

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
Wednesday 27th March 2024, 7-9 pm
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

Members (and substitute members) present:

Ben Morse, Chair (BM)
 Cllr Colin Yorkston, East Lothian Council (CY)
 Cllr Lachlan Bruce, East Lothian Council (LB)
 Natalie Moir, Support from the Start (NM)
 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)
 Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)
 Helen York, Longniddry Community Council (HY)
 Jordan Irvine, ELC Community Development Officer (JI)
 Andy Castle, Preston Tower Parent Council (AC)
 Stuart Thomson, Pennypit Development Trust (ST)

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)
 Marilyn McNeill, IJB (MM)
 Paul McLennan, MSP (PM)
 Ruth Davie, Pennypit Development Trust (RD)
 Brian Weddell, Chair of Pennypit Development Trust (BW)

Apologies:

Janis Wilson, Prestonpans Community Council (JW)
 Allan Sneddon, Prestonpans Children's Gals (AS)
 Cllr. Brooke Ritchie, East Lothian Council (BR)
 Gill Harman, ELC CDO (GH)
 Danielle Walton, C&Y Co Chair (DW)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies		
	BM advised he is chairing the meeting on line tonight due to family circumstances. BM welcomed everyone along to the meeting tonight. Introductions were made and apologies noted. BM thanked NM who will be hugely missed from the PSG area as this is her last meeting tonight. The sequence of the agenda will change this evening due to Paul McLennan attending and RD requiring to leave at 7.30pm.	
2. Minutes of previous meeting		

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	Minutes from previous meeting 17 th January 2024 were approved by HY and seconded by SB.	
3. Matters Arising		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery storage was discussed at the Association of East Lothian Community Councils. • Parking at schools - EB has followed up with parking wardens, police and Head Teachers. • CY confirmed Tom Reid is the person to contact in the first instance • Memorial garden – EB followed up with Community Protection Officers to feed back that this was an issue and they will keep an eye on things. • Directional sign posts – It was agreed that Prestonpans Community Council were best placed to feedback on the location of these in Prestonpans. If anyone wishes to see the paperwork we can circulate again. <p>BM/EB advised of Holiday Lunch Club applications that needed to be discussed tonight. There is £5,400 for Holiday Hunger.</p> <p>Pennypit Development Trust £3,987 ELC Port Seton/Longniddry £2,523.62</p> <p>RD/JI presented their applications to the members. A discussion took place with members asking some questions. Members voted unanimously to support each application but reduce the amount on both by £555 as the total of both applications were higher than the £5,400 given for Holiday Hunger from the Education Budget.</p> <p>Pennypit awarded £3,432 ELC Port Seton/Longniddry award £1,968 TOTAL £5,400.</p> <p>BM thanked RD/JI/Longniddry staff for all their effort with the applications. BM suggested we consider meeting dates in 2025 in light of budget setting timescales to allow for Easter Lunch Clubs to allow ample times to agree the funding process. BM highlighted the importance of the Pennypit Trust in looking at other funding streams for the remainder of the year.</p> <p>BM welcomed Paul MacLennan MSP along tonight. PM gave an overview of his background and current work which has synergy with Area Plan Priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background 15 years council leader • Dunbar 2021 MSP • Every area has very distinctive community • The development of on shore and off shore wind farms is key to the community to harness community benefits funding. A new group has been set up through the Association of East Lothian Community Councils to distribute funding. The windfarm fund last year supplied £1 million of fuel poverty funding which helped over 600 families. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job and skill opportunities in PSG are key with the development of the Cockenzie site. PM had visited Had Fab who have tripled their work force. • The Energy forum conference is in June bringing together skills agencies and schools. • Through the Local Development and Town Centre strategy there is interest in supporting our local high streets. • The Area is rich with Heritage:- 360 centre, battlefield trust, wagon way etc. • The Business forum meet quarterly working with QMU re jobs • There is a new Climate Hub Team in East Lothian. • PM has been engaging with STAND around Neurodiversity. • There was a recognition of the rapid housing growth and need for infrastructure. • Blindwells has a new infrastructure group which includes Scottish Water, Transport and key officials which the Area Partnership could have a representative on. <p>PM asked for any questions or priorities that members would like to discuss:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GH asked about money for the windfarms as current arrangements mean communities are keeping income for their immediate area. Update is that everyone will be able to bid into a central pot being coordinated through the Association of East Lothian Community Councils. • CY commented on the extensive housing growth in East Lothian but local authority funding not growing at the same rate. PM meeting regularly with Monica Patterson Chief Executive and Scottish Government Officials have visited officers in East Lothian Council. There is a recognition of the Areas growth. CY also recognised the opportunities for employment in the area and needs for local jobs. • BM highlighted the NPF4 and opportunities however the needs for Local infrastructure. PM mentioned the development at Blindwells and the on going work to improve Roads, junctions and public transport. HY was pleased to hear about the infrastructure discussions as Longniddry Community Council represent Blindwells and have received a number of complains from residents. In particular play parks and safe routes to school seem to be happening once residents have been living on site for a number of months. PM offered to liaise on a meeting between Hargreaves and AP, BM advised they had previously attended the Area Partnership. • HY also raised concerns about water supply and sewage infrastructure following issues in Longniddry already. PM mentioned discussions with Scottish Water, SEPA and planning colleagues when new developments are going through the planning process. • BM raised issue with current rail services for commuters and GH asked where they would get the land for 4 track. LB clarified that you did not require extended land along the complete track only at certain sections. PM clarified if a 	

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	<p>new train station is introduced at Blindwells it would not effect Prestonpans, this station would remain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM asked Economic Development priorities for the PSG area. PM mentioned Ray Montgomery Service Manager for Development is leading on this. <p>BM thanked PM for attending and look forward to links to Business Forum and Blindwells Development.</p>	
4. Roads – Walk Around		
	<p>EB carried out a walk around with Chris Milne from the Roads Team in Prestonpans. Following an update on social media there had been a big response from Community members. We mainly observed access requirement for wheelchair users and buggies and reported pot holes. There was reminder for members of the public to report pot holes on line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double yellow lines were requested at Shaw Road due to parking however Roads reported this helps to slow down traffic. • Active Travel Path from Appin drive to Edinburgh Road. There are issues with push chairs and wheelchairs due to a barrier blocking their route. Since the walkaround this had been replaced. • On Edinburgh Road we looked at flooding issues at Lidl crossing point. • We also observed dipping roads, parking on pavements and degrading seed bumps. <p>The Roads budget is still on hold however we can access active travel funding. Huge shout out to Chris and Morag in doing a fantastic job.</p>	
5. Amenities		
	<p>Amenities works differently to Roads budget and we still require projects.</p> <p>EB updated there was a meeting re Cuthil Park with Amenities and interest in converting parts of the land into allotments those this requires funding. Through Community Benefit we had 8 volunteers from Siemens.</p>	
6. Sub Groups (Not previously on the agenda)		
	<p>Sustainable PSG BM advised they had met a few weeks ago and an extra meeting was arranged for 9.4.24. There is a lot happening and Active Travel funding available. BM advised they are still looking for a chair for this sub group. PM added there is a new Climate Hub Team set up and will pass information on to make introductions. BM added this would be very useful.</p> <p>Children & Youth Network EB advised they had a meeting 2 weeks ago and there were concerns raised re change in early years support with Michelle moving to new Families Together Team. We have requested a meeting with Scott Rintoul and Ali Cameron from Families Together. Youth provision has also been discussed and SB mentioned the 4 management committees from the Area were meeting to look at how best to sustain and grow youth work and will feed back. BM thanked everyone involved as it is a</p>	

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	<p>lot of work and a real opportunity for the area. He thanked them for all the active work all management committees do on a daily basis.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing SB advised they had met last week and had someone from Alzheimer’s Scotland to look at help and support available for carers. Dementia café is beginning on the last Thursday of the month at Prestonpans Community Centre. Unfortunately, the Links Workers based at Doctors surgery’s are finishing due to funding. Breast feeding support for young mums was also discussed with a pregnancy café. Suggestion to utilise libraries for well being Hubs.</p> <p>Heritage Jl advised this subgroup is now constituted and setting up a bank account and will continue to manage the Salt of the Earth website. Friends of Preston Tower have joined and they are holding a family day this Saturday. There are a couple of new films which will be available.</p>	
7. Draft Area Plan Presentation and Discussion		
	<p>The Draft Area Plan had been circulated to members and being discussed at sub groups. EB/LB had met to review priorities and make the SMART. If members have any feedback on draft plan they can contact BM/EB or link with a subgroup.</p> <p>BM highlighted the need for better communication about what the Area Partnership does. We have an informal communication sub group with BM/EB/SB/CA if anyone else would like to join please let us know.</p> <p>A full draft will be circulated prior to APM.</p>	
8. Funding Process		
	<p>The funding process this year will involve CONSUL an online portal and there is a crib sheet in the application pack. The dates for funding are below:-</p> <p>1st – 26th April 2024 – applications open 3rd April 6pm Teams – Help session for Applicants 10th April 4.30pm Teams – Help Session or Applicants Week commencing 29th April 2024 – applications available to scrutiny group Week commencing 6th May 2024 - scrutiny group meeting 13th – 31st May 2024 – on line voting open for public 15th May 2024 – Annual Public Meeting and member vote 3rd June 2024 – Outcome of funding sent to members 5th June 2024 – Area Partnership meeting and confirmation of funding</p> <p>If anyone is wishing to make an application they should contact BM/EB for a discussion about how it meets with the Area Plan.</p>	
9. 10th Anniversary of Area Partnership		
	<p>The Annual Public Meeting this year will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Area Partnership. BM suggested inviting previous Chairs and officers to reflect on the impact of the Partnerships work.</p>	

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	<p>BM highlighted that we will be electing Chair and Vice Chair and it would be good to get support from members in considering this.</p> <p>We are also looking for sub group chairs which can be a very rewarding role.</p>	
10. Communications - Gala Stalls/Adverts and Newsletters		
	<p>EB highlighted that last year we had placed adverts in gala programmes and would members like to repeat this again this year. LB asked the costs involved. Eb advised between £50/£100. LB proposed to we go ahead and members unanimously agreed.</p>	
11. A.O.C.B.		
	<p>BM thanked everyone for attending tonight and apologies for Chairing the meeting on line from Wales.</p>	
12. Area Partnership Proposed Meetings Dates for 2024		
	<p>15/5/2024 AGM 5/6/2024 11/9/2024 9/10/2024 20/11/2024</p>	<p>Apologies to be sent to - <u>psg-</u> <u>ap@eastlothi</u> <u>an.gov.uk</u></p>