpretation boards design with ELC, and funding with Peter Quinn & Anne Pearson.	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 (officially Hedderwick) Burn provide the cost does not exceed £2,200. John Hardy proposed we fund using the Typha collection money from Ponda	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	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, or contact them directly.	25-2/5
Dave Wild	Finalise design for ELCV Feather Flags	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	Tell Graham funding for the Aberlady Vegetation Survey and surveyors field trip is approved	25-6/2
John Hardy	Work with Nick Morgan on the proposal to resurface the path from Tynningame to Binning Woods	25-6/3
John Hardy	To accept Whitesands Ramp grant (with caveats)	26-1/1
John Hardy Dave Quarendon	To pursue trying to contact Zoe Goldstone	26-1/2
Dave Wild	to distribute new business cards to Rangers to give to volunteers who want them	26-1/3
Dave Wild	To find out what cleaning products for outdoors boards are/are not acceptable	26-1/4
Dave Wild	Email a call-out to all volunteers for new hogweed spotters	26-1/5
Dave Quarendon	Get a call-out for new hogweed spotters into MIYE	26-1/6
Dave Quarendon John Hardy	Prepare & submit annual OSCR report for 2025	26-1/7
Peter Quinn	Explore ELCV core funding possibilities	26-1/8
Peter Quinn John Hardy	Pursue getting agreement of a regular annual donation from the potential Tourist Tax income	26-1/9