

Minute of ELCC Meeting

Monday 28th July 2025

Present

Chris Bruce (Chair Oldhamstocks), Colin Bloomfield (Treasurer, Stenton), Anne Lyall (Spott), Kelvin Darcy-Burt (Stenton), Lennox Webb (Spott), Joanne Legge (Oldhamstocks), Sharon Young (Community Engagement Partner VCEL)

Apologies

Suzie Fletcher (Cockburnspath), Cllr Lyn Jardine (Dunbar and East Linton), Cllr Donna Collins ((Dunbar and East Linton), Beth Landon (Energy Projects Partnership Manager)

1. **Minutes of the meeting held 9 June 2025** were approved. Chris asked those present to promote awareness of the role of the minute secretary as there hasn't been any interest so far. Discussion around use of AI Minute software. **Actions: SY to speak to IT dept at VCEL for advice.**

2. Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

- Belhaven Community Garden – letter of support (Suzie): Suzie has confirmed that this was sent at the last meeting but this has not been shared with ELCC.
- LHEES Report – East Lothian Heat Network feasibility study/funding application to Heat Network Support Unit (Chris): Chris explained that the next step is for a business case to be developed from this report. The report was very positive. The closing date to seek funding from Scottish Government Heat Network Support Group was the end of June: ideally an application would be made to this by ELC but due to timing East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO has submitted a bid. This is also to be discussed at the meeting on 29th July of the Chair of Association of East Lothian Community Councils with new ELC Chief Exec (Laurence Rockey). Discussion around the possibility of the network reaching Innerwick and that ducting under the A1 has been agreed in principle by Matthew Barton of EGL1.
- Resilience Planning (Anne) Anne has provided a generic template which can be individualised for different parishes. Some discussion on best way to move this forward: Anne suggested that community assns and community councils could work together on these. She offered to meet with an appropriate rep from Oldhamstocks Community Association to progress this.
- Parking Charges consultation; Association of East Lothian Community Councils 17 July (Joanne): Discussion about meeting held on 17th July. It was agreed that we would submit to the AELCC that we are opposed to the introduction of parking charges (Mainly because we do not feel that ELC have stated their rationale clearly), that we would desire the status quo and no changes, and that we are supportive of a fully integrated transport strategy. **Action: JL to email Kenny Miller before 10am Tues 29th July**

3. **Any other items of business for the agenda:** Discussion about recruitment of members for ELCC in Innerwick and Spott, and recruitment to the village community associations in Spott and Innerwick. Agreed that asking in person has more impact. **Action: Sharon will speak to Jane Ogden-Smith (Community Engagements Manager VCEL) about the possibility of including this at some planned volunteer surgeries.**

East Lothian Community Council elections 2025 Discussion about future membership, and **Agreed Chris to write a brief description of process/timings** which all members can use to publicise the forthcoming elections.

Springfield Solar Farm and BESS: An extension on a submission to ECU was agreed to allow ELCC to conduct a consultation with Oldhamstocks parish residents. This has been sent out to around 60 addresses by email with hard copies available in the village hall. It is important that anyone living in Oldhamstocks Parish (as the most affected area) over 16 submits their views. ELCC have been approached by the group that has been convened to challenge this development (SORELL) to ascertain what action ELCC are taking. Chris has communicated this to them and stated that once the consultation closes on 11th August a submission will be made. He suggests that it would be pragmatic to include planning consent conditions as part of this. Agreed that a draft submission to ECU (and ELC) will be circulated late August, and discussed for agreement at the ELCC meeting to be held 1 September. **Action: Chris and Jo**

4. **Treasurer's Report (circulated separately)**

Draft accounts had been shared by Colin, these were approved by the members and will therefore now be submitted. Discussion around use of excess monies (£874) from Local Place Plan which has now been brought back into the cash account. Discussion about financial situation/management at Innerwick Community Association (IPWA) in the light of the village hall renovation project in particular, concerns around this were raised by members of ELCC. **Action: Chris, Colin and Sharon to hold supportive discussion with IPWA.** Anne congratulated Colin on his great work as treasurer.

5. **Progressing our Local Place Plan – discussion (Update from Beth circulated)**

EGL1 SPEN community benefits; next steps for 4 local priorities:

ELCC agreed that the facilitators of the 4 workshops should be as follows:

- All properties within one kilometre of construction works, haul roads or access routes on public roads should be brought up to a minimum of EPC band C, with any appropriate micro renewables included.
Proposed Facilitation; Energy Savings Trust
- A useable, effective Active Travel Network of segregated paths should be planned, designed and built – to include at least one safe crossing over or under the A1 and mainline railway towards the coast and Dunbar

Proposed Facilitation; Walking Scotland

- A public or community transport service should be re-introduced to link the villages with Co'path and Dunbar

Proposed Facilitation; Community Transport Scotland

- An ambitious biodiversity gain plan should be devised, agreed and implemented with maximum use of developer support for local volunteers and other relevant aspects of the plan.

Proposed Facilitation: ELCAN/SCDC in partnership

ELCC as a whole group decided to delegate the further planning of the four workshops to Chris Bruce and Beth Langdon.

Beth is gradually expanding the lists of who should attend these workshops in collaboration with the names ELCC suggested at the last meeting.

It was agreed that a report would be made from each of these workshops to inform ELCC going forward, and that a fifth report would also be collated considering how the 4 areas of priority overlap. ELCC agreed that the ELCAN/SCDC partnership should be asked to produce this fifth report.

The timeline is such that it is envisaged the Energy / EPC workshop will be the first to take place in September, with all four workshops completed by January so that we can communicate where further monies will need to be spent.

6. Community Benefits

Update; Proposal for aligning community benefits streams across East Lothian – MSP meeting with Foundation Scotland, Inch Cape, EDF (NnG)/SPEN/ EGL1 /SSE BBWF onshore works/Seagreen offshore windfarm 28 July a.m. Chris attended this meeting convened by Paul McLennan to which energy developers were invited. Chris reports that Inchcape, NNG and SPEN were present and that they in principle engaged with the proposals we have put forward for combining community benefits, for ELCB and Foundation Scotland to work together, and for the area impacted (East Lammermuir) to benefit first from the monies but that this to be reviewed after 5 years In light of progress working towards the 4 East Lammermuir priorities.

Chris will attend the annual energy conference on 28/9/25 and would like the opportunity to speak at this and communicate what the plan is. There was some discussion at the meeting as to the role of Foundation Scotland. Chris felt there could be some tension as FS have to ensure that any monies they hold are used towards projects that fit OSCR guidelines. However, he felt that the developers were reassured as FS are known as a reliable entity and would also act as a critical friend. **Action: Chris will keep this conversation and process moving forward over the next few weeks**

Current UK Government consultation – Innerwick session held 14 July with Foundation Scotland and ELEP

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-benefits-and-shared-ownership-for-low-carbon-energy-infrastructure>

The response to this consultation was accepted and agreed by the group. **Action: Chris to submit**

Update on Scottish Government Onshore renewables good practice guidance: Chris reported that a number of the groups represented on the Working Group have suggested a pause on this work until the UK Government has completed their process. ELCC supported this approach.

7. Local Energy Infrastructure Developments (see eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk)

- **Energy Projects Partnership Manager Beth Landon**

A written Update was provided by Beth to all the group before the meeting.

- **All developer meeting, 22 September All/Beth**
- - invitations will seek to balance numbers of community reps and developer staff.
- items to include Landscape Sensitivity Assessment, and Mental Health Barometer, establishing a shared funding pot between developers (Beth, Chris): Beth has proposed a Mental Health Barometer exercise to ascertain how local residents are impacted by the energy developments. Citizen Science can conduct this and there will be a cost. Chris and Beth will ask for a funding pot to be set up with a simple formula to ascertain what the developers will be asked to pay in. Around £27,000 is envisaged. **Action: Sharon to look into matched funding sources for this and to liaise with Beth.**
- **Traffic Management Group/Lorries in our Lanes meetings** : Anne raised that there have been some incidences of traffic from Crystal Rig returning to the A1 via Starvation Brae in Spott and that they have not been adhering to speed limits, have been discarding rubbish and have been rude to residents when challenged. Chris is aware of one specific complaint. **Action: Chris to provide Kevin Burn's (Fred Olson) phone number for Anne to contact.** He suggested that residents are alerted to the importance of taking registration plate/ company details of any vehicles. Beth is trying to put in place a central number that can be called in these instances that covers all of the developers.
- **Newlands Hill Windfarm** – supplementary information: Stenton's major objection was around routes used by the contractors and it appears that this has not been addressed in the Supplementary Information (Kelvin). **Action: Kelvin/Chris to write to ELC and ECU to report that the same concerns remain.**

8. Liaison Meetings and Roles –

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- Tarmac Liaison (Christy) : positive response to heat network plans, last part of the path around the site lake will be completed
- Area Partnership (Anne): a funding meeting has been held and a newsletter outlining how funds have been allocated has been sent out and will continue to be sent out monthly.
Action: Ann will distribute this to the ELCC committee, Kelvin will contact Anne regarding amenities work required in Stenton.
- Association of East Lothian Community Councils 18 June (Chris): support for the aligned approach to Community Benefits across East Lothian (see item 6 above)
- Community And Police Partnership (Kelvin): no report received this month.

9. Correspondence

Single use dental flossers – Discussed and agreed that raising awareness of them might have some unintended consequences.

East Lothian Council – Young People showcase: Chris has a nomination but is currently speaking to the young person to gain permission to nominate. Sharon has communicated this opportunity.

10. Local Updates

Innerwick: Community Council members: discussion around recruitment issues ahead of the elections in October.

Oldhamstocks; Oldhamstocks for Nature, a new group has already been proactive with some tasks to enhance the village: very positive.

Spott - 20mph request from SCA: no response received regarding this request. Discussion around recruitment to SCA going forward

Stenton; 20mph request: Colin has been advised that the speed reactive sign also collects actual speeds of vehicles and could therefore be used as a data collection survey tool. Chris advised that Kevin Burns (FOR) may have further knowledge on this. The first meeting with ELC to discuss the possibility of a buy out/ lease by the community of the Sports Field has taken place. This may take the form of a community asset transfer. Chris advised that Beth may be able to assist with this as she has relevant knowledge.

11. Dates of Meetings 2025

MONDAYS at 19.30 in the village hall

1 September Stenton – Biodiversity River Catchment Restoration project

9 October – East Lothian Community Council elections

13th October 2025 19.30 ELCBF/T AGMs Stenton

27th October Spott

1st December Stenton