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

**MINUTES OF THE 85/17 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON APRIL 6th 2017 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO at THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, 227/ 229 HIGH STREEET, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

Sharon Beck

Sylvia Burgess [Secretary]

Karen Campbell [p/time]

Arran Johnston

Jack Nurse [p/time]

Gordon Prestoungrange [Joint Chairman]

Sean Wood

**APOLOGIES:**

Brett Fletcher

Gareth Bryn-Jones

John Curtis

Sharon Dabell

Pauline Jaffray

Mark Jardine

Richard Mackenzie

Pat O’Brien

Avril Wills of Lochnaw

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

**1 MINUTES of 84/17 Meeting** of the Trustees held on March 2nd 2017 had been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

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

1. That Iain Slater of Hargreaves had met with Herbert Coutts and Arran Johnston re Blindwells and exchanged details of progress; and ELC Planning Committee has now approved the start on the scheme.
2. That the Conclusions by Consultants for the ELC Master Plan re the former lands of Cockenzie Power Station are expected before Easter.
3. That with InchCape’s 3 Year Planning Consent in Principle due to expire September 2017, a revised application and prior Consultation is going forward and all have been urged to register their views which the Trust will do under Arran Johnston’s leadership via a carnet of the Trust’s case tabled with both HES and ELC in the coming days.
4. Barbara Cummins, Head of Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland, had acknowledged our request for a clarification of ‘national policy’ towards National Inventory Battle Sites and had asked her colleague Alastair McKenzie, Deputy Head of Casework to respond; this has now been received and the Trust has responded as follows:

*“The Trustees here are grateful for your clarification of ‘national policy’ on battlefields as laid out in SPP [149]. As you would expect, our own charitable objectives are wholly congruent with that policy i.e. …* ***[we] seek to protect, conserve and where appropriate enhance the key landscape characteristics and special qualities [of the Battle of Prestonpans].”***

**3 HLF RESPONSE TO BATHHOUSE APPLICATION**

1. That the Regional Committee [Scotland] had not felt able to support the Trust’s Application to restore and interpret the BathHouse and use it as the Trust’s Living History Centre as proposed.
2. HLF offered the following headline explanations: [i] Complexities relating to the site; [ii] substantial required match funding; [iii] concerns around sustainability; [iv] heritage elements and partners lacking per se and in strength. These concerns were elucidated in the letter attached to these Minutes dated 24th March 2017 from a Senior HLF Grants Officer Tom Ingrey Counter which also questioned the location so far away from the battle site itself and whether the proposal was not over ambitious.
3. HLF have offered a DeBriefing Meeting to expand on their concerns which Herbert Coutts agreed to arrange at the earliest opportunity.
4. The Trustees were naturally disappointed at the lack of support forthcoming from HLF and surprised that none of the issues raised had been the subject of requests for any further information after tabling in December 2016. Nonetheless it cannot be denied that the complexities at the Museum site and the distance from the battle site itself are real challenges. So far as sustainability was concerned, the RGA analyses had repeatedly concluded that it was economically viable provided a world class facility i.e. an ambitious one, was created.
5. The Trustees resolved that the proffered meeting with HLF should be used to clarify [a] whether there was any realistic hope that the BathHouse proposal could fly with further work; and if unlikely whether [b] HLF support for putative **Plan B [Blindwells]** or even **Plan C [Cockenzie Brownfield]** might be potentially forthcoming - with both B & C advantageously close by the battle site, and thereby accepting that they would involve new builds possibly on a 25+ year lease and/ or with mortgage arrangements.
6. It was resolved to explore as soon as possible whether Plan B at Blindwells could be advanced and achieved by making an early approach to Hargreaves; and to await the outcome of the Cockenzie Master Plan Consultations in respect of Plan C.
7. It was agreed that no statement should be made to the media or ELC until after the DeBriefing from HLF but that such statement include positive identification of the future direction of the Trust for its Living History Centre; noting that to get optimum exposure any such statement should not clash with the ELC Elections on May 4th.
8. That PCC, which has invited the Trust to nominate a member to their Heritage Group, should be involved at an early stage in the future direction proposed, along with Cockenzie & Port Seton CC and the Coastal Regeneration Campaign Group.
9. Confirmed that settlement to BarkerLangham LLP of the Pt 2 balance of the £30,000 Restricted Funds Budget including VAT for its services re HLF had been made and that their opinions be elicited as to the best ways forward.
10. That the Trust’s remaining Restricted Funds of £101,000 were available to progress the issues involved but that they must be directed to achieve actual physical visitor outcomes such as have lately been achieved with the benefit of Viridor, HES and EventScotland support.
11. That by the time of the scheduled exhibition of the Battle Tapestry at Holyrood in late June/ July 2017 the next direction of the Trust should have been clearly established and the drive to raise further Restricted Funds carried forward from thereon.

**4 VIRIDOR PROJECT/ PATHS FOR ALL/**

**VISIT SCOTLAND**

.01 That the chains installed at Gardiner’s Obelisk still await replacement by Strawberry Corner Landscapes as does the pruning of the ash tree branches as identified in our consultant arboriculturist’s detailed report re the path from the obelisk/ Doocot; and Sylvia Burgess is liaising with John Shedden, our landscape contractor, to complete the work as soon as possible after notification to the residents at Belvedere & Bankton House.

.02 That Eric Rosoman and colleagues at Atom Coding have completed their update of the GPS APP **Prestonpans 1745** with all additional details for the Waggonway, including commissioned artwork from Alan Braby/ Ed Bethune, and corrections/ emendments for the other two elements for a cost approaching £2,000.

.03 Details of the APP have now been attached to all sign posts for the Waggonway and Battle Trail by APB Displays of Falkirk.

.04 That Gordon Prestoungrange had continued liaison with ELC’s Landscapes & Countryside Team / PSG Area Partnership and the new PSG Area Walkers’ Guide published shortly contains all the requisite details of the APP and the trails it contains; and full identification of the battle site and the tapestry.

.05 That the Waggonway’s 3 x Interpretation Boards using Alan Braby’s images, the restored Morrison’s Haven Board and the new Prestoungrange Gothenburg Board will shortly be ready for production and installation; the Leaflet dispenser at The Gothenburg car park will be replaced with guidance re the APPs and promote access to the new, third APP for the **Prestonpans Murals and Arts Treasures Trail** by end July – with Sean Wood and Tom Ewing much involved in its content.

.06 That Gardner Molloy’s two Memorial Tables carved with all Regimental details are now in ‘prepaid’ store with him pending determination of their temporary/ ultimate location; but confirmed that their ceremonial ‘unveiling’ shall take place howsoever in September 2018 when the triennial battle cycle takes place in The Pans.

.07 Resolved that application to VisitScotland to become a registered venue should be made asap, together with a formal Opening with a senior HES officer in attendance.

**5 RELATIONSHIP WITH SCOTTISH BATTLEFIELDS TRUST – 2017 & 2018 LIVING HISTORY**

.01 That in **2017** the Prestonpans Commemorations, after discussions with Andrew Robertson at ELC, will be linked to the County’s Archaeology Week as Pinkie Cleugh has traditionally been; and additionally with digs at Cockenzie Harbour re the 1722 Waggonway. Activity at Prestongrange Museum is also to be expected.

.02 Thus far, further plans for **Prestonpans 2017** are emergent but with the anticipated publication of his new book from Helion on the battle by Arran Johnston it is confirmed that a focus might be given to ‘Literary Cameos’ building on the 2016 Waverley Walk initiative, Cadell’s defense of Cope and the Gaelic connections.

.03 The putative Commemorative Plaque for Colonel Gardiner in Tranent Churchyard might also be unveiled and the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Alan Breck Regiment by The Prince’s Warrant at The Palace of Holyroodhouse will be celebrated.

.04 That when the major re-enactment event returns to **Prestonpans in 2018** great focus will be on the *‘Clans who Came Out with The Prince in 1745’*, as previously targeted in 2008 for the 1st Year of Homecoming, with the Trust’s Committee of High Sponsors invited to assist in the occasion.

.05 That the Scottish Battlefields Trust’s application to LEADER had been reluctantly withdrawn which will adversely affect proposed additional interpretation of Preston Tower and the collaborative activity with the 1722 Heritage Group lately established by Ed Bethune; as such applications for alternative support are in hand with two Landfill Trusts and the PSG Area Development Team from ELC.

.06 ELC and EventScotland have already given SBT’s East Lothian County Battle Cycle support as a National Event and HES is promising ‘Organisational Support’ for extensive Interpretation and Evaluation which will include Prestonpans 2018.

**6** **SCHOOL VISITS/ BATTLE GAME BOARD/ WAR GAMES/ BOTH TAPESTRIES’ EXHIBITIONS**

.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.

.03 Plans are being finalised for a one month exhibition of the Battle Tapestry in Lorient, Brittany, in August/ September 2017 as part of the Scottish contribution to their *Festival InterCeltic Lorient [FIL]*; it attracts over 500,000 visitors and local support there is once again forthcoming from Jean Cevaer and Hubert of St Nazaire/ Pornichet. Discussions continue with Tom Johnstone who is the Scottish Government’s Representative.

.04 The Alan Brecks will participate during October 2017 at the National Museum ‘Jacobite Festival’ and the Trust’s own plans are now being made following sponsorship from Iain Gray MSP to exhibit the Prestonpans Tapestry at Holyrood for 6 weeks in June/ July prior to the exhibition in Lorient.

.05 The Trust’s umbrage tabled with the Advertising Standards Authority re the 2017 Project labelled both as A Jacobite Trail and as ‘In the Footsteps of Bonnie Prince Charlie’ funded inter alia by a Growth Fund grant of £40,000 from VisitScotland has as yet received no response from any quarter.

.06 That with the Trust now responsible in the name of PAF / Barons Courts for the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, it can be reported that exhibitions are ongoing currently at Westminster Hall, to be followed immediately with St Giles Cathedral May 4th/ 18th then 3Harbours in Prestonpans, Crieff and Helmsdale by year end.

.07 The Friends of the Tapestries undertook an immediate check/ TLC in early March before the Diaspora Tapestry travelled to Westminster Hall, and are being recruited to staff the exhibitions across Scotland during 2017.

.08 That the grand Homecoming to Edinburgh at St Giles Cathedral of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, for the first time compleat will include the dedicated Schools Panels undertaken in partnership with EducationScotland led by Sharon Beck; PR is being well coordinated by Anne McMunn both for Westminster despite the tragic incident there on March 22nd and St Giles.

**7 THE ‘REAL’ JACOBITE TRAIL**

.01 Following the inappropriate claims of a Jacobite Trail made with support from VisitScotland in 2017 as alluded to above Minute 6.05, the Trust is working with the SBT to take immediate initiatives to realise its own longstanding plan and has invited Karen Campbell to create forthwith a website that chronicles all the relevant moments and events from the Inglorious Invasion of England in 1688 to the death of Henry IX in 1807.

.02 That once this framework is in place @ [www.jacobitetrail.scot](http://www.jacobitetrail.scot) partnership under the aegis of SBT will be sought with key activists to form a Consortium to apply to VisitScotland’s Growth Fund ourselves and to do historical and tourism justice to the construct.

.03 Noted that HES has already indicated that this is one focus area where its support for SBT’s County Battle Cycle might be delivered.

.04 Karen Campbell was briefed to proceed with an initial budget of £1,000 in discussion with Gordon Prestoungrange and Arran Johnston.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 **Phonetic Lexicon for ‘Gaelic’ speaking Highlanders** is now, with its phonetic translation, being used in training sessions by the Alan Brecks.

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

.03 ‘**The** **Spirit of the Tartan ‘ as CD**,the *Song-Drama of The Gael* by Dr Arthur Geddes, son of Sir Patrick Geddes [himself remembered in The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry], is finding additional supporters for a 21st Century edition with Ian Green of Greentrax and the Kinloch Anderson family; a progress meeting was held at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg on even date including Margaret Stewart and Iain McCallman which concluded the target date for release by September 2018 was realistic. It will be a CD with Spoken Prefatory Remarks introducing songs in Gaelic and English around the structure of Arthur Geddes 4 Theatre Scenes. A Trust budget contribution of £2,000 has been proffered plus an initial purchase of 100 CDs at some £600.

.04 **Spanish Civil War Theatre: 549** is being developed with support from ELC/ Brunton Theatre and SBT to be presented by Panner Robbie Gordon and Jack Nurse in late January 2018/ early February in Prestonpans Town Hall. Barons Courts have proffered a grant of £1,000 towards this artwork.

.05 **Scottish National Battlefields Inventory *re* War Games** – it was mooted that all groups located in support of the National Inventory might be invited to consider joining the SBT War Games initiatives at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg in the coming years.

.06 **ELC Support from incoming Council post May 4th 2017** – agreed that action be taken asap after the new Council for East Lothian is installed to identify its continuing even accelerating support for the Trust’s initiatives.

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**.**01 The Trustees will hold their 86/ 17 Meeting on **Thursday May 4th 2017 and continue at HLF in Edinburgh at 10.30am on May 5th 2017**

.02 That the 87/17 Meeting of the Trustees be held on Thursday **June 8th 2017** during the exhibition of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry at the 3Harbours Festival; or earlier on the call of the Chair.

.03 That the 2017 ‘modest commemoration’ of the Battle will take place between **September 22nd/ 24th.**