

ELCV Board Meeting Minutes

21st September 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), Peter Quinn, Joyce Stephens.

ELC: Dave Wild, Laura Douglas,

Apologies for Absence: Ron Tuck, Harry Blackley.

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed those attending.
2. **Minutes of the 20th July 2026 Meeting:** The minutes were accepted as circulated.

Trustee Items:

3. **Approval of New Members:** 9 new members have applied to join since the last meeting. They are, Andy Peat, Nico Ferguson, Scott McClure, Elizabeth Hawkins, Lucy Hyde, Ross Gordon, Kim Nicolas, Judith Murphy and Arthur Dobson. The board approved their membership.

ELC currently have 290 volunteers. Some of these volunteer through their work for one or two days a year.

4. **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 submitted to OSCR and accepted by OSCR. Action complete. The board approved the payment of £18.50 for a thank you gift to the auditor. Action complete.

5. **Letter to ELC re use of funds raised by the potential tourist tax and Peter Quinn to report on the visitor levy consultation meeting.** Action 26-4/1. Peter Quinn & John Hardy to write to ELC suggesting that ELCV are allocated a portion of any visitor levy revenues. The letter was sent and Peter attended a meeting with the council and consultees. The notes from the meeting and the associated documents had been previously circulated. He noted that most people were against the visitor levy as they did not trust the council to spend the money correctly. Edinburgh was the only council to have introduced a scheme and they were having problems collecting the levy. Around a third of councils have already decided not to introduce a scheme. 2 councils that have decided to introduce a scheme have allocated 20% of the funds raised to providing affordable housing. The meeting had agreed that any funds raised should be spent on improving visitor experience, e.g. improving access and increasing biodiversity. Action complete.

We will wait the council's response to the consultation.

6. **Volly Jolly:** Action 26-4/5 Meryl Norris will ask Dave Wild to provide the date of the Volly Jolly. The Volly Jolly will be at West Barns Bowling Club on 25th October. Action complete.

Projects.

- 7 **List of Potential Projects and How to Resource Project Preparation.** Action 26-3/2: Dave Wild to provide feedback on projects suggested by members and rangers to the suggesters and the board.

Dave Wild is still developing the list of projects including some suggested by ELCV members. These include 9 for improved access, 7 for increased biodiversity and 1 infrastructure one, a car park. Some of these can be handled in the existing system. Dave will respond to the suggesters. He noted that ELC are interviewing for two 1 year posts. One for an additional access officer and one for an additional biodiversity officer. Action continues.

The £3,000 from the Hugh Fraser Foundation could be used for projects. We would need before and after photographs and information to present to the foundation.

- 8 **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.

Anne Pearson has suggested Dunpender Community Council could pay for the repairs. Action continues.

- 9 **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

ELCV are still considering options for design here. Neither the original manufacturer nor a local craftsperson is in a position to create a similar board. Tara Sykes is currently exploring options with other signage manufacturers. Action continues.

- 10 **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

- 11 **Information Boards on Pencaitland Railway Walk:** Action 26-4/2: Joyce Stephens to speak to Richard English to assist in developing information boards for the Pencaitland Railway Walk.

Joyce has spoken to Richard who is looking for the original artwork. He plans to turn the notice through 90 degrees to make it a less tempting target. The landowner has given oral approval for this. Action continues.

- 12 **Step Replacement on the John Muir Way at Winterfield:** Action 26-3/6 John Hardy to discuss alternative funding sources or solutions to replace the Winterfield Steps.

John has met Scottish Power Energy Networks who indicated they have money available for such projects. John Hardy to apply for funding, from SP Energy Networks, for the steps at Winterfield liaising with Nick Morgan. Action updated

- 13 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 has an application forms with the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund. Action continues.
- 14 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.
- John Hardy needs to report to the Brown Forbes Foundation by October 4th on the progress on this path. Dave Wild will speak to Nick Morgan to find out the progress. Action 26-5/1
- 15. Discuss the Extent of Volunteer Involvement in the Dog Behaviour Initiative.** Harry Blackley, Paul Ince and Terry Page have distributed postcards to vets and pet shops in Dunbar, Longniddry and North Berwick. Laura Douglas will get a further 1,000 post cards for distribution by volunteers, price £68.30 and consider producing posters and ensure the wording applies all year and not just in the nesting season. Action 26-5/3.
- Dave Wild will produce a list of list of suitable sites for distributing post cards or posters. Action 26-5/4
- 16 Hedgerow Survey:** Action 26-4/4 John Hardy to reply to Jo Gibb of the East Lothian Climate Hub to say we are keen to cooperate.
- Jo Gibb will give a talk at the Volly Jolly. Action Complete
- 17 North Berwick Marsh Biodiversity Report:** Action 26-4/6 Meryl Norris will ask Laura Douglas what has happened to the report.
- Laura has sent the report to Dave Quarendon for publication on the ELCV website. Action complete. Action 26-5/5 Dave Quarendon to post the North Berwick Marsh Biodiversity Report on the ELCV web site.
- 18 Seafield Pond Signs:** Action 26-4/7: Meryl Norris to ask Tara Sykes to get a quote for addition suitable dog control signs at Seafield Pond.
- ELC will use Nature Restoration Fund Money to get new signs about dog control for Seafield Pond and other similar sites. Action Complete.
- 19 Water Fountains:** John Hardy will ask NickAitken to speak to Zoe Goldstone about reinstatement of some water fountains. Action 26-5/6
- 20 Improvements to Longniddry – Haddington Railway Walk:** Dave Wild Dave Wild will investigate potential improvements to the link to Seton woods with the landowner. Action 26-5/7
- 21 Tools:** The board authorised expenditure of up to £1,000 on tools for path wardens and volunteers. Terry Page stated that, following some recent volunteer activity in North Berwick, Ron Tuck and himself had decided that turf cutters would be useful for cleaning up paths and a battery powered angle grinder would be necessary for size reduce bits of old creels stuck at the bottom of Canty Bay. Dave Wild will produce a list of desired tools and purchase the tools if the cost is less than £1000. If the cost is greater that £,1000 he must pass the list to the secretary who will circulate the trustees for approval. Action 26-5/8

22 Financial Report.

Transactions Since Last Meeting:

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Expenditure: Handi-cart cost paid to ELC £101.25
Income: None
Balance: £8,084.14

Commitments:

£552.00 for spending on Musselburgh Links

£550.00 for Aberlady Vegetation Survey

Uncommitted balance: £8084.14

23 Any Other Business: None

24. Date & Time of 2026 Meeting: Monday 16th November 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
John Hardy	To work with Nick Morgan on the proposal to resurface the path from Tynninghame to Binning	25-6/3
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 apply for funding, from SP Energy Networks, for the steps at Winterfield liaising with Nick Morgan	26-3/6
John Hardy	To contact Brett Walker to see what support he requires for the North Berwick Coastal Path extension.	26-3/7
Joyce Stephens	To speak to Richard English to assist in developing information boards for the Pencaitland Railway Walk.	26-4/2
Dave Wild	To speak to Nick Morgan to find out the progress on the Tynninghame Path so John Hardy can report to the Brown Forbes foundation by October 4 th .	26-5/1

Actionee	Action	Number
Laura Douglas	To get a further 1,000 post cards for distribution by volunteers, price £68.30 and consider producing posters and ensure the wording applies all year and not just in the nesting season.	26-5/3
Dave Wild	To produce a list of list of suitable sites for distributing dog behaviour post cards or posters.	26-5/4
Dave Q	To post the North Berwick Marsh Biodiversity Report on the ELCV web site.	26-5/5
John Hardy	To ask Nick Aitken to speak to Zoe Goldstone about reinstatement of some water fountains.	26-5/6
Dave Wild	Dave Wild will investigate potential improvements to the link to Seton woods with the landowner.	26-5/7
Dave Wild	To produce a list of desired tools and purchase the tools if the cost is less than £1000. If the cost is greater that £,1000 he must pass the list to the secretary who will circulate the trustees for approval.	26-5/8