

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
Wednesday 10th September 2025, 7-9 pm
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

Members (and substitute members) present:

Ben Morse, Chair and Chair of Sustainable PSG (BM)
Janis Wilson, Vice Chair and Chair of Heritage Connections (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 and Co
Chair of Health & Wellbeing sub group (SB)
Carla Allan, Volunteer Centre East Lothian (CA)
Alan Sneddon, Prestonpans Children's Gala (AS)
Martin Muir, Blindwells TRA (MM)
Owen Smith, Prestonpans Comm Centre Management Comm (OS)
Euan Stratton, Sports Hub (ES)
Jonathan Sharples, Co Chair Children & Youth Network (JS)
Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)
Brian Weddell, Pennypit Community Development Trust (BW)
Elaine Anderson, Prestonpans Community Council (EA)

Others in attendance:

Emma Brown, Connected Communities Manager, ELC (EB)
Eamon John, ELC Head of Communities and Partnerships (EJ)
Shirley Gillie, Business Support, ELC (SG)
Lorna Bellany, NHS Public Health (LB)
Angela Gentile, Circle (AG)
Tom – member of the public
John, Ardent Consulting Engineers and Oobe Landscape Architects
Olivia Phillips, Ardent Consulting Engineers and Oobe Landscape Architects

Apologies:

Gill Harman, CDO, Co Chair Children & Youth Network, (GH)
Sandy Darling, PSG Youth (SD)
Hannah Montgomery, Lighthouse Central (HM)
Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie & Port Seton In Bloom (SC)
Chris Milne, ELC Roads Officer – Sustainable Travel (CM)
Cllr Neil Gilbert, East Lothian Council (NG)
Audrey Bain, Pennypit Centre Management Committee (AB)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	
1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies		
	BM welcomed everyone and was pleased to see so many people here tonight. We are quorate. Thank you. Introductions were made and apologies noted.	

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	BM stated we would move quickly on to item 5 on the agenda now for an update on Cemetery Park.	
5. Cemetery Park - engagement on plans		
	 Cemetery Park_Presentation.p BM raised the importance of information being available to residents on re wilding from the experience in Port Seton Links. LB suggested further engagement with secondary pupils at Preston Lodge and raised the issue of gender balance in park provision. Lighting was also raised around residents and young people feeling safe in park spaces. Recognition of the wider park plans for the pump track were highlighted with the delay to plans due to additional funding required. CY enquired about timescales of the plans. Follow up with CM re stages for the project.	EB
6. NHS Lothian, People & Place Team		
	 Partnership & Place.pdf LB provided a background to the small team and their remit. She highlighted the ways they can support Area Partnership and sub groups but updated that they were unable to attend every Area Partnership meeting. LB is happy to attend when requested.	
2. Minutes of previous meeting		
	BM explained that traditionally the APM minutes are taken the following year to the next APM to be approved. The recent Audit has recommended that these should not wait till the next APM and be approved at the next AP meeting. Minutes from the APM meeting on 14.5.25 were approved by PF and seconded by JS. BM thanked SG for the 11.6.25 minutes but would like amendments to remove the mention of his own incident. BM highlighted that he had received communication today from BW regarding the lack of clarity regarding the holiday hunger outcome. BW asked who made the statement. BM's recollection is that CY read out a statement from the councillors council in which it was stated that the Pennypit were the only organisation delivering holiday hunger work in PSG. This was agreed by other Members. OS asked if BM/EB/SG had received an apology in the way this decision was communicated and the impact it had on them. BM confirmed he had a telephone call from Caroline Rodgers. Subject to these amendments - Minutes from the previous meeting on 11.6.25 were approved by PF and seconded by SB.	
3. Matters Arising		
	BM confirmed most items will be coming up later in the agenda. Along with reviewing non core members there is the need to discuss standing orders as there is a problem with the core membership which includes 4 elected members. BM recognised and thanked CY who attends regularly but it had been one year since we saw any other elected	

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	members. This has caused problems with our quorate and asked is it time to make amendments to our Standing Orders to reduce elected members votes to have 2 and not 4. CA asked if other Cllrs had been asked why they don't attend or given an explanation. BM advised yes they have been asked, –we have had apologies from NG but not from LB/BR. BR has never attended an Area partnership meeting. EB highlighted this was an issue across other Partnerships and EJ suggested would it be helpful to write to the leaders of the parties. BM highlighted that Sharon Saunders and Caroline Rodgers had previously written to Elected Members but perhaps an email to leaders of the party may be more effective. Standing Orders to be on the October meeting agenda. Conflict of interest register to be on October meeting agenda. EB had reached out to Stantec who did not attend the March meeting to invite them in September but had no response. EB/SG had received all outstanding additional paper work for funding applications. The Destiny Project will be covered under the C&Y update. EJ is attending this evening to discuss the Holiday Hunger process.	BM/EB/SG BM/EB/SG
4. Funding - Underspend £300 Food & Fitness 2024/2025 PSMC		
	SB gave an update a £300 underspend and asked if the Partnership wanted the funds returned or if they could use the funds to continue with the project and offer extra sessions. CY proposed they continue to run the project and use the underspend. BM asked members if they can vote and the general consensus is that they keep the underspend. Members voted: YES: 13 Conflict : 1	
7. Holiday Hunger Funding & Notification		
	BM advised everyone of the background to the pot of Holiday Hunger money within the core budget for Area Partnerships to distribute. The Area Partnership has been having issues re the timing of the budget being confirmed with Easter sometimes falling at the end of the current financial year and other times the beginning of new financial year. EJ recognised this issue and this is in the core budget suggested the assumption should be made that there is no change year on year. Members need to agree the funding timeline for Easter next year which falls the 6th April 2026 to 17th April 2026. The 2nd part of the discussion with EJ was around the additional line in the budget of £60,000 shared between Faside, Musselburgh and PSG ward. This was nothing to do with Area Partnerships and decisions taken by the Council had lead to a lot of confusion. The decision taken that Pennypit was the best placed and only organisation to facilitate provision for PSG has caused upset and the feeling other provisions in Community centres which had been running for a number of years had not been valued. EJ recognised the passion and desire by Communities to meet the needs identified across all 3 areas and whist he could understand why the Pennypit had received the full funding it was clear other provisions should be supported in the future. EJ along with CY and Shamin Aktar have visited those provisions which was appreciated by staff and management committees. JS and GH are working with Lucy	EB/BM/SG

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	Higginson and LB on a matrix to evaluate projects based on poverty indicators.																												
8. East Lothian Partnership Co Production – Emma Brown																													
	EB gave a presentation and update.  PSG AP September 2025.pptx																												
9. Blindwells update – Bankton Junction																													
	MM gave an update on Blindwells which he had received from EB following a question at Longniddry Community Council as work had been due to start in the summer. Instead this work will begin in September and take 25 weeks. Prestonpans Community Council have raised concerns about other roadworks happening at the same time. MM highlighted that despite the request of the plans of the work they hadn't received them. EB suggested we could invite Hargreaves to our next meeting to provide an update on the Bankton work, the high street, the safe route to Prestonpans and bus shelter and the bus strategy. BM recommended we also invite MSP Paul McLennan. MM updated there are now 1000 residents, approximately 450 homes and 3 new future plots with an estimated further 520 houses, in the next 2 years meaning we will quickly reach 2000 residents. The Primary School has officially opened and the TRA set up for a year now with the AGM 30.9.25 everyone welcome. There are concerns from residents regarding bus connectivity with the withdrawal of the number 26 route and MM has asked for a copy of the bus strategy.																												
10. Roads Projects																													
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	BM gave an update on the 5 options above from the Roads Team. These were taken along to the APM but not many people voted. BM is keen to get a decision tonight on which project the Partnership wishes to have as a priority. A discussion took place and 2 options were preferred. Everyone was happy to vote on the two options. No one opposed. Gardners Road Prestonpans – No votes. Fisher Road Port Seton – Everyone voted unanimously. YES: 14 CONFLICT: 0 EB advised the bus shelter at Hawthorn Road which has taken 2 years for an antivandal shelter is now in place. BM asked about chasing up the speed reactive sign Cockenzie/Port Seton. BM would like to ask the roads team about the £15,000 gap based on what we've selected – can the small things be done with the remaining budget. BM will bring this up at the Chairs meeting on 18.9.25 as it is a significant amount of money.	BM
11. Update to Area Plan		
	EB suggested due to time this be brought forward to the next meeting agenda. EB would like to work with each sub group to produce a visual of the key achievements.	
12. Reports from Sub Groups		
	Sustainable PSG BM advised they had met last week with only 3 people able to attend and still no one to take this on as a Chair. BM wanted to thank Paul & Allan for their regular attendance. Due to continued low attendance a suggestions was made to hand the agenda over to the Youth Forum. Jordan is meeting with the Youth Forum on the 7.11.25 and will let the young people set the agenda and discussion. Children & Youth Network JS updated that the last meeting looked to identify Safe places and organisations for young people which is a priority in the Area Plan. Pennypit Trust, Port Seton Centre and Longniddry Community Centre are running October Holiday clubs. The group had reviewed the work on the new ELC Youth Vision and they had also been updating the Children, Young People and Families flyer. There had been a meeting with Lucy Higginson and Lorna Bellany to consider a new evaluation matrix for Holiday Hunger work. The time of the meeting has been changed 4 - 5.30pm. Work continues on a Child Friendly Area Plan. EB advised members that the recommendation from the C&Y network was not to fund Destiny Project at this time. JS added the C&Y and PSG Youth were happy to work with them. 3 areas of concerns were identified:- • There were concerns around PVG checks for volunteers • It was felt there was duplication in the suggested projects • Over the last year the Area Partnership has been working on a new priority in their Area Plan. This was to create a more sustainable approach to youth work in PSG by setting up a new Youthwork organisation PSG Youth. We would be keen to work with Destiny Project to develop better connections and partnership working with both PSG Youth and the Children & Youth network. This would ensure any new projects are embedded and based on local needs. Members voted on recommendation Not to fund Destiny Project YES 14 NO 0	

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	Health & Wellbeing SB advised they have been working on the Area Plan priorities and decided not to develop a directory but rather utilise the VCEL locator and are hoping to ask CA along to a meeting soon. CA updated that the locator relies on organisations inputting their own service information and have ownership for updating etc. One place for everything to be held and everyone can use it. https://www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk/vcel-locator Heritage EB advised that they had not had a meeting yet and are hoping to meet next month. It is Open Doors day on 27th September at Prestongrange and encouraged everyone to go along. The Prestonpans Railway Society have one of the locomotive due to move in a live demonstration. Preston Tower continue with their monthly open days. The Wagonway had another archaeological dig in Cockenzie over 7 days. More information on their Facebook page. JW will provide an update at the next meeting.	
13. A.O.C.B		
	BM highlighted that the Community Council elections close in 8 days. Please support. BM also raised Members awareness of two consultations currently open on the consultation hub. ELC biodiversity (closes 10th October) and Youth Strategy consultation. Closed 30th September 2025) https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/east-lothian-local-biodiversity-action-plan/ https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/east-lothians-youth-work-strategy-young-person-sur/ 2 future amenities projects were mentioned from Cockenzie Port Seton Community Council regarding expert tree advice and SB details to be shared at the next meeting. A reminder that the East Lothian Food Friendly summit is being held on the 25th September at Musselburgh Rugby Club.	
14. Area Partnership Meetings Dates for 2025		
	26th November 2025	Apologies to be sent to - <u>psg-</u> <u>ap@eastlothian.gov.uk</u>
15. Proposed Dates for 2026		

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	
	14th Jan, 11th March, 6th May, 17th June, 9th September, 4th November (reduced number of meetings to remove October and November earlier)	