**BATTLE OF PESTONPANS [1745] HERITAGE TRUST**

**MINUTES OF THE 79/16 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON JULY 14th 2016 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO at THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, 227/ 229 HIGH STREEET, PRESTONPANS**

 **PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange

Avril Wills\*

**APOLOGIES:**

Sharon Beck

 Gareth Bryn-Jones

 Sylvia Burgess [Secretary]

 John Curtis

 Sharon Dabell

 Brett Fletcher

 Richard Mackenzie

 Baron of Dolphinstoun

 Baron of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

 Pauline Jaffray

 Pat O’Brien

**1 MINUTES of 76/16 Meeting** of the Trustees held on 2nd June 2016 had been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

**2 SCOTTISH POWER/ CONSULTATION & HARGREAVES RE BLINDWELLS & REPSOL/INCHCAPE**

1. That there have been no reported developments in respect of Blindwells/ Charlestoun but Hargreave’s Iain Slater has agreed to a future meeting which Sylvia Burgess will seek to arrange.
2. Confirmed that the proceedings of the post-Power Station Consultation Group funded in part by Scottish Enterprise would in future be Minuted; and that David Rogers had been appointed by East Lothian Council as Co-ordinator of its activities. An informal meeting had been held with David Rogers the previous day and the Battle Trust’s Gestalt Vision for the National Designated Battlefield Inventory Area had been shared. Agreed that at the next formal meeting of the Consultation Group Arran Johnston would table the Trust’s Vision statement which will be appended to these Minutes.
3. That Inchcape/ Repsol had reportedly sold their interest in the offshore windfarm and hence the putative SubStation although the future of that windfarm had now been cast in doubt by the Court of Sessions determination that the Scottish Government’s decision thereon had been illegal in a case brought by RSPB Scotland. Developments are accordingly awaited.
4. That the Joint Chairmen had received assurances from the Chairman of Prestonpans Community Council that there was no intention to encourage and support industrial/ commercial development on the battlefield as suggested by Cllr. McCallum in his earlier Sub-Committee Draft.
5. Reported that Gordon Prestoungrange had received a response from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, who had passed his letter to the CEO of Historic Environment Scotland.

**3** **JOINT WORKING** **PARTNERSHIP WITH ELC @ PRESTONGRANGE MUSEUM & HLF APPLICATION**

1. That the Minutes of the second formal meeting of the Joint Working Group [JWG] with ELC’s Cllr Tim Day in the chair were still not available.
2. That following the tabling by ELC’s Legal Department of its opinion that no such MoU as the Trust requires can be forthcoming Herbert Coutts had written personally to Cllr. Tim Day who had now offered dates for a meeting with Cllr. Willie Innes and himself in late July to explore whether there was a mutually appropriate way forward.
3. That no response has still been received from the JWG Chairman Cllr Tim Day re the putative In Kind contribution @ £10,000pa to the project costs by ELC which has been outstanding now for 24 months. The rental on the Workshop that had been withheld as a contra item has now been paid after polite but firm threats of eviction by ELC Estates.
4. Fiona King from BarkerLangham LLP has now gone on Maternity Leave and Darren Barker will be acting directly with the Trust in the coming months; and reconfirmed that a site meeting with HLF should take place as soon as possible but only after considerably better progress with ELC could it make any sense.
5. That it remains clear that whilst Cllrs Willie Innes & Tim Day are committed to the proposals the relevant Officers at ELC are giving the matter no priority whatsoever, indeed conjuring up and applying negative and procrastinational issues.
6. It is clear that the Trust’s/ Cllr Willie Innes’ HLF summer deadline in August 2016 is now impossible to achieved and that Herbert Coutts should reiterate to Cllrs Willie Innes and Tim Day our deepest frustration and indicate that unless urgent progress is forthcoming the Trust will certainly again be exploring other options for its Living History Centre and Tapestry displays.
7. That the Trust still very much wishes Cllr Willie Innes, as Leader of ELC Council, to make a formal public statement howsoever of its commitment to the Trust so that the Trust can proceed not only with HLF but more broadly across Government and private funders to seek the total £6m required for the world class facilities.

**4 VIRIDOR PROJECT/ BORD NA GAIDHLIG**

.01 Arran Johnston showed the completed DVD from Freakworks Exhibitions of Leith for the interior of the Doo’cot, which all present found most satisfactory. Installation will be proceeding in the coming weeks well before the September Commemorations. Briefing for Eastern Displays, including use of the Gaelic language was still pending. It was agreed entry to the Doo’cot would be available to all via key reference date.

.02 That John Sheddon had completed all works on the footpath with only one final issue re felling a bough in contention on which the opinion of an arborealist would be taken at end July. Arran Johnston will liaise with Keith Scott of ELC re the erection of the final English/ Gaelic signage at the south end of the pathway, and the padlocking/ privacy notices.

.03 That invoices from John Sheddon/ Strawberry Corner Landscapes would include provision for Springtime maintenance for the next three years as well as all work now completed.

.04 Agreed that a Preview of the completed work at the Doo’cot would be arranged for all residents and that two additional Trustees be invited from Bankton, Mark Jardine and Alastair Cleeton in anticipation that they will take a particular interest in the arriving facilities and their maintenance.

.04 That the chains installed by Strawberry Corner had proved insufficiently robust and were being replaced; the gates and railings at each end will again be painted by the Alan Beck Regiment as contractors to Strawberry Corner and padlocks attached at Christmas tide each year as required. .

.05 Eric Rosoman and colleagues at Atom Coding were proceeding with the APP embracing [i] the battlefields walkers’ trail – short & long; [ii] the Prestonpans Tapestry; [iii] the Tranent/ Cockenzie Waggonway; The Bankton Doocot/ YouTube links. Translations are now completed using Gaelic and French as well as English for [i] and [ii] with the additional translations provided by Beathag Mhoireasdan and Jean Migrenne of Bayeux.

.06 That meetings have now also been arranged with ELC’s Landscapes & Countryside Team to see how the new APP’d Walks can be integrated into the county’s existing provision and the guides thereto.

.07 That Arran Johnston is liaising with Gareth Bryn-Jones and Gardner Molloy on the Memorial Tables and all Regimental details have been provided. No decision on their temporary location [if any] has yet been taken.

**5 PRESTONPANS ‘MODEST 2016 & 2017’ BATTLE**

**COMMEMORATIONS & LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018**

.01 The 2016 modest yet visible series of commemorative events will be led by the Alan Brecks as is now customary. It is confirmed they will include the by-then-completed/ signed ‘Battlefield Walk’ – with APP, visits to the outcomes of the Viridor/ Dolphinstoun/ Bord na Gaidhlig grants, to Colonel Gardiner’s putative plaque at Tranent and the two Memorial Tables. It is also very much scheduled that the Prestonpans War Game, by then restored by Brett Fletcher, will be played - possibly in tournament format.

.02 That wreaths will be laid at the several memorials including on the battlefield where the Memorial Tables will eventually be placed; and at Prestonpans and Tranent Churches.

.03 Whilst the Doo’cot will be ready by then, whensoever it shall be ‘formally’ opened a key event shall be held, inviting the Chairman of HES to perform the task together with Viridor and VisitScotland guests.

.04 That once the Viridor Project is complete the Trust should seek formal VisitScotland \*\*\* designation and appropriate signage from the A1.

.05 Looking forward to 2017, EventScotland have designated it as the nation’s Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology; it is envisaged the Trust should make provision for a ‘special’ event during the ‘Modest 2017’ re-enactments September 22nd/ 24th [immediately after the SBT’s Triennial Re-enactment in Pinkie Cleugh on September 15th/ 17th 2017 at which the Alan Breck’s will appear as Home’s Lothian Levy].

.06 That when the major re-enactment event returns to Prestonpans in 2018 consideration should be given to a focus on the Clans who came out with The Prince in 1745, as previously targeted in 2009 for the 1st Year of Homecoming, with the Trust’s Committee of High Sponsors invited to assist in the occasion.

**6** **SCHOOL VISITS/ BATTLE GAME BOARD/ WAR GAMES**

.01 Arran Johnston reported that School Visits were proceeding with support from East Lothian Council and directly.

.02 That Brett Fletcher, in association with Warwick Louth and the Prestoungrange Gothenburg, was working in the Scottish Battlefields Trust to take further initiatives in the playing of War Games, including Scottish battles, which had already commenced at 2016 3Harbours in The Pans but would also span across the years ahead.

.03 That the SBT Triennial County Battle Re-enactments will involve schools across the county and Lorretto have already stepped forward to share in the Pinkie Cleugh events in 2017.

**7** **TAPESTRY/ FRIENDS GROUP**

.01 That a comprehensive Exhibition of the Tapestry and key

artefacts was held at Prestonpans Community Centre from June 4th/ 10th 2016 during 3Harbours Festival; Battlefields Walks were undertaken in collaboration with Ed Bethune of the CRA/ Waggonway Friends.

.02 That it remained the ambition to exhibit the Tapestry and artefacts elsewhere during the coming months in Dundee and possibly once again at Dunblane Cathedral, as well as in Derby and Falkirk in due course.

.03 That with David Forsyth/ National Museums and NTS emergent plans for Jacobite exhibitions with EventScotland support in 2017, it would also be appropriate for the Tapestry and the Battle site to be embraced and Arran Johnston would be in touch with Marie Christie to see what might be appropriate.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 **Phonetic Lexicon for ‘Gaelic’ speaking Highlanders** is now with Anna Beard and Bord na Gaidhlig funds are still available to capture the outcomes.

.02 **Colonel Gardiner’s Plaque @ Tranent Churchyard** requiresformalconsent from ELC which is responsible for the churchyard; funds are available to proceed, with details to be included on the Walkers’ leaflet and APP. Arran Johnston is progressing the matter and agreeing appropriate wording.

.03 **East Lothian Museums/ Archives** – that the Trust had receive details from ELC of the inventory of its archives from the ’45; but the public at large has yet to be asked to be in contact if any have finds accumulated over the years with a full amnesty proffered – possible as a corollary to the Consultation re Prestongrange Museum.

.04 **Jacobite Exhibition at The National Museums of Scotland: June/ December 2017** – resolved to support this exhibition in all possible ways including the offer to exhibit The Prestonpans Tapestry, display of our Trust’s artworks, possibly offer the Trust’s two plays at the Fringe, and so far as possible offer ‘authentic’ tales from the ’45 for *Outlander* fans including Guided Tours and the Walkers APP; that *Outlander* fans are already appearing in The Pans and the showing of the battle scenes and hospital at Bankton House had aroused even greater interest.

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

1. That the **Joint Working Group with ELC meets on the call of its Chairman, Cllr Tim Day.** A private meeting with Cllrs Willie Innes & Tim Day will be held on July 25th.

.02 The next 80/16 Meeting of the Trustees will be held from 6pm on **Thursday 18th August 2016** at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg or earlier on the call of the chair.

**.**03 The Triennial East Lothian County Battle sequence in partnership with the Scottish Battlefields Trust [SBT] will commence for 2016 in **Dunbar on September 16th/ 18th 2016**

.04 The Trustees will meet for the 81st occasion on **Thursday September 22nd 2016**.

.05 The Battle Trust’s 10th Anniversary will see‘Modest 2016 Commemorations’ take place in Prestonpans from **September 23rd/25th 2016**

.06 The 5th Biennial Scottish National Battlefields Symposium will be convened in **Perth** by the SBT on **October 15th 2016**

.07 The Trustees will hold their 82/ 16 Meeting on **November 24th 2016** followed by the Trust’s 10th Annual General Meeting.