

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the EAST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY RAIL
PARTNERSHIP
20 NOVEMBER 2023
Held in the Mercat Gait Centre, Prestonpans**

Present: H Barker (Chair), A Cosgrove (Secretary/Treasurer), J Bell (Committee Member), J Wilson (Scotrail), Caroline Thompson-Noble (CRN), Cllr John McMillan, ELC

Attending: J Ledgerwood (Scotrail), Paul Webster (CRN), Alex Bray (via internet – XC Trains)

Apologies had been received from Graham Atkins, Christiane Bielefeld, Paul McLennan MSP and Wullie Clark (Scotrail).

1. **Election of Office Bearers:** As both the Chair and Treasurer/Secretary were willing to stand again, and there were no other nominations, Harry Barker and Allison Cosgrove were agreed in these posts *nem con*.
2. **Approval of Annual Accounts:** Approval of the accounts was proposed by Jacquie Bell and seconded by Allison Cosgrove.
3. **Chair's Report:** Harry reported on a successful year. Most of the work had been on the Prestonpans project, and he was delighted that it had won first prize at the recent Scotrail Awards. The project had also been put forward for a National CRN Award at Swansea on 18 March.
There had been some instances of panels at the Prestonpans Murals becoming loose due to turbulence caused by passing trains.
Harry would contact Preston Lodge HS to see if they would be interested in displaying the wooden train model awarded by Scotrail.
East Linton Station re-opening would be on 13 December.
4. **AOCB: East Linton Station** - An email had been received from Neil Morland, Chair of East Linton Primary School Parent Council, asking that the CRP campaign for more services at East Linton when the station re-opens.
On the question of Abellio not running Scotrail services to Berwick, Harry explained how this had come about. He will copy these two issues to Paul McLennan who has supported the station re-opening.
Cllr McMillan suggested working with providers once the Station was open to add to existing services.

On a question of new housing at East Linton, Cllr McMillan explained the East Lothian housing requirements from 2024-34 as being 6,500, the majority of which were already under construction or being planned.

J Ledgerwood advised that he was working on travel issues – specifically the Station Car Park - in North Berwick with Peter Forsyth, given that on-street parking in the town is likely to be charged for in future. Cllr McMillan added that the new station at East Linton may have an adverse effect on existing bus services.

Dunbar - Covered cycle racks had been requested at Dunbar Station – J Ledgerwood would check position.

Suicide Prevention – C Thompson-Noble would be setting up meetings with the Partnership Officers for the Samaritans and ScotRail.

Community Rail Week – P Webster advised that this would take place from 20-26 May 2024. Some funding was available towards activities.

Future Meetings- Cllr McMillan, as East Lothian Provost, offered the Provost's Boardroom for a future meeting.