

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
Wednesday 11th June 2025, 7-9 pm
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

Members (and substitute members) present:

Ben Morse, Chair (BM)
Janis Wilson, Vice Chair (JW)
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)
Alan Sneddon, Prestonpans Children's Gala (AS)
Martin Muir, Blindwells TRA (MM)
Sheena Lamont, Blindwells TRA (SL)
Stuart Thomson, Pennypit Comm Dev Trust (ST)
Owen Smith, Prestonpans Comm Centre Management Comm (OS)
Gemma Skinner, Prestonpans Comm Centre Management Comm (JSK)
Euan Stratton, Sports Hub (ES)
Jonathan Sharples, Co Chair Children & Youth Network (JS)
Audrey Bain, Pennypit Centre Management Committee (AB)

Others in attendance:

Emma Brown, Connected Communities Manager, ELC (EB)
Shirley Gillie, Business Support, ELC (SG)
Gill Harman, CDO, Co Chair Children & Youth Network, (GH)
Jo Gibb, Climate Hub (JG)
Marie Myles, Edinburgh University PHD Student (MM)

Apologies:

Lorna Bellany, NHS Public Health (LB)
Sarah Watson, Preston Tower Parent Council (SW)
Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)
Shannon Slight, Cockenzie & Port Seton Gala (SS)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies		
	BW welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked CY for stepping in as Chair for the last meeting. BW was delighted to welcome JW to her first meeting as the new Vice Chair of Preston Seton & Gosford Area Partnership. Introductions were made and apologies noted. BW introduced MM who is a research assistant at Edinburgh University and is looking at a comparative study of energy between Scotland,	

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	Mexico and USA. MM completed the study for Mexico/USA by doing workshops and interviews with manufacturing facilities in local communities. With a growing development of UK off shore wind and potential for large energy BESS. MM is looking for the communities perspective and lived experience of off shore wind to make sure we have an accurate picture of whats going on. MM is keen to get peoples help with this research by doing interviews on line or in person. EB asked about the demographics in Mexico/USA which is a collaborative study with University Edinburgh and University in Texas. JW said she was welcome to come along to the community council meeting on the 24th June and BM confirmed she is already booked then. BM added if anyone has a group and wanted to be involved please contact him and he can pass on MM details. BM thanks MM for coming along tonight.	
2. Minutes of previous meeting		
	BM thanked CY again for being the emergency Chair for the March meeting. OS asked about Membership review and EB confirmed these were prior to the annual public meeting and stats are now up to date. EB advised the Parish Church has asked to be removed. SL advised her name was wrong on the minutes and SG would get this updated straight away. Minutes from previous meeting on 12.3.25 were approved by PF and seconded by JW.	SG
3. Matters Arising		
	BM advised that most matters arising will be dealt with during the agenda but updated on the following:- Parking Engagement – not heard anything about Prestonpans. CY added he thought it was in the consultation process. EB suggested we go back to STANTEC to have a discussion as they had previously double booked. Suggested they get an invite to the September meeting.	EB
4. Funding		
	BM advised we are quorate tonight and thanked everyone for coming along especially as it is Prestonpans Gala this weekend. BM added a well done to everyone involved for the successful Longniddry and Port Seton Galas. BM asked if anyone has a conflict of interest in any of the applications being considered tonight to please declare this now:- • CY declared a conflict for Preston Lodge Learning Foundation. CY asked regarding the payment for the Holiday Hunger Easter 2025 for Pennypit. EB advised there was an outstanding evaluation but this has come in and all decision forms will be sent out early next week. • JS declared a conflict for Pennypit Trust application • OS declared a conflict for PSG Youth & Prestonpans Community Centre Management Committee application	

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	• GH declared a conflict for Pennypit Family Learning & Prestonpans Community Centre • AB declared a conflict for PSG Youth & Pennypit Family & Learning Management Committee • JW declared a conflict for Prestonpans Community Centre Management Committee, Prestonpans Community Council, Prestonpans Bloomers and PSG Youth • ST declared a conflict for the Pennypit Trust • PF declared a conflict for Cockenzie & Port Seton Gala as she is a trustee • GS declared a conflict for Prestonpans Community Centre Management Committee and PSG Youth • ES declared a conflict for the Pennypit Trust • SB declared a conflict for the PSG Youth • AS declared a conflict with Prestonpans Management Committee and Prestonpans Community Council • HY, CA, MM, SL, JG declared no conflict of interest EB advised each Community Centre has 1 vote and collectively TRAs have 2 votes. Unfortunately, Blindwells TRA is the only functioning one in the area and can have 2 votes tonight. EB suggested a conflict of interest register may something to look into. BM advised an audit had been carried out including PSG and meetings BM/SG/EB. They seemed happy that the PSG Area Plan had moved on and will be taken to the next Governance Group meeting of the East Lothian Partnership. There were some minor recommendations around the funding process. BM confirmed the Scrutiny Group (SG) had made recommendations and they would be taken into account along with all the votes from the APM when making decisions on funding applications this evening. BM also added there is enough in the general budget to fund all of the applications if they were awarded tonight. The SG had reduced some of the awards and even ring fenced some money for further information to be submitted. EB raised concerns around Destiny Project application as this had not gone through the C&Y network or PSG Youth. There appeared to be duplication and this had also been raised in the SG. BM confirmed all the money is to be ring fenced till a conversation has been had with Destiny. It was suggested JS/GH take forward this discussion. • ELPA - Summer Pop Up Play - £4,962.00 SG recommended fully fund £4,962.00 Members voted: YES 11 AGAINST 2 CONFLICT 1 (GH) • Growing and Changing - Internal ELC - £1,500 SG recommended part funding £1,250.00 Members voted: YES 14 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT/ABSTAIN • Enjoy Leisure - PSG Physical Activity Referral Programme - £9,180.00	EB/SG JS/GH

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	SG recommended fully fund £9,180. Recommendation to link in with positive prescriptions Members voted: YES 13 AGAINST 1 CONFLICT/ABSTAIN 0 - Longniddry Playgroup - Water Play - £360 SG recommended fully fund £360. Still awaiting accounts so payment can't be made Members voted: YES 14 AGAINST CONFLICT/ABSTAIN - PSG Youth - New Youth Club - £2,513.52 SG recommended fully fund £2,513.32 Members voted: YES 10 AGAINST CONFLICT 4 (SB/OS/JW/AB) ABSTAIN - Holiday Hunger SG recommendation to include Holiday Hunger oversubscription to general fund. It was felt that the Port Seton application could be put forward from the general budget. BM clarified that an email vote had been done and all applications awarded the full funding. BM asked members to vote on the shortfall £2,432,15 coming from the general budget. Members voted: YES 12 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 1 (SB) 1 vote not cast - Pennypit family & Learning Centre - Community Family Open day - £1,200 SG recommended fully funding £1,200 Members voted: YES 13 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 1 (AB) - Patchwork - Patchwork Babies 2025-2026 - £2,115 SG recommended fully fund £2,115/ Still waiting constitution and equality policy so payment can't be made Members voted: YES 14 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT/ABSTAIN 0 - Prestonpans Community Centre Management Committee - Prestonpans Outdoor Gym - £2,962 SG recommended fully fund £2,962/ Question raised to clarify if equipment was priced for adults. Members voted: YES 12 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 2 (OS/JW) <i>AS conflict of interest not noted in meeting notes</i> - Pennypit Family & Learning Centre - Summer Trips - £1,500 SG recommended fully fund - £1,500.00 . Still waiting on accounts. Discussion around application being similar to last year and given special exception on this occasion as it is also open to Blindwell families. Members voted: YES 13 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 1 (AB) - Cockenzie & Port Seton Gala Day - Gala Day 2025 - £650 SG recommended part funding - £262.59 and Ring fenced £400.00 1st vote on partial funding Members voted: YES 12 AGAINST 1 CONFLICT 1 (PF) A detailed discussion took place about the ring fenced money and the fact this was a similar application to last year. As the money has been	GH EB/SG EB/SG OS/GS EB/SG

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	already spent It was agreed on this occasion to vote to release the ring fenced money and fully fund the project which totalled £662.69. 2nd vote on ring fenced money Members voted: YES 13 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 1 (PF) EB suggested for the next agenda we have an item to discuss timing of funding in relation to holiday hunger. CY confirmed the timing of things hadn't helped. PF highlighted that organisations need to look and plan ahead. BM has raised with ELC that getting confirmation of the Area partnership General fund budget earlier would help with this issue. EB suggested we could invite EJ the new head of Service to our next meeting. - Cockenzie & Port Seton Christmas Lights - Christmas Lights - £3,000.00 SG recommended part funding - £779.00 1st vote for partial funding Members voted: YES 5 AGAINST 8 CONFLICT 0 There were big concerns raised by members regarding the needs in our Area Plan around poverty and Inequality which this application did not meet. It was suggested fundraising could be undertaken and VCEL could advise. BM asked members again to vote on the fully funding £3,000 2nd vote for full funding Members voted: YES 0 AGAINST 14 CONFLICT 0 BM made a proposal to voted for £279 materials to establish fundraising group 3rd vote for materials Members voted: YES 4 AGAINST 9 CONFLICT 0 - Preston Lodge Learning Foundation - Social Enterprise Printing Company - £3,844.00 SG recommended fully funding £3,844.00 Members voted: YES 13 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 1 (CY) - ELC Arts Service & Cockenzie House - ELJam Studio Mentored Practice sessions - Arts Service Internal ELC - £4,972.50 SG recommended part funding £2,550.00 and Ring fenced £2,422.50 A long discussion took place about the lack of music practise opportunities and the work that was under taken last year at Cockenzie House whilst the professionals involved have a good track record Members were concerned about the success of the project. Therefore the suggestion to ringfence half the funding for an update post summer was welcomed by Members. Members voted: YES 10 AGAINST 4 CONFLICT/ABSTAIN 0 - ELC Jordan Irvine - Youth Climate Change - £1,180.00 SG recommended part funding £100.00 Ring fenced £1,080.00 to look at another possibility of other funding. This suggestion is no longer an option so BM advised now voting on the full amount £1,180 Members voted: YES 13 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT/ABSTAIN 0 1 vote was not cast	EB/SG

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	• Destiny Project SCIO - Identify Youth Space - £1,810 SG recommended no funding but Ring fenced £1,052.11 and more information Members voted: YES 6 AGAINST 4 CONFLICT 4 (JS/ES/ST/CY) GH/JS to discuss this through C&Y Network and make a recommendation and bring it back to the Area Partnership. BM advised there is £4,714.03 left (ring fenced funding £3,474,61) and suggested another funding round Maybe opening 18th August 2025 and closing 19th September 2025. Scrutiny Group meeting week beginning 6th October and decisions taken on 22nd October 2025. EB asked if there will be a limit set? Suggestion was to advise only small amount of funding left and not limit it.	GH/JS EB
5. East Lothian Partnership Co Production – Emma Brown		
	EB provided an update on the development of the New Local Outcome Improvement Plan. EB advised C&Y facilitation packs were available with key themes if organisations hadn't had a chance to undertake by end of June please. There are 2 packs C&Y and Community (isolated groups). The next Governance Group meeting of the east Lothian Partnership is on 21st July 2025 and BM has been invited to present the PSG Area Plan.	
6. Blindwells update		
	An initial meeting has taken place with the Head Teacher at Blindwells Primary and she is extremely keen to link the wider school community. Initially whilst pupils settle into the school only one community activity will be housed on school premises – Baby and toddler group. There are plans for community tours with pupils, parents evenings and information sessions.	
7. Holiday Hunger Funding Process		
	BM advised been voted on and agreed. EB confirmed no decision forms have been sent out yet. This will be done asap. BM thanked everyone for attending tonight to make us quorate.	
8. Discussion and update on Summer Provision funding process		
	An extremely passionate and heated discussion took place with Members extremely concerned about how the decision was reached to award the full £20,000 to Pennypit Community Development Trust. This discussion has also been minuted in Community Council meetings with Community Councillors and elected Members contacted Council Officers for clarification. There was concern about conflicting information on who had made the decision and on what information this had been based for example in the statement from East Lothian Council read by Cllr Yorkston, it had been stated that the Pennypit Community Development trust was the only organisation in PSG to deliver targeted provision. This information is incorrect with one example given of the Port Seton Centre receiving 15 referrals from Cockenzie Primary and 1 from the Pennypit Community Development Trust for a school non-attender. Members highlighted their frustration and upset that this stance had devalued the important work taking place in communities suggesting it was sub standard to the Pennypits work. This is even more upsetting as some projects have been running between 20 and 30 years. There has been a large backlash to the news	

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	for both Connected Communities Officers and the Chair of the Area Partnership. OS suggested the administration needed to be aware of this and deserved an apology. Members felt the decision could have been better handled in conversation with Area Partnership Members who have a fuller understanding of provision across the PSG Area. EB commented on a positive note of the importance of inviting Elected Members to visit summer programmes and that a discussion has taken place with Pennypit Community Development Trust to better evaluate Holiday provision in light of ELC's poverty plan. GH/JS to action this piece of evaluation work for the October holidays linking with Lucy Higginson.	GH/JS
9. Updates to Area Plan		
	BM would like to arrange for the sub groups Chairs to present this at the next meeting.	EB/SG
10. Removal of non attending non core members		
	Non core Members had been written to regarding their non attendance at meetings and the requirements in our Standing Orders:- Pennypit, Longniddry and Prestonpans Community Centre Management Committees. Cockenzie and Longniddry Parish Churches.	
11. Discussion of standing orders		
	BM suggested looking at these in the September meeting. We are just over the line quorate wise but it was close tonight. Thank you again for everyone attending tonight. BM added he was delighted to have Blindwells TRA along tonight. BM mentioned we only have 25% of Councillors here tonight and thanked CY for attending. Would be good to see some of the others attending as they have 3 votes.	
12. Reports from Sub Groups		
	Sustainable PSG BM gave a quick update that the main focus has been on:- Coastal erosion events Public Transport Children & Youth Network JS advised the group are moving forward with the Child Friendly Area Plan. Youth Friendly Area plan has been drafted to be discussed at the next meeting. Meeting has been moved to 4pm to try and accommodate more people attending from education and there has been a bigger uptake. Looking to try and get police, fire, social work all attending regularly giving us a bigger insight to what C&Y need in our community. Health & Wellbeing SB advised they now have a new Co Chair Sue Northrop and the focus has been on the relevant priorities being looked at in each meeting. Heritage JW advised they have been concentrating on Heritage fortnight. Week in September. Preston Tower volunteers are aiming to open the Tower on the 1st Saturday of each month.	
13. A.O.C.B		
	Place Making workshop/consultation session Pans Library this Friday 2-5pm	

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	EB highlighted Play Park indicative plans which are not yet finalised. Copies had been printed for Members. If any one has any feedback please let us know. The draft Plan follows Inclusive drop in sessions and opinions gathered to date. EB also highlighted the Open spaces draft strategy which is on the consultation hub closing 16th July 2025.	
14. Area Partnership Meetings Dates for 2025		
	10th September 2025 22nd October 2025 26th November 2025	Apologies to be sent to - <u>psg-</u> <u>ap@eastlothi</u> <u>an.gov.uk</u>