

East Lothian Countryside Volunteers Annual General meeting 2025

Date: 25th October 2025

Venue: Chalmers Memorial Church Hall Port Seton

Those present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), David Quarendon (Treasurer), Terry Page (Secretary), Harry Blackley, Paul Bevan, Peter Quinn, Ron Tuck, Paul Ince (membership secretary).

Members: Liz Curtis, Jane Baillie, Heather Bancroft, Ian Bankroft, Jenny Kalorkoti, Eric McDonald, Louise Hardy, Margot Morton, Ken Tippen, J Newcombe, David Habgood, Neil Waterman, Andy Coulson, Neil Mitchell, Chris Gunstone, Morag Cook, Jane Campbell, Maggie Allan, Joyce Stephens, Colin Morrison, Fiona McGibbon, Anne Pearson, Jeanette de Mullet.

Total membership attending, 31

ELC: Dave Wild.

Apologies for Absence: Zoe Goldstone (Trustee)

1. Opening Remarks

John Hardy (Chair) opened the meeting and thanked all those attending.

Annual Report

John Hardy gave the annual report. The annual report is attached to these minutes.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Ron Tuck and seconded by Anne Pearson. The motion was carried unopposed.

3. Treasurers Report.

Copies of the audited accounts for the calendar year 2024 and subsequent transactions were distributed. A copy of the sheet is attached to these minutes. The major expenditures were £6,000 for the path at Pencraig and £800 for a biodiversity survey at North Berwick Law.

The charity was set up so it could access money that that was not available to the council. This year we expect to receive approximately £1,600 from Typha collection and have received £550 from the Friends of Musselburgh Links who, having achieved their objectives, have wound up their organisation passing us their remaining cash. This will be used to enhance the Musselburgh Links area. We have received £100 of personal donations from participants of a task day organised by Ranger Kristian Purchase and, as mentioned in the Chairman's report, have been granted just over

£10,000 from the BeGreen Community Wind Power fund for the Whitesands access ramp. The Treasurer thanked the Trustees and Anne Pearson for their fund raising efforts.

Election of Trustees.

The existing trustees all stood down and were proposed, seconded and re-elected. The trustees will appoint the officers at the next Board Meeting.

The Chairman stated that we need more trustees and we would particularly like some female trustees as we currently only have one. He invited anyone who is interested could come to a trustees meeting to see how things worked.

5. Any Other Business

David Wild is surveying and updating the list of Council Volunteers and the ELCV membership list. Once this is complete the Membership Secretary will circulate summary's of Board Meetings to the membership.

Terry Page
Secretary

East Lothian Countryside Volunteers Charity. Annual General Meeting 25th of October 2025

Annual report from Chair

Of our present trustees, Val Brown has recently resigned for personal reasons. Thank you to Val for her 2 years of very constructive service.

I'm pleased to report that both Ron Tuck and Peter Quinn have joined the trustees and they have considerable experience in administration, education, the countryside and construction projects thank you very much for joining us during the year. We do need trustees (more trustees) to identify and take on tasks that are within our scope. Our loyal and faithful secretary Terry Page will have to resign this time next year so there will be opportunity for a new secretary to take over this vital role thanks to Terry and indeed to all of the other trustees.

At the start of the year following the completion of the fence adjacent to the footpath from East Linton railway station towards Pencraig Hill, the final touches to the adjacent stone wall were completed (using a grant from the Area Partnership given to our Charity and this was the finish of this major Project. I would like to acknowledge the role that Anne Pearson has played in that major project, which is now more suitably landscaped and, although she is no longer a trustee, Anne also helped to refine the application for the concrete ramp at Whitesands Bay which was mentioned earlier. This ramp will enable access for sea and beach users and prevent some of the erosion which is inevitably happening along the sandy stretches of the coast. Those areas immediately adjacent to car parks are particularly vulnerable to erosion from use by the public.

An ecological survey of North Berwick Marsh was completed using our charity funds. The results are soon to be published to aid the management of this sensitive habitat.

In the autumn volunteers collected a large amount of reed mace seed heads (typha) which was quickly transported to the depot in Macmerry and delivered in very good condition to the headquarters of the Ponda company where it will be used for insulation filling in outdoor garments. This collection has added approximately £1,500 to the charity funds and thanks to the Rangers and volunteers who collected this from the site at North Berwick Marsh and Aberlady National nature reserve.

The renovation of the access path from the base up to the summit of North Berwick law will be a major project involving spending much time and effort involving probable closure of sections of the path at various times and demand hundreds of thousands of pounds. In order to carry this out we expect that our charity will be involved but of course leveraging in funds for this massive project will demand joining together with other local and national organizations. We are pleased that the survey supported by ELCV Charity has provided food for thought and hopefully action soon.

The incipient joint venture to encourage responsible dog ownership and promote nature and dogs coexisting is also a major project. While some of our volunteers will, I hope, become involved with organizing some of the events and training involved, our Charity will hope to promote East Lothian and its remarkable and accessible countryside. This project is part of the ambitious "Muir to Forth" project involving a very large swathe of land from the Lammermuir Hills to the Tyne estuary and we are keen to support the project.

In order to move forward with these projects, it is essential that we have a strong team of Trustees.

Since the last AGM two new trustees have been added to our board. Ron Tuck has already shown logical and systematic sense and his large experience in International Development will be most useful to us. Peter Quinn has recently settled in our area and brings a vast amount of experience from previous projects with the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust as well as in conservation and landscape construction. They are very welcome. However, we need to encourage a better gender balance and would welcome any ladies who wished to come to a trustees meeting to see what was involved.

ELCV AGM 2024 Accounts

24 October 2025 16:57

ELCV Transactions 2024

Date	Incomings	Income	Outgoings	Payment	Balance
01/01/2024	(Opening balance)				£9,185.86
25/01/2024			Richard Gill (room hire)	£19.60	£9,166.26
26/01/2024	BAS DE WOLF (Benchmark Animal Health donation)	£121.60			£9,307.46
05/02/2024	Duncan FW (Typha)	£564.00			£9,871.46
08/02/2024	832225 (Community Rail Partnership 4 Pencraig Path)	£500.00			£10,371.46
03/04/2024			J Hardy for QMU display material	£30.50	
02/04/2024			ELC for Aberlady equipment	£108.28	
07/08/2024			ELC for meeting room hire	£19.80	
05/09/2024	Donation from Isobel	£10.00			
06/09/2024	Donation from L W	£5.00			
06/09/2024	Donation from E W	£5.00			
09/09/2024	Donation from David	£20.00			
09/09/2024	Donation from S R	£10.00			
09/09/2024	Donation from J F	£5.00			
28/11/2024	Donation from ESR	£50.00			
02/12/2024			Pencraig Path (partial)	£4,041.67	
21/12/2024			Thankyou gift to accounts examiner	£12.00	
Totals for year		£1,290.60		£4,231.85	£6,244.61
	Donations total	£226.60	Unrestricted total	£190.18	
			Commitments		£6,244.61
			Plant survey at NB Law	£834.00	£5,410.61
			Swans floating island at Levenhall	£300.00	£5,110.61
			Pencraig Path	£1,958.33	£3,152.28
			Notional Balance	£3,092.33	£3,152.28

ELCV Transactions 2025

Date	Incomings	Income	Outgoings	Payment	Balance
01/01/2024	(Opening balance)				£6,244.61
30/01/2025	Typha collection	£498.80			£6,743.41
03/02/2025			Tools for Musselburgh	£1,064.02	£5,180.59
21/02/2025	Donation: Friends of Musselburgh Links	£552.00			£6,796.61
13/03/2025			Averis: NBERwick Plant Survey	£650.00	£5,594.61
13/03/2025			R French: Pencraig Path	£1,958.00	£4,286.61
tbd	Typha collection expecting £1,580				
Total		£1,050.80		£3,672.02	£3,623.39
			Commitments	Payment	Balance
			(Actual Balance)		£3,623.39
			Musselburgh Links	£552.00	£3,071.39
			Notional Balance	£552.00	£3,071.39