

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7-9 pm  
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

**Members (and substitute members) present:**

Ben Morse, Chair (BM)  
Pamela Fraser, Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Gala (PF)  
Sandra Bell, Chairperson Port Seton Centre Management Committee (SB)  
Carla Allan, Volunteer Centre East Lothian (CA)  
Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie and Port Seton in Bloom (SC)  
Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)  
Cllr Colin Yorkston, East Lothian Council (CY)  
Helen York, Longniddry Community Council (HY)  
Sandy Darling, Cockenzie & Port Seton Community Council (SD)

**Others in attendance:**

Emma Brown, Connected Communities Manager, ELC (EB)  
Shirley Gillie, Business Support, ELC (SG)  
Lorna Bellany, NHS (LBe)  
Lyn Marshall, Deputy Lieutenant (LM)  
Kat Prangle, MotherBaby Together, Breastfeeding Lens (KP)  
Colin Gilmour, ELC Senior Officer, Regeneration (CG)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Lachlan Bruce, East Lothian Council (LB)  
Natalie Moir, Support from the Start (NM)  
Allan Sneddon, Prestonpans Children's Gals (AS)  
Janice Wilson, Prestonpans Community Council (JW)  
Jordan Irvine, ELC Community Development Officer (JI)  
Andy Castle, Preston Tower Parent Council (AC)  
Sarah Torrance, Preston Tower Parent Council (ST)  
Marilyn McNeill, IJB (MM)  
Diane Baillie-Whyte, Cockenzie West TRA (DBW)  
Robin Hill & Abigail Morrison, Longniddry Parish Church (RH/AM)  
Hannah Montgomery, Lighthouse Central (HM)  
Rev Robin Allison, Chalmers Memorial Church (RA)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS
<b>1. Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	
	BM welcomed everyone along to the meeting tonight and braving the winter conditions. Introductions were made and apologies noted. BM welcomes KP along to her 1 <sup>st</sup> AP meeting.
<b>2. Minutes of previous meeting</b>	
	BM apologised for the lateness of the documents sent for tonight's meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023 were approved by PF and seconded by GH. HY queried Blindwells regarding the community council not supporting the active travel corridor to

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	<p>Prestonpans station. GH confirmed they had concerns about the route selected which are shared concerns with Longniddry Community Council. BM added we need to amend the last minutes to specify Prestonpans Community Council. GH asked if any update regarding the battery storage that was all over social media, but seems to have calmed down. BM added there had been a lot of chat east of the county and he would follow up.</p>	<b>BM</b>
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>		
	<p>BM advised that matters arising will be covered in the agenda items. Work is continuing at Prestongrange Heritage Park with the locomotives been moved to the new engine shed.</p> <p>GH added very little heard about Cockenzie site since consultations – any further updates? No one aware of any updates.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads</li> </ul> <p>Chris Milne is following up on route from Lagoons to Cuthill Park through Prestongrange as this was discussed at the Sustainable PSG meeting. Heritage café consultation brought up Prestongrange to Levenhall connections. LB not heard from Scottish Water yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation</li> </ul> <p>LB still awaiting feedback from Economic Development.</p>	
<b>4. Roads</b>		
	<p>BM advised there had been a walk around in Cockenzie &amp; Port Seton with him/EB/CM. The walk around in Prestonpans had to be postponed and a new date is being looked at just now. A walk around hasn't been planned for Longniddry as issues raised were for Deans Road, which is already being followed up by Longniddry Community Council. If other Roads issues arise we would be happy to arrange a walk around.</p> <p>One issue that was highlighted on walk around was Links Road resurface with a slurry based material. BM was concerned about drainage and breaking up of surface already. Accessibility and drop kerbs were also discussed and can be raised at Sustainable PSG.</p> <p>BM confirmed the walk around was very useful and the previous information already gathered by SD/SB was extremely helpful – thank you. A few residents interacted whilst the walk around was taking place including a wheelchair user who was having to go on the road due to not being able to use the pavement.</p> <p>LM raised the trial for 9 roads on East Lothian to have the white lines removed including Port Seton Avenue Road which is single file. There was no heads up from the council that this was going to happen. A lengthy discussion took place regarding this and also parking on the pavements with the new law coming into force which seems unclear in Scotland.</p>	

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	<p>Parking around all schools is a big concern and a few ideas/suggestions were discussed. BM added perhaps the C&amp;Y network would be the best place to raise this and try and get the pupils involved and look at initiatives to encourage consideration to all road and pavement users.</p> <p>BM asked everyone to report any concerns they have ie pot holes etc through ELC web site:-  <a href="https://apps1.wdm.co.uk/Live/EastLothian/RMS/PIPDEFECTS/Map.aspx?lat=55.9552272&amp;lng=-2.8019063&amp;z=18&amp;cg=poth">https://apps1.wdm.co.uk/Live/EastLothian/RMS/PIPDEFECTS/Map.aspx?lat=55.9552272&amp;lng=-2.8019063&amp;z=18&amp;cg=poth</a></p> <p>A discussion took place regarding concerns about how ELC are repairing pot holes due to material being thrown into the hole and compacting of material.</p> <p>There was also a discussion about street furniture including electric cabinets, with SC saying no planning permission was required. HY however reported new boxes outside Longniddry shops which are restricting the pavement have retrospective planning permission currently lodged. BM felt that we should combine forces to actually get an answer on the process and how the community can have more of a say. BM/CY will find out the best person to contact at ELC It may be Tom Reid Head of Infrastructure.</p> <p>BM highlighted the importance of continuing to gather a rolling list of Roads projects whilst the budget was suspended particularly as there is money available for Active Travel projects. It also would mean we have projects ready if the budget is live once again.</p>	<p><b>EB/DW</b></p> <p><b>BM/CY</b></p>
<b>5. Amenities</b>		
	<p>BM advised further work at Cuthill Park project was £955.92 and £353.46 for the Memorial Garden.</p> <p>BM confirmed the amenities budget is a different budget mainly man hours/time for projects and we still have budget remaining.</p> <p>EB was wondering if all the work had been completed at Memorial Garden or if more still to be done. SB confirmed the garden is getting ready. SC asked if the name could be changed as it is confusing with the Memorial Garden. SB explained the reason for this and would look at name soon. SC highlighted she had had a meeting with amenities last week and they are in a critical state with staffing levels they are not able to do things to the quality they used to and even talking about reducing the size of some of the maintained spaces. BM has mentioned the financial situation at previous meetings and understand that ELC need to make decisions but is surprised these are taken without consulting the community. We have 3 in bloom groups who could have been given the chance to work together. CA asked about community pay back. EB confirmed this is still happening and are looking at a wide range of projects which could be explored. BM suggested coordinating a list</p>	

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	<p>would help tie everything together. GH mentioned it was encouraging to hear the community payback is starting up again. SC added dog fouling was found when they were clearing the flower beds at the memorial gardens and possibly need to raise awareness of dog poo. EB will raise this with community warden.</p>	<p>EB</p>
<b>6. Directional Sign Posts</b>		
	<p>BM welcomed CG along to the meeting tonight. CG mentioned the investments in Prestonpans ie Prestongrange Heritage Park, Preston Tower and the Civic Square. CG has been reviewing the current sign posts in the town as some are in poor condition and need fully replaced, some incorrect and some out of date. CG highlighted some funding has been secured to help replace the critical ones and upgrade others. CG will circulate a list of the locations and would appreciate if everyone could have a look over this before we start the process. BM added we could give everyone one month to look over the suggestions and add any comments/feedback. If this could also be discussed at Prestonpans Community Council meetings this would be very helpful too.</p>	<p>All GH</p>
<b>7. Vice Chair and Sub group Chairs recruitment</b>		
	<p>BM advised we still have a vacancy for Vice Chair and also 2 sub group Chairs. If anyone is interested in these positions, please let us know and more details can be provided.</p> <p>BM added we have formally invited Churches along to join the PSG Area Partnership; Chalmers Memorial Church, Lighthouse Central, Longniddry Parish church and the Salvation Army. We have had a good response, but unfortunately too late notice to attend tonight's meeting.</p>	
<b>8. Draft Area Plan Presentation and Discussion</b>		
	<p>BM introduced the Draft Area Plan and over the next 3 months the opportunity for members and sub groups to feedback and make further changes before the annual meeting. This allows time for us to consider any local place plans and development plans. BM highlighted the need to review outcomes and priorities to make sure they were SMART and measurable.</p> <p>BM/EB/SB took members through the slide show attached which highlighted priorities remaining from the last Area Plan, New priorities from the consultation and priorities that were no longer relevant or had been amended. SG to distribute final draft outcome and priorities.</p>	<p>SG</p>
<b>9. A.O.C.B.</b>		
	<p>BM asked members their views on the funding timeline for next financial year. EB confirmed she has been advised carry on as normal planning for Area Partnership funding until we hear otherwise regarding the council current financial situation. Discussion took place as this year we will fully utilise the online site which will mean applicants applying directly onto the site and some may need some support to do this. EB mentioned CDO could possibly help or even a quick training session or video on "How to do this" would be an idea.</p> <p>Dates for funding:-  1<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – applications open  1<sup>st</sup> April 6pm Teams – Help session for Applicants  10<sup>th</sup> April 4.30pm Teams – Help Session or Applicants</p>	<p>EB</p>

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	Week commencing 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 – applications available to scrutiny group Week commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 - scrutiny group meeting 13 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024 – on line voting open for public 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Annual Public Meeting and member vote 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024 – Outcome of funding sent to members 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Area Partnership meeting and confirmation of funding	
<b>10. Area Partnership Proposed Meetings Dates for 2024</b>		
	<b>27/3/2024</b> <b>15/5/2024 AGM</b> <b>5/6/2024</b> <b>11/9/2024</b> <b>9/10/2024</b> <b>20/11/2024</b>	<b>Apologies to be sent to -</b> <b><u>psg-</u></b> <b><u>ap@eastlothi</u></b> <b><u>an.gov.uk</u></b>