

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
Wednesday 12th March 2025, 7-9 pm
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

Members (and substitute members) present:

Cllr Colin Yorkston, East Lothian Council (CY)
 Pamela Fraser, Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Gala (PF)
 Helen York, Longniddry Community Council (HY)
 Sandra Bell, Chairperson Port Seton Centre Management Committee (SB)
 Carla Allan, Volunteer Centre East Lothian (CA)
 Janis Wilson, Prestonpans Community Council (JW)
 Alan Sneddon, Prestonpans Children's Gala (AS)
 Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie & Port Seton In Bloom (SC)
 Sheena Lamont, Blindwells TRA (SL)
 Stuart Thomson, Pennypit Comm Dev Trust (ST)
 Owen Smith, Prestonpans Comm Centre Management Comm (OS)
 Sandy Darling, PSG Youth (SD)
 Euan Stratton, Sports Hub (ES)
 Jonathan Sharples, Co Chair Children & Youth Network (JS)
 Sarah Watson, Preston Tower Parent Council (SW)

Others in attendance:

Emma Brown, Connected Communities Manager, ELC (EB)
 Shirley Gillie, Business Support, ELC (SG)
 Gill Harman, Community Development Officer (GH)
 Lorna Bellany, NHS Public Health (LB)

Apologies:

Ben Morse, Chair (BM)
 Cllr Neil Gilbert, East Lothian Council (NG)
 Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)
 Hannah Montgomery, Lighthouse Central (HM)
 Kat Prangle, BreastfeedLens (KP)
 Elaine Anderson, Prestonpans Comm Centre Management Comm (EA)



AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies		
	CY stepped in to Chair the meeting tonight as BM had been called away urgently with work and was hoping to Chair the meeting on line but unfortunately this didn't work out. CY welcomed everyone and apologies were noted.	
2. Minutes of previous meeting		
	Minutes from previous meeting on 20.11.24 were unable to be approved as the previous meeting was not quorate. Minutes were now approved by HY and seconded by SB.	






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	Minutes from meeting on 15 th January were approved by CY and seconded by PF.	
3. Matters Arising		
	<p>CY advised that most matters arising will be dealt with during the agenda but updated on the following:-</p> <p>Community Heat Team – HY advised they are still looking for other volunteers to be part of the Heat Team. At present there are 3 volunteers from Longniddry. HY has the camera and once they have more volunteers they can look at becoming a constituted group. This is needed to apply for insurance to be able to go into peoples homes. There is funding available but if anyone is interested in being involved please get it touch with Longniddry Community Council. CY asked Members to please share with your groups.</p> <p>Amenities – JW advised that the group are maintaining the lavender at Preston Tower themselves and no project required.</p> <p>Working for Change Collective – EB advised they have been relocated to Port Seton Centre as a base and are enjoying the new location. EB reminded everyone that any groups of people can join. Locality host meeting, let LB know. LB added if anyone looking for a venue or groups we have a café tomorrow at the Lighthouse. They also do pop up stall. Please share information on social media. A £10 voucher is awarded if you turn up.</p> <p>HY advised PI was going to check for an update regarding drop kerb that was raised by a resident. CY asked HY if she could check at the next Longniddry Community Council which is next Monday night.</p>	
4. Parking Engagement – Bryn Kemp STANTEC		
	<p>CY advised we would move this to later on the agenda as BK had not arrived yet.</p> <p>Following the meeting EB emailed STANTEC and they had double booked themselves at Dunbar on the same evening.</p>	
5. East Lothian Partnership Co Production – Emma Brown		
	<p>EB provided an update on the development of the New Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the recent self assessment undertaken with Education Scotland which BM was involved in. The later highlighted issues around community and elected member representation on the governance group and issues with communication with members feeling disconnected from the East Lothian partnership. There will be session in the autumn with the Area Partnership Chairs and Vice Chairs. Eb updated on the timeline for the development of the new plan to be represented to the governance group in December 2025 so far we have undertaken impact assessments and Children right's and Wellbeing Assessments to inform and design materials used in the co production process. Members were given the opportunity to vote on the 3 top themes based on the initial feedback received. Sub groups were encouraged to use materials provided to gain feedback for June.</p>	

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6. Membership Review		
	<p>EB explained we had not been quorate at the last few meetings and that Membership is being proposed to be reviewed. The Standing Orders advise that if Members do not attend 3 meetings in a row without apologies that Membership could be removed. We need to have 13 voting Members to be quorate. A discussion took place and it was agreed that a soft email could be written to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennypit, Longniddry and Prestonpans Community Centre Management Committees and Cockenzie Parish Church. These are all Member organisations. • Prestonpans and Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Councils, Preston Lodge and Cockenzie Parent Councils. Whilst these are all core Members it was recognised the pressure felt by a small number of volunteers to attend. 	
7. Gala Programme Adverts		
	<p>EB advised that the last few years the PSG AP have agreed to paid adverts in the 3 main areas of the ward from the £45,000 general fund. EB asked Members if they still wished to do that for this year.</p> <p>Cockenzie & Port Seton Gala £50 for the advert Longniddry Gala £50 for the advert Prestonpans Gala £25 - £50 for the advert Members all agreed.</p>	
8. General Funding Process and Timelines		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Hunger/Lunch Clubs <p>EB advised that the budget was confirmed on 18.2.25 and the £5,400 is still available for Holiday Hunger for the whole for all the PSG ward. There is a proposal for a further £60,000 for summer covering the West of East Lothian but no further details on this yet.</p> <p>EB advised that the Pennypit have asked for £3,500 from the £5,400 for this Easter and asked Members to make a decision on how this would be processed. Port Seton already have funding in place for Easter but would need funding for summer programme. Longniddry don't require funding. CY mentioned money for the summer holiday/lunch clubs could come from the £60,000. No confirmation of what this will look like. SD mentioned Blindwells may need some money by the summer too.</p> <p>A detailed discussion took place with concern that there hadn't been an open and transparent application process advertised which meant that only the Pennypit Community Development Trust had approached the Area Partnership. Members are still concerned about supporting staffing costs but appreciate the work the Trust undertakes. OS asked about how the money is normally allocated and EB reiterated this is a separate line in the budget which needs to be confirmed each year and Easter falls very closely to the start of the new financial year. JW mentioned its important for all areas and organisations to have equal access to funding. EB asked if everyone could agree the way to move forward. SB mentioned we are in the exact same position as last year with a very last minute application. CA agreed that there is a procedure in place for applying for funding. All organisations should be fair and equal for all. CA asked why it is always Easter they struggle with – have</p>	

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	<p>they tried to get funding from other sources. JS added most funders don't have funding till new financial year. HY why cant this small pot of money from the education budget - criteria holiday hunger – share it between all lunch clubs all holidays covered based on a percentage of children engaged.</p> <p>CA asked what would happen if they don't run? Is there a contingency in place as money is never guaranteed. CY disclosed his conflict of interest as a trustee and added there was a meeting last night and there are no reserves to cover this. Members asked about meeting the trust to have discussions re sustainability. How do we continue supporting families in the new towns etc?</p> <p>HY mentioned scrutiny group Pennypit come back every time to the Partnership for feed children. There should be a specific pot of money to feed children and we decided where money goes. OW asked about a split between all sources. EB added in the past it has been an application. We could look at something else? COVID was a different way of percentage split. This could solve the issue. LB wasn't PSG Youth Group set up as a youth group for them to devolve the holiday hunger money? Save arguments like this. Maybe look at this for the future. SL mentioned needs based alternative sources. EB referral schools/social work – deprivation – huge issue in work poverty. ST wanted to reiterate that this a targeted nature – not for youth Clubs.</p> <p>EB asked again if Members can agree a process going forward. OS likes HY suggestion of % of children and divide each area to ensure everyone gets an allocation. Everyone agree?</p> <p>EB asked if people are happy with the normal process. YES.</p> <p>HY suggested EB could look at how last years money was spent with numbers of children to allocate the funding. It was noted all Members but 2 present had a conflict of interest with applications.</p> <p>CY asked about timescale for Easter funding? JS said it is ok as long as they know that money is coming in. EB confirmed money allocated to any organisation should cover all school holidays in the financial year. 2 proposals were given to the group:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. % Pennypit £3,500 split whats left 3 groups? 2. Whole £5,400 split across all provisions using attendance figures. <p>JS asked again about the £60,000 summer details. No decision yet.</p> <p>OW proposed that split figure last year evenly - SD seconded.</p> <p>No objections. Everyone in agreement. EB asked if everyone was happy Pennypit Trust, Longniddry, Prestonpans and Port Seton supported places allocation £5,400 between them all. YES</p>	
9. Vice Chair recruitment		
	CY advised we are still looking for a Vice Chair and please get in touch if anyone is interested.	
10. Reports from Sub Groups		
	Health & Wellbeing	

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	<p>SB confirmed the group have not met as the arranged meeting needed to be postponed.</p> <p>Children & Youth Network GH advised the group had met yesterday and welcomed JS as the Co Chair. It was a very productive meeting although issues with IT. SD asked if the meetings could be arranged for a later time to help more people attend including education. GH confirmed they are looking at 4pm for the next meeting. The focus is on the Area Partnership priority 15. Looking at what stops the young people being able to access services. It is important to share information with all partners and cascade through Youth Workers also.</p> <p>Heritage JW is now the Chair. Meeting in the Town hall a few weeks ago looking at the easter activities to collate all heritage site, web site and work better together. JW confirmed there was a tour of Preston Tower for the Woman's Guild and we would like to do more tours like this.</p> <p>Sustainable PSG EB gave an update in BM absence. There is still an issue with needing to increase Membership in the group. An event will be held on 26.4.25 Coastal Erosion and Adaptabilities. There will be presentations from groups in the area and the event is being run in Partnership with the Climate HUB 10.30 till 1pm in Prestonpans Town Hall. Posters will be available soon and you need to sign up for a place. This is the start of a series of events. HY asked regarding consultation reports from councillors? CY mentioned Musselburgh Flood Protection. HY thought it was a comprehensive one? CY will check.</p>	
11. A.O.C.B		
	<p><i>LM sent this report after the meeting:</i></p> <p>LM advised , Firstly, thank you to the Area Partnership for funding Growing and Changing - since the group formed last year they have created a peer support network together, are working on their Dynamic Youth Award, started their "what makes a supportive person" campaign, and have also created a spectacular event: Winterfest. Winterfest had almost 80 attendees and was highly praised - the young people are even presenting to the NHS Lothian Public Health Directorate (as requested by the director of Public Health) as a result of the success.</p> <p>Winterfest came about as the young people wanted youth voice to be heard and captured but to do this in a fun and engaging way that is children and young people appropriate. With this being a success, the young people are bringing a new, bigger and better event - Springfest. This will be on the 4th April between 1-3pm at Port Seton Community Centre.</p> <p>The young people would like you to share this to everyone and anyone you know (in your groups, on social media, over your buildings - everywhere!!). You're also free to come along with a child/young person or simply just see what young people can do with a little bit of power.</p>	

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	<p>Please share this on your socials, support the young people in making this event another success and of course, please come along.</p> <p> Spring Fest Flyer.pdf</p> <p>Secondly, the adult lived experience of hardship group, the Working for Change Collective has a few additional dates (the Port Seton date is on the flyer attached). These dates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13th March (TODAY) - at the Lighthouse Cafe 1-3pm • 17th March (Monday) - at Port Seton Community Centre 10.30-12.30 • 21st March (next Friday) - at George Johnston Centre (Tranent) 2-4pm • Springfest (WFCC will be in charge of the "adult zone" where teas, coffees and scones will be served. <p>Coming to these events, participants will receive a £10 thank you voucher and a recipe bag.</p> <p>The collective are also looking for groups to attend and venues for upcoming conversation cafes. Could you also share any social media posts regarding upcoming events.</p> <p> PSCC Working for Change Collective (1</p> <p>Lastly, information hubs. After a call out from the community that there was an increased need for information and services to be based WITHIN local communities, a taskforce of multiple agencies and organisations within Third Sector, as well as Council and Health services was set up. The group are looking at a few ways to improve the information available to communities and adopting a "no wrong door approach" including: increasing awareness of events in the community, the VCEL community directory and EastSpace and ensuring these are up-to-date, creating information hubs (these are small information sessions with up to 2 agencies working from a localised venue (for example Social Security Scotland having drop in services at Libraries and Community Centres)) and One-Stop-Shops. These one-stop-shops bring together multiple organisations, services and community groups to the community for one off events. The last event in Port Seton was well attended and had many agencies from EL Works, DWP, Citizens Advice, Housing, EL Foodbank, Families Together East Lothian. It was well attended and meant that people could go to multiple services. The next event is in Haddington at the John Gray Centre on the 29th March (poster attached). This is on a weekend and so even though this isn't</p>	

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	<p>within PSG, we would appreciate if you could share the information to the community.</p> <div data-bbox="347 241 1093 1115">  <h2 data-bbox="667 275 1093 425">Information Drop In</h2> <p data-bbox="667 443 1093 521">Connecting you with the services you need.</p> <p data-bbox="422 555 1021 701">Find information about services in your community, including Blue Badge support, accessing financial support, support for young children, where to find mental health support, and much more.</p> <div data-bbox="371 813 651 1070">  John Gray Centre Haddington  Saturday 29th March  12-2pm </div>  </div> <p>ES wanted to clarify concerns raised about comments the scrutiny group had raised about Saturday kitchen food being shared with Preston Athletic football club. CY mentioned Donald Reid had been very upset that the club had been accused of this. CA advised at the scrutiny group it was mentioned on occasion where rolls were seen to go to people as left over and they could help themselves. EB was approached by a Board member from Preston Athletic, by email, and she confirmed the information the Trust had provided was incorrect and didn't know where it came from. ES advised they share a kitchen space with Athletic Club but are separate and out of the kitchen before the athletic club come in.</p> <p>CA advised VCEL have launched an online locator. All information on charities/community groups/councils. People can access what's out there. CA will send the link to be shared with everyone. Please go on and check the details we have recorded are correct for your organisation.</p> <p>OS wanted to clarify that SD is representing PSG Youth Work. A new group covering all 4 community centres. One constituted group that can</p>	

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	<p>apply for funding. Looking at the needs, facilitate it a bit better. SD confirmed they had had 2 meetings so far.</p> <p>EB confirmed it was lovely to see SL here tonight for her 1st AP meeting and representing Blindwells TRA. Maybe for the next meeting's agenda SL would be able to give us a wee update. EB confirmed the New Head Teacher for Blindwells Primary School has been announced. There have been tours set by Balfour and Bettie and are now all booked up. Next on 28.3.25 and invites have been sent to TRA, Community Councils, Area Partnership and Churches. There are separate tours being planned for families. The new Head Teacher will look at Education and enrolment etc. CY added he was part of the interview process and was very impressed with the New Head Teacher. Hopefully start the end of May. She is happy to have pupils in before the summer holidays if possible. SL raised concerns re safe routes to school, if they will be in place by then. EB confirmed these routes should be in place but will forward the concerns raised to Balfour and Beattie. SL also mentioned the concerns for the wider derelict land.</p> <p>CY thanked everyone for coming along tonight and that the next meeting will be the AGM on 14.5.25</p> <p>EB apologised and advised we hadn't discussed the new financial year general funding dates etc. It was agreed that the new funding would open on 1st April 2025 till 2nd May 2025. The scrutiny group would need to meet on week starting 5th May 2025. EB asked Members if they wanted to try the online voting again or if they would prefer physical voting at the AGM. Members agreed physical voting would be better.</p>	
12. Area Partnership Meetings Dates for 2025		
	<p>14th May 2025 APM</p> <p>11th June 2025</p> <p>10th September 2025</p> <p>22nd October 2025</p> <p>26th November 2025</p>	<p>Apologies to be sent to -</p> <p><u>psg- ap@eastlothi an.gov.uk</u></p>