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

**MINUTES OF 88/17 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON JULY 5th 2017 AT THE PINE MARTEN, SPOTT ROAD,**

**DUNBAR EH42 1LE**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

Sharon Beck

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Sylvia Burgess

John Curtis

Sharon Dabell

Brett Fletcher

Pauline Jaffray

Mark Jardine

Richard Mackenzie

Pat O’Brien

Avril Wills of Lochnaw

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

Sean Wood

1. **MINUTES of 87/17 Meeting** of the Trustees held on June 8th 2017 had been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

**2 HARGREAVES RE BLINDWELLS/ COCKENZIE FUTURE MASTER PLAN/ INCHCAPE/ SCOTTISH POWER**

1. That no further actions had been taken re Hargreaves since they expressed interest in the possibility of locating the Trust’s Centre at the NW corner of Blindwells, and Herbert Coutts and Arran Johnston held a positive follow up meeting with Hargreaves’ architects Ewan MacIntyre Associates *[ema]* in Dunbar.
2. No further information is available on the Cockenzie Master Plan currently, publication having been delayed by the recent local and national elections; Council officers indicated it will be published ‘soon’.
3. That InchCape’s new approach to Planning Consent in Principle has reportedly been agreed with Scottish Power [but not yet ELC] to be on brownfield land to the north of the battle site; but it had been unanimously opposed by Prestonpans Community Council.
4. After much discussion it was agreed that the Trust would now wait before tabling its Carnet of documentation/ 13,000 Petition with HES, ELC and the Scottish Government until circumstances might change in respect of incursions on the surviving battle site.
5. That following a meeting and a crop rotation agreement with a local farmer, and the further letter which had been sent to Scottish Power with a view to resuming agriculture on the western side of the battle site, no response has yet been received.

**3 NEXT STEPS WITH HLF APPLICATION/ VISIT SCOTLAND/ ELC ENGAGEMENT/ NTS COLLABORATION**

1. That the Trust has now agreed a meeting with the Development Manager, Diane Gray, at HLF on Monday July 10th and much discussion took place on how best to approach the occasion. The following items were agreed as the Trust’s Agenda approach:

*[i] Invite Development Officer(s) to tell us about the HLF Resilience Fund alluded to by Tom Ingrey-Counter, how our project might be assisted by it, what the application process is, and what level of financial support we can suitably apply for.*

*[ii] Confirm we, and ELC, have taken on board HLF’s points about Prestongrange Museum’s distance from the battlefield and museum context, and so are now considering three potential locations in close proximity to it viz. St Joseph’s to S; Coal Store to on edge of battlesite to N; NW of Blindwells/ Charlestoun. If awarded Resilience Funding, we would use this to assess from first principles the pluses and minuses of each of these sites.*

*[iii] Explain how we are already now working with ELC, NTS and Visit-EventScotland in re-assessing our project, and hope to involve HES too.*

*[iv] We are looking to strengthen the skills base of our Trustees at large and our Committee of High Patronage and are beginning discussions with individuals who have recent experience of developing such projects including fund raising. Have they any recommendations re skills sets/ patronage to make in that respect?*

*[v] Though our thinking about the Battlefield Living History Centre is at an early stage, in broad terms we feel it should offer visitors – (a) views across the battlefield, with associated high quality VR interpretation; (b) opportunity to see the Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry, displayed in its entirety, in an appropriate manner and environment to ensure its long-term conservation; (c) themed changing displays of panels from the Diaspora Tapestry; and(d) museum exhibits and works of art (both historic and contemporary) telling the Jacobite story in 1745/46.*

*[vi] Associated facilities in the Centre would include – (a) education plus performance room; (b) reserve collections store; (c) battle board gaming area; (d) café/shop; (e) administrative offices; (f) Scottish Battlefields Trust office and display space; (g) storage space to supplement offsite warehouse.*

*[vii] Rotating themes would be – (a) literature/ storytelling and song; (b) drama; (c) embroiderers’ art; (d) Clans; (e) local family connections; (f) Hanoverian Regiments; and (g) International Jacobite Trail 1686/ 1807.*

*[viii] External space would be used for cameo re-enactments and open air participation by school and other groups in aspects of life in 18th century Scotland.*

*[ix] While not an essential feature of the initial project, it is our ambition to raise funds to commission the first equestrian sculpture of Prince Charles Edward Stuart in Scotland, to be displayed in a location associated with the Battle Centre with the aim to create a visitor destination in its own right.*

1. That Arran Johnston be asked to begin identifying in more detail the element of the putative Centre at (vi) and (vii) above.
2. That a follow up meeting proposed by ELC Council Leader Willie Innes with the Provost of East Lothian, Cllr. John McMillan was now scheduled for July 6th and Herbert Coutts and Gordon Prestoungrange were mandated to explore all possible avenues for partnership with ELC and contributions from the Provost in his role as Chair of Economic Development and Tourism and his officer colleagues in the Economic Development Team.
3. *East Lothian Courier* had given constructive publicity to the HLF rejection and the emergent approach the Trust is taking in the context of the Opening of the 1745 Battle Tapestry exhibition at the Scottish Parliament Main Hall on June 21st on the sponsorship of Iain Gray MSP.
4. That Gordon Prestoungrange had met with Darren Barker in Newark on July 3rd and the latter confirmed his readiness from BarkerLangham to give all such support as the Trust may require in the coming months; the Trustees readily acknowledged that HLF’s implied criticism of BarkerLangham’s input ab initio could be equally directed at themselves and that Darren Barker’s consistent professionalism since 2006 has been greatly appreciated leading for both the original HLF and the Viridor funding, and is likely so to be into the future.
5. That correspondence with NTS CEO Simon Skinner had elicited a very favorable response across the board and that an early meeting with officers at NTS was planned which would include partnering with the SBT and this Trust in the Growth Fund Application for 2018 from VisitScotland.

**4 BANKTON DOOCOT & VISIT SCOTLAND & UPDATES**

.01 That the stronger chains have now been installed at Gardiner’s Obelisk by Strawberry Corner Landscapes but the pruning of the ash tree branches as identified in our consultant arboriculturist’s detailed report re the path from the obelisk/ Doocot is still outstanding although Bankton Hose residents have all been notified and no disagreement expressed.

.02 That the tree management is of importance since one main bough has fallen across the pathway in recent bad weather.

.03 That Eric Rosoman and colleagues at Atom Coding have now completed updates of the GPS APP **prestonpans 1745** including the Prestonpans Tapestry in advance of its next exhibitions in the Scottish Parliament and Lorient, including QR tagging.

.04 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 mid August – with Sean Wood and Tom Ewing much involved in its content.

.05 Resolved that formal application to VisitScotland to become a Registered & Graded venue should be made asap, together with a formal Opening with a senior HES officer in attendance.

**5 2017 & 2018 LIVING HISTORY & RE-ENACTMENTS**

.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.

.02 Thus far, further plans for **Prestonpans 2017** include the publication of his new book, **Gladsmuir**, from Helion on the battle by Arran Johnston on Thursday September 21st at Cockenzie House Book Fair [its jacket is given to a new painting of Brigadier Lascelles with a recently wounded hand as he prepared to flee the battle to Whitby], wreath laying including Capt Stuart [who was himself of Lascelles Regiment but remained like Gardiner until death on the field of battle] at Prestongrange Church, guided Battlefield Walks, Objects Handing with the Alan Brecks and an Evening in The Gothenburg.

.03 The putative Commemorative Plaque for Colonel Gardiner in Tranent Churchyard will 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 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. An Expression of Interest for VisitScotland Clan Grant in support of the proposed Call to The Clans for the dedication of the memorial tables crafted by Gardiner Molloy has been lodged and discussions will continue in early August.

.05 ELC and EventScotland have already given SBT’s East Lothian County Battle Cycle support as a National Event and HES has agreed £32,000 [2017/ 2020] in ‘Organisational Support’ for extensive Interpretation and Evaluation which will include Prestonpans 2018.

.06 The SBT’s LEADER fund application, which involves this Trust and the 1722 Waggonway Heritage Group as partners, is now formally tabled with decisions forecast for late August.

**6** **BATTLE GAME BOARD/ WAR GAMES/ EXHIBITIONS OF BOTH TAPESTRIES/ ASA REJECTION OF COMPLAINT**

.01 The stolen Diaspora Tapestry has now been returned by Police Scotland and the Trustees reaffirmed their strategy at exhibitions which is to allow maximum access to the panels in honour of the nature of the project as ‘community art’; the panel will reappear at the July exhibition in Crieff and thereafter as usual. Tea towels and bags merchandise of the panel have been created to respond to widespread interest created.

.02 School visits proceed as requested and 1745 War Gaming is set to resume at this year’s commemorations led by Brett Fletcher for the Trust.

.03 The Trust’s complaint re Misleading Advertising to ASA has finally elicited a rejection on the grounds that it was in editorial content and as such outwith an advertising framework; nonetheless the dudgeon had occasioned constructive responses with VisitScotland that augur well for our imminent own Growth Fund Application for a Permanent Jacobite Trail.

.04 That the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry continues to attract great interest since it returned to the UK with exhibitions at Westminster Hall, St Giles Cathedral, 3Harbours Festival already and Crieff, Helmsdale, Irvine, Edinburgh Art Fair and Carlisle already confirmed together with a putative Cruise in August 2018.

.05 That the Battle Tapestry is having a most successful run at Holyrood and moves to Lorient with support from The Provost of East Lothian and the on the ground Breton team in August.

**7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 ‘**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 on hold currently for absence of funding support which Greentrax require.

.02 **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. They will visit The Pans shortly to view the Town Hall.

.03 **Andrew Crummy –** That Andrew Crummy has responded to Herbert Coutts’ letter saying that whilst he remains poorly he cannot make too great a contribution; but it was pleasing to see Andrew Crummy able to attend the opening ceremony for the 1745 Tapestry in the Holyrood Parliament.

.04 Agreed that Sylvia Burgess should proceed to procure a **‘jumbo sized’ van** to be a shared vehicle for the Trust and the SBT; nevertheless the extant Orange Citroen van shall be brought to a fully operational state asap.

.05 That the **memorial to Capt John Stuart** in Prestongrange Church has been badly affected by weather and consideration should be given to a plaque detailing the wording originally inscribed – which is available.

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EXHIBITIONS**

.01 That the 89/17 Meeting of the Trustees be held on Thursday **August 7th 2017**; or earlier on the call of the Chair.

.02 That the Prestonpans Tapestry will continue its display in the Scottish Parliament until **July 20th 2017**; and then proceed to Festival Interceltique in Lorient, Brittany from **August 4th/ September 2nd 2017.**

.03 That the Scottish Diaspora tapestry will open its next exhibition at Crieff on **Sunday** **July 23rd until Sunday August 13th**

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