

Preston Seton Gosford  
Area Partnership

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025, 7-9 pm  
Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans**

**Members (and substitute members) present:**

Ben Morse, Chair and Chair of Sustainable PSG (BM)  
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)  
Owen Smith, Prestonpans Comm Centre Management Comm (OS)  
Euan Stratton, Sports Hub (ES)  
Jonathan Sharples, Co Chair Children & Youth Network (JS)  
Sheila Chambers, Cockenzie & Port Seton In Bloom (SC)  
Alison Weir, Cockenzie & Port Seton In Bloom (AW)  
Brian Weddell, Pennypit Community Development Trust (BW)  
Sandy Darling, PSG Youth (SD)

**Others in attendance:**

Emma Brown, Connected Communities Manager, ELC (EB)  
Angela Gentile, Circle (AG)  
Kat Prangle, Breastfeeding Lens (KP)

**Apologies:**

Shirley Gillie, Business Support, ELC (SG)  
Hannah Montgomery, Lighthouse Central (HM)  
Elaine Anderson, Prestonpans Community Council (EA)  
Martin Muir, Blindwells TRA (MM)  
Graeme Hutchison, Prestonpans Children's Gala (GH)  
Janis Wilson, Vice Chair and Chair of Heritage Connections (JW)

AGENDA ITEM	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	
<b>1. Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>		
	<p>BM welcomed everyone and advised the meeting would be recorded tonight as SG is away on holiday. He also advised we are not quorate tonight. Thank you to CY for attending however there was concerns we hadn't seen other Elected Members in over a year. We will need to go back to the Standing Orders urgently.</p> <p>Introductions were made and SC advised she will be stepping down as representative for Cockenzie &amp; Port Seton In Bloom and introduced AW</p>	

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	who will be taking over from her. SG will update our records. Apologies were noted.	SG
<b>2. Minutes of previous meeting 10.9.25</b>		
	BM advised as we are not quorate tonight, we cannot approve the minutes from the previous meeting on 10.9.25. Further through the meeting once standing orders had been discussed it was agreed to remove some members who weren't attending and had been emailed asking if they wish to remain part of the PSG Area Partnership with no response. BM advised the meeting was now quorate and previous minutes were approved by PF and seconded by CA.	
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>		
	<p>BM confirmed a few items will be coming up later in the agenda. BM advised EB has been chasing up the Roads Team. EB advised that the Roads Project we proposed last time which was a stretch of pavement in Port Seton fell short of the Roads Budget allocation. EB was asked to check if the remainder of the budget could be used to replace broken speed reactive sign and relocate this to Avenue Road. Roads have advised this should be replaced in November.</p> <p>EB was asked for a timeline for Cemetery Park update. Chris Milne advised funding is in place this year to resurface and widen path 1. EB advised it was a phased project and shared the design map where it was hoped to secure additional funding for path 3 next. BM advised it will be good to see that in final form.</p> <p>OS enquired regarding any feedback from The Destiny Project which was not funded. EB advised further correspondence had undertaken between the project and JS/GH and they had referred this back to EB/BM. It was asked that Destiny follow up on the points of clarity raised by Members which could allow a further conversation on future funding.</p> <p>EB asked about any update from the Area Partnership Chairs meeting. BM advised updates from Eamon John Head of Communities and Partnerships which confirmed we would retain admin support and look to share good practice. It was a useful meeting to bring together Chairs particularly with links between areas. There are currently points of overlap with Musselburgh with the cycle path at Levenhall.</p> <p>BW enquired about update regarding Hargreaves attending the October meeting. EB advised this was postponed until the November meeting as MM from Blindwell TRA couldn't make tonight's meeting. There had been a presentation from Hargreaves at Blindwells TRA AGM and concerns were raised around the continued delay to the safe route to Prestonpans station. BM agreed at the November meeting we have a great opportunity to get the questions we want answers to.</p> <p>BM advised that at the last meeting we discussed the Standing Orders. We cannot make any decisions tonight, but we can have a discussion about how the membership is made up. We cannot change our core membership without changing the Standing Orders. Unfortunately, 3 of our 4 elected members have not attended in a year. BM thanked CY who has been stalwart in his attendance and we really value that. This however means that 40% + 1 rule means we only have 25% of those</p>	EB/BM

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	<p>elected members present. We have done our best to ask what the situation is. BM proposes that we reduce the Elected Members from 4 votes down to 2. If in the future all Elected Members wish to attend that could be changed again at a later stage. BM asked if there are any other groups that could be taken off or again any that could be added. EB shared the list of Members and went through each Member/organiser. EB advised Longniddry Management Committee and Longniddry Parish and Cockenzie Parish Churches had previously been written to about their Membership again these could be re-added in the future. It was agreed to remove these Members which would change the quorate number. BM advised we are now quorate and can make decisions at this meeting. BM asked if anyone has any concerns. No concerns raised. BM went back to item 2 on the agenda for approval of previous minutes.</p> <p>BM will draft a proposal regarding the Standing Orders as previously outlined and we will look at that in details at the next meeting.</p>	<b>BM</b>
<b>4. Conflict of Interest Register</b>		
	<p>EB shared her screen with the Members list to review the conflict of interest register we currently hold. This list will be kept updated to save members having to declare the detail of their conflict of interest at every meeting. The list was discussed and updated, and Members were asked to advise of any changes as they arise. BM thanked EB for putting this together.</p>	
<b>5. Update EKC Arts Service – ring fenced funding from round 1</b>		
	<p>EB advised Members that we allocated half the money for this project in the 1<sup>st</sup> funding round and that we would require an update from them before we released the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of their funding which had been ringfenced. There have been a few issues regarding the venue which has led to delays, and they are looking for an alternative way to run the project. Looking at the school and have also been in contact with GH/JI. They are confident that they will be able to use the money with an alternative model. They will give us a further update in November so we would have plenty time to reallocate any surplus funds. EB asked if Members agreed due to the unusual circumstance because the original venue is currently undergoing building work. BM confirmed that the scrutiny group were very positive about this project. BM does not see any drawbacks. BM advised if we have remaining funding then we will need to decide about a 3<sup>rd</sup> funding round or distributing the funds.</p>	
<b>6. Funding</b>		
	<p>BM advised there are 5 funding applications, and these have been looked at by the Scrutiny Group. The combined total of applications is £433.86 over our current budget. The Scrutiny Group are recommendations only and we have a track record of not following them. BM went through the applications in order of the scoring from the Scrutiny Group:-</p> <p><b>ELC - Cuthill Park Community Garden Project - £1,600</b>  The Scrutiny Group recommendation is to fully fund this project.  BW asked if Prestonpans Community Council had been approached as previously they have been very supportive of friends of Cuthill Park. BW also mentioned Dads Work to see if they had been approached to supply a bench. BM highlighted the high specification that is needed for</p>	

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	<p>benches in public places and that for installation etc we tap into the Amenities budget. EB clarified Friends of Cuthill Park have folded a long time ago but that Prestonpans Community Council has supported Prestonpans Bloomers.</p> <p><b>Members voted full £1,600 :- YES 9 Against 3 Conflict 1</b></p> <p><b>Circle – Grow Your Own Routes East Lothian - £1,600</b></p> <p>The Scrutiny Group had some questions regarding using local providers but due to their base in Prestonpans recognised the milage to some activities was closer than travelling to Dunbar. Circle were happy to consider other providers.</p> <p>AG wanted to say thank the Area Partnership and Connected Communities colleagues for all their help and support over the years. She added that this project is a massive lifeline for the young people.</p> <p><b>Members voted full £1,600:- YES 11 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 2</b></p> <p><b>Pennypit Family &amp; Learning Centre - Warm Winter Spaces - £500</b></p> <p>EB gave a brief outline of the application. BM advised the Scrutiny Group did have some concerns about the completion of the application and had received an updated form. On the whole the recommendation was to fully fund this application.</p> <p><b>Members voted full £500:- YES 13 AGAINST 0 CONFLICT 0</b></p> <p><b>Lighthouse Community Church – Lighthouse Larder - £1,500</b></p> <p>Recommendations from the Scrutiny Group was to fully fund this application. A question was raised regarding the cash first approach in the poverty plan which the Area Partnership follows. EB had raised this question and they are happy to look into a mixed model of food and vouchers.</p> <p><b>Members voted full £1,500:- YES 8 AGAINST 1 CONFLICT 0 ABSTAIN 4</b></p> <p><b>Pennypit Festive Provision – Warm Winter Spaces 2025 - £1,000</b></p> <p>BM gave an update on the comments/concerns/questions that he raised with Ruth Davie which included the cover of their provision as the application stated PSG but they were delivering in Prestonpans. The amount they were requesting as the funding received seemed to already total the project cost and to clarify the application to other Area Partnerships. BM advised questions raised have now been answered sufficiently. Recommendation from Scrutiny Group would have been to fully fund but as the budget will not allow this there was a recommendation to part fund £567 and if other money comes available then we can review this. BW raised his disappointment in the Partnership not fully supporting the community in Prestonpans and the application being considered last. BM clarified that the Area Partnership was supportive of the Pennypit Trust work and the Community in Prestonpans. This application scored the least using the Scrutiny Group matrix and this is why applications were considered in this order. There was a discussion about the work the Scrutiny Group had undertaken in scoring applications and taking time to ask questions from applicants. Suggestions were made to review decisions taken about funding applications already voted and agreed but Members on the whole did not agree and a vote was taken on part funding.</p> <p><b>Members voted part funding £567:- YES 8 AGAINST 1 CONFLICT 4</b></p> <p><b>Action for BW/JS for an update on exact figures for the November meeting.</b></p>	<b>BW/JS</b>

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	<p>BM confirmed that the main Area Partnership budget is now fully spent for this year.</p> <p>EB Amenities have confirmed tree planting at Sandy walk and supporting Prestonpans Management Committee with the installation of an outdoor gym. If anyone has any further amenities projects please bring these to the next meeting.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>7. East Lothian Partnership LOIP</b>		
	<p>EB advised everyone had been sent the September update and that there was a survey link for any feedback. There are three themes:- keeping safe, living well and money matters and there are sub themes under those. The survey closes on Monday and encouraged everyone to use the chance to feedback. EB advised she can send link out again if required.</p>	
<b>8. Update to Area Plan</b>		
	<p>BM advised subgroup Chairs had met to review the first-year achievements in the Area Plan and the focus for the next year. He handed over to subgroup Chairs who presented summary slides.</p>	
<b>9. Reports from Sub Groups</b>		
	<p>There were no further updates from sub groups.</p>	
<b>10. A.O.C.B</b>		
	<p><a href="https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/14629/first_steps_towards_a_data_centre_at_cockenzie">https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/14629/first_steps_towards_a_data_centre_at_cockenzie</a></p> <p>BM shared the above link with Council statement about new data centre at Cockenzie with a 12-month period to investigate the feasibility. SC asked if this would create jobs. CY stated not as many as we would like.</p> <p>CA advised VCEL 12<sup>th</sup> November conference at the Royal Musselburgh which is free to attend and will concentrate on the theme <i>Building Futures Together</i> with fabulous speakers and workshops.</p> <p>East Lothian Community Mental Health and Wellbeing fund for adults is still currently open but closes on 14<sup>th</sup> November. This is the first opportunity to apply for 2-year funding and engages a whole family wellbeing approach. It was highlighted by Members that Circle may be interested.</p> <p>OS advised the Place Making project has been published with a 120-page report which goes to Council on Tuesday and encouraged Members to read. The Library and Area Hub was being proposed at Prestonpans Library however the paper would only allow officers to conduct feasibility studies as no final decisions had yet been made. The paper also proposes to explore all 4 Community Centres operating under a Community Benefit lease with Management Committees. The timeline in the paper was up until December 2026 however even at this point it is recognised there will need to be support for Community groups to be able to take on these further responsibilities. It is likely</p>	

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	buildings will receive a RAG status. Red for buildings that have no community interest. Amber where community interests have been identified however groups are not yet in a position to take on the building and Green where groups are in a position to sign new leases. If any questions, please come back to EB. CY advised Tom Reid wants community involved.	
<b>11. Next Area Partnership Meetings</b>		
	<b>26<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>	<b>Apologies to be sent to -</b> <u>psg-</u> <u>ap@eastlothi</u> <u>an.gov.uk</u>
<b>12. Proposed Dates for 2026</b>		
	<b>14th Jan, 11th March, 6th May, 17th June, 9th September, 4th November (reduced number of meetings to remove October and November earlier)</b>	