

ELCV Board Meeting Minutes

20th July 2026

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

Those present:

Trustees: John Hardy (Chair), Terry Page (Secretary) Dave Quarendon (Treasurer), Paul Ince (Membership Secretary), Harry Blackley, Peter Quinn, Joyce Stephens, Ron Tuck.

ELC: Meryl Norris,

Apologies for Absence: Dave Wild (ELC).

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed those attending and particularly Meryl Norris who was representing Dave Wild.

2. **Minutes of the 18^h May 2026 Meeting:** Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Paul Ince, seconded by Harry Blackley and agreed by the board.

3. **Trustee Items:**

3.1 Action 23-3/11 John Hardy to write Zoe Goldstone a letter to see if she wants to resign or remain a trustee.

Zoe has been in touch with John and stated that she wishes to remain a trustee. Action Complete.

3.1 **Fund Raising and Possible Employment of a Project Manager.**

Action 26-3/3 Dave Wild will facilitate informal discussions within ELC involving Peter Quinn, Dave Quarendon and any other trustees who would like to be involved. The meeting has taken place. The conclusion was that the board would need to see the list of projects currently being assembled by Dave Wild before we could assess the need for additional resource. If required this could be an employee directly employed by ELCV or employed by ELC with ELCV but financed by ELCV or contractors. The full board endorsed that decision. Action complete. The item would be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The list should be ready in September so the board would review the situation then.

ELC are consulting on the imposition of a visitor levy. Money raised, possibly £2m/y would have to be used to improve the visitor experience and/or reduce the impact of visitors. This could include enhancing environmental infrastructure. Peter Quinn suggested that we should write to the council suggesting that EVLC should be allocated a proportion of the money raised. The board agreed and John Hardy and Peter Quinn will send the letter. **Action 26-4/1**

The Chairman thanked Peter Quinn for obtaining a grant of £3,000 from the Hugh Fraser Foundation. The money is to be used towards tools and other equipment for countryside conservation and maintenance. Peter will send them a letter next year explaining what we have used the money for.

5 **Approval of New Members:** 9 new members had applied to join since the last meeting. They are: Andy Anderson, Mohamed Mahil Ahmed (aka Coco), Sadie Potter, Nic Odling, Cecile Starsmeare, Felicity Arthur, Gemma Porter, Julie Thouy Pam Kennedy. The board approved their membership.

- 6 **Annual Report:** Action 26-2/5 John Hardy & Dave Quarendon to prepare and submit the annual OSCT report for 2025.

The annual report and accounts have been completed and approved by all trustees except Zoe. Once Zoe has approved the documents they will be submitted to the auditor. Action continues.

Projects.

- 7 **Pencraig North Interpretation Boards:** Action 24-3/3: Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencraig North Interpretation Boards design with ELC and funding with Peter Quinn & Anne Pearson. Action continues.

Action 26-3/4: Dave Wild to progress the reinstatement of the south facing interpretation board at Pencraig. This should be in progress Action continues.

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

Tara is investigating refurbishing the existing board. Action continues.

- 9 **Spending funds from Friends of Levenhall Links:** Action 26/2-4 Dave Wild to ask Kristian Purchase to purchase the plaques and arrange for the bench installation and purchase the binoculars

The plaques are being ordered. Action continues

- 10 **North Berwick Law Path & Survey:** Action 25/2-5 Dave Quarendon to get the invoice for the North Berwick Law path survey redirected to the North Berwick Trust

The action is complete and the invoice has been paid.

- 11 **Whitesands Ramp.** Action 26-3/5. Dave Wild to ask Nick Aitken if he had had any updates from NatureScot.

NatureScot will not change their mind. Action complete

- 12 **Reducing Wildlife Damage from Dogs.** John Hardy has given out dog behaviour postcards at a dog day in Dunbar and some trustees were given post cards to distribute to suitable venues, e.g. vets and pet shops. When trustees give out postcards, they should let the local ranger and Dave Wild know. The extent of volunteer involvement in this work will be discussed at the next meeting.

- 13 **Information Boards on Pencaitland Railway Walk:** Action 25-6/1: Dave Wild will obtain a quote to replace the information board situated at the Crossgatehall Car Park. Action continues

Richard English is looking for some help to develop new boards. Joyce Stephens will speak to Richard. **Action 26-4/2**

- 14.1 **Step Replacement on the John Muir Way at Winterfield:** Action 26-3/6 John Hardy will speak to Nick Morgan and approach BeGreen about financing.

BeGreen have said that the proposal, installing concrete steps, is too expensive for them. Action complete. John Hardy will discuss alternatives with Nick Morgan and Dave Wild. **Action 26-4/3**

- 14.2 **North Berwick Coastal Path:** Action 26-3/7 John Hardy to contact Brett Walker to see what support he requires for the North Berwick Coastal Path extension. Brett

Walker is still waiting to hear from the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund. Action continues.

- 14.3 **Path from Tynninghame Towards Binning Woods:** Action 25-6/3 John Hardy to work with Nick Morgan on the proposal to resurface the path from Tynninghame to Binning Woods and to inform the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund of the work timing and/or approach BeGreen to see if they would consider funding the project.

There are two parts to the path. A short section in the village has got finance from the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund via ELCV and the work will happen after the nesting season. Nick Morgan will speak to the landowner about extending the path to meet the existing path from Binning Woods. John Hardy has asked BeGreen if they would finance the work but they have said it is outside their area so they would not offer finance. Action complete.

8. Financial Report.

Transactions Since Last Meeting: There have not been any transactions since the last meeting.

Expenditure:	None
Income:	£3,000 from Hugh Fraser Foundation
Balance	£8,185.39
Commitments:	£552.00 for spending on Musselburgh Links £550.00 for Aberlady Vegetation Survey
Uncommitted balance:	£7083.39

9 Any Other Business:

Hedgerow Survey: John Hardy has spoken to Jo Gibb of the East Lothian Climate Hub. She is coming to the Volly Jolly to describe the Hedgerow Survey, ask for volunteers and explore links with ELCV. John will reply to Jo saying we are keen to cooperate. **Action 26-4/4**

Meryl Norris will ask Dave Wild to provide the date of the Volly Jolly. **Action 26-4/5**

Aberlady Vegetation Report: Graham Pettigrew's report and plant identification guide has been circulated. A paper will be produced for publication.

North Berwick Marsh Biodiversity Report: This was produced over a year ago but we have still not seen the report. Meryl Norris will ask Laura Douglas what has happened to the report. **Action 26-4/6**

Seafeld Pond: Harry Blackley asked if the signage asking dog owners to keep their dogs under control could be improved to try to avoid dogs killing waterfowl as had happened in previous years. There was one suitable sign in the area but more are needed. Meryl Norris will ask Tara Sykes to get a quote for additional suitable signs. **Action 26-4/7**

Dunbear Park Development: Harry Blackley noted that site work had started in the field next to Asda while many skylarks were nesting in the field.

Purchase of Litter Cart: The board noted that the trustees had agreed by email to fund the purchase of a foldable litter cart for use by a path warden who has a physical impairment. [secretary's note the cost is around £104 but does vary so will depend on the price on the day of purchase]

- 10. Date & Time of 2026 Meeting:** Monday 21st September at 14:00 to 16:00 John Muir House, Saltire Room 2.

List of outstanding actions:

Actionee	Action	Number
Dave Quarendon	Dave Quarendon to progress the Pencraig North Interpretation Boards design with ELC and funding with Peter Quinn & Anne Pearson	24-3/3
Dave Wild	Dave Wild will ask Tara Sykes to get a firm quote for replacing or refurbishing the Hedderwick Burn information board.	24-4/8
Dave Wild	To obtain a quote to replace the PRW Crossgate Hall Car Park information board	25-6/1
John Hardy Dave Quarendon	To prepare and submit the annual OSCR report for 2025.	26-2/5
Dave Wild	Dave Wild to ask Kristian Purchase to purchase the plaques and arrange for the bench installation and purchase the binoculars	26-2/4
Dave Wild	To provide feedback on projects suggested by members and rangers to the suggesters and the board.	26-3/2
Dave Wild	To progress the reinstatement of the south facing interpretation board at Pencraig.	26-3/4
John Hardy	To contact Brett Walker to see what support he requires for the North Berwick Coastal Path extension.	26-3/7
John Hardy & Peter Quinn	To write to ELC suggesting that ELCV are allocated a portion of any visitor levy revenues.	26-4/1
Joyce Stephens	To speak to Richard English to assist in developing information boards for the Pencaitland Railway Walk.	26-4/2
John Hardy	To discuss alternative funding sources or solutions to replace the Winterfield Steps.	26-4/3
John Hardy	To reply to Jo Gibb of the East Lothian Climate Hub to say we are keen to cooperate.	26-4/4
Meryl Norris	To ask Dave Wild to provide the date of the Volly Jolly	26-4/5
Meryl Norris	To ask Laura Douglas what has happened to the North Berwick Law Marsh Biodiversity Report.	26-4/6
Meryl Norris	To ask Tara Sykes to get a quote for addition suitable dog control signs at Seafeld Pond.	26-4/7