

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

**MINUTES OF 104th MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON APRIL 11th**

**2019 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO AT THE PRESTOUNGRANGE**

**GOTHENBURG, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the Chair]

Sharon Beck

Stephen Connolly [p/t/e]

Sharon Dabell [e]

Joe Goldblatt [p/t]

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

Michael Taylor [e]

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Sylvia Burgess [e]

Kenneth Cameron

John Curtis

Brett Fletcher

Pauline Jaffray

Pat O’Brien

Avril Wills of Lochnaw [e]

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [e]

**1. MINUTES of 103/19 Meeting** of the Trustees held on March 21st 2019, which had been circulated by the Secretary, were proposed/ seconded by Arran Johnston and Sharon Beck respectively and confirmed as a correct record.

**2 VISION FOR VICTORY & PATH TO VICTORY 2019-2023**

**HLF Resilience Element [iii]**

01. Received the Draft Online Brochure from Arran Johnston, and debated and emended its contents on the advice of the Project Taskforce – as reported in its Minutes dated April 10/ 12th 2019 and appended here.

02. Agreed that the finalised draft @ **https://visionforvictory1745.org** will go live Thursday April 18th until Thursday May 9th 2019; the website will include an **Invitation to Comment/ Consultation** in survey format to elicit comments and advice and to capture the names of potential **Friends of The Prince** for the dBase with indications of what assistance any might be ready to give.

03. Tabled the 1st Draft of the **Concluding Project Evaluation** necessary for formal completion of the Project which awaits the outcome of the Consultation and will be edited by Herbert Coutts.

04. Agreed that once the existing Project Evaluation has been completed i.e. once the consultation feedback has been analysed and incorporated, a **Project Enquiry £10,000/ £250,000** will be lodged with National Lottery Heritage Fund [NLHF Ref: OM-19-00317] to seek to carry the ***Path to Victory in Prestonpans 2019-2023*** forward over the coming three years; and that the Restricted Fund of £100,000 will also be deployed to that end.

05. Noted that Martha Bryce will from April 18th seek all feasible PR coverage of the process to secure maximum comment and high public awareness; that the ***East Lothian Courier*** via Rachel Mackie, will be publicizing across the county.

06. That Mathew Wills FCA, Treasurer of the Trust, is liaising with Arran Johnston to review the trading budgets/ management accounts of selected battle sites to accord insights into our own future operating plans including the earlier budgeting for the BathHouse Proposal; access to NTS financial officers has also been requested to gain their critique.

07. That Michael Taylor will continue the evaluation of the Jacobite context for the Trust’s activities and at the Living History Centre including the **Jacobite Asset Register/ Trail and Colloquium.**

08. That the Path to Victory 2019-2023 would make extensive pro bono use of The Prestoungrange Gothenburg as HQ and additional displays for the Trust and management space have now been agreed in-kind on the first floor for this purpose.

09. That the Agreed Manifesto specifically addresses the future challenges of the Trust in respect of **governance and succession planning**, identifying competences and skills which will be needed for the achievement of our Objects; most particularly greater involvement from our immediate community should be engendered initially through the public consultation process in April.

10. That face to face meetings with the several **Community Councils** will be convened in the coming days and a formal **Open Day** at the Town Hall on May 8th to be publicized by local radio, press and social media.

11. That Stephen Connolly has been commissioned to share the Vision and Path to Victory with his original consultees to secure their reactions by May 8th 2019.

12. Whilst the feedback from the Survey online will be analysed and incorporated in the **Project Report/ Evaluation at May 9th 2019**, the website will continue to be accessible and comments invited through to **June 30th 2019** when the formal Application to NLHF will be prepared for submission no later than **August 20th 2019.**

13. That the Path to Victory can be expected to require funding outwith the NLHF and the Trust’s own Restricted Funds for discrete parts e.g. the Jacobites, Social Media Development and Tourism initiatives.

**3. BATTLEFIELD AGRICULTURE IN 2019 + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT [SCOTLAND] ACT 2015**

01. That a Request under FoI had been submitted by letter to Jackie Holland March 25th and by email to [foi@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:foi@eastlothian.gov.uk) on March 28th in respect of the disinclination to lease under the 2015 Act and agriculture respectively.

02. In particular information was sought on the extent to which potential incoming investors are being made aware of the National Inventory designation of the battlefield.

03. Extraordinarily perhaps the FOI Request had triggered press interest in the Brussels Sprouts with coverage in *The Scotsman, Edinburgh Evening News,* and *the Times.*

04. Noted that following several perplexing situations at Culloden and Killiekrankie, government Ministers have resolved that all future planning applications relating to battlefields should be referred specifically to them by HES rather than interventions being sought at the end of the process.

05. No advice has still yet been received from ELC to the request for field surface archaeology or their promise to put the Trust in contact with the incoming sprouts farmer.

06. That the Trust reaffirmed again that in due course it would seek an archaeological survey of the battlesite to the immediate east and west of the Waggonway, and of the Waggonway itself, with particular reference to the Scheduled Monuments designations still remaining although this was not a priority at the present time - if feasible, contact with NASA’s observations as recorded at St Andrew’s University should be deployed including appropriate measures of resistivity.

07. Reported that a separate Expression of Interest by the Trust made under the 2015 Act in respect of Prestonpans Town Hall had been discontinued in deference to Prestonpans CC’s own plans to establish a Trust to take on responsibility for that and other community assets.

**4. PUTATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THE LIVING HISORY CENTRE -PRESTONPANS**

01. That a further meeting with ELC led by Head of Communities Sharon Saunders was scheduled for April 12th at which HLF’s rationale for rejecting the earlier proposed location at Prestongrange Heritage Museum will be shared and indications as to the emergent Master Plan there elicited.

02. That the Trust was certainly willing to reassess its decision not to include the Museum as one of the potential locations for its Living History Centre if it was able to share fully in the Master Plan activity but not otherwise; the Trust totally accepted that if ELC and the Trust were both seeking future support from NTHL such an evaluation was an unavoidable necessity notwithstanding HLF’s earlier comments.

03. That the Trust was much more concerned to explore the area **BattleBing East** which has just seen an ELC Highways facility demolished; such a location would have many advantages as identified in the earlier HaleySharpe proposals a decade ago.

04. Reported that a Draft **MoU with Iain Slater of Hargreaves Services [Blindwells] Limited** re the NE corner of their new community, *Charlestoun*, overlooking the battlefield, had been created and forwarded to him; his response is awaited and expected shortly.

05. That Gareth Bryn-Jones will continue in consultation with Arran Johnston to develop visual concepts for the Living History Centre Prestonpans but in the interim the Trust will refer back to HaleySharpe pre-Tapestry which otherwise address many of the elements.

**5. THE JACOBITE CONTEXT/ TRAIL/ 2019 COLLOQUIUM**

01. That the Jacobite Trail project was continuing with the revised aim now of convening a Colloquium of the interested parties in the final quarter of 2019 with a view to eliciting further support for partnership along the Trail – at an appropriate venue in Edinburgh, perhaps The Storytelling Centre.

02. That following Michael Taylor’s Paper on the scoping

for an **International Register of Jacobite Assets** Herbert Coutts

had further discussions with him concluding that the immediate

action lines should be [a] defining what elements might constitute The

Trail and [b] assembling potential attendees at the Colloquium.

03. That the development of the Jacobite Trail remained a high

Priority for the Trust in the light of the decision to set the **1745 Battle**

**in its Jacobite context** in the Manifesto and that this activity be

encompassed in the HLF Resilience project with an initial grant of

£1,000.

04. Herbert Coutts was asked to continue corresponding with Michael

Taylor so that a decisive discussion can take place and plans to seek

funding agreed at the next meeting of Trustees on May 9th which it is

to be hoped Michael Taylor will attend.

**6. PRESTONPANS 275th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

1. Noted that the 275th anniversary of the battle would occur during

the Path to Victory and that it would focus on ways in which cultural aspects might be highlighted – song, literature, theatre, 3/4 Prestonpans Tapestry exhibitions across Scotland including **Inverurie** [which has its own 275th Anniversary Commemoration and an Alan Breck re-enactment planned], and Dunblane Cathedral. A programme of Battlefield Walks and School Visits will also be presented.

1. To ask Sylvia Burgess and Gordon Prestoungrange to explore

how the Clan Chiefs and eponymous streets initiative of 2018 might be built on howsoever inter alia via **VisitScotland’s Clan Fund.**

1. Reported that the **John Gray Centre** in Haddington had offered

its Temporary Exhibition space to the Trust at the end of 2020.

1. To commemorate the significance of The Thorntree in 1745, and

in the Trust’s logo, possibly with High Profile Dedication of the extant wild **copse in Thorntree Field.**

1. That a request for the 1930s tapestry ‘**Prayer for Victory’** as an

exhibit has been made and it is hoped some collaboration with **Preston Mill** might also be arranged.

**7.** **TAPESTRY EXHIBITIONS/ SCHOOL VISITS/ MOUNT**

**FELIX/ ICELANDIC SAGA PANELS**

01. That the two month exhibition at New Lanark Mills is proceeding with a three month Scottish Diaspora Tapestry exhibition at year end 2019/ early 2020 now agreed at **Summerhall** in Edinburgh following **Glasgow Cathedral** for one month from June 3rd 2019 which will go ahead notwithstanding that the 2019 West End Festival has been cancelled there placing us alone in pole position!

02. That the major Prestonpans BattleBoard, a capex of £18,000,

requires restoration and that plans for this should be included in the

Path to Victory alongside the tapestries.

03. School visits and occasional lectures and tour groups continue on

a regular basis.

04. Agreed the **Mount Felix Tapestry** will be exhibited in Prestonpans in November 2019 with considerable publicity to the Friends of the Tapestries on its return to Walton-on-Thames from New Zealand – exemplifying our community art strategy.

1. It is anticipated that the Prestonpans Tapestry will be exhibited at

The Garioch Centre Inverurie during 2019/ 2020 alongside restoration there of the battle memorial to the Jacobite victory on December 23rd 1745 now proceeding.

1. That the gift to the Trust of the **6 Icelandic Saga Panels** is now

confirmed for 6pm on June 3rd 2019 in the Scottish Parliament. The team from Iceland is travelling to Edinburgh with arrangements being made via Jenny Bruce with the Icelandic Consul in Edinburgh and Caithness MSP Gail Ross, for the ceremonial occasion – followed by exhibition in Prestonpans. Yvonne Murphy has also indicated that she might be able to attend but Andrew Crummy has declined.

1. According to agreed protocols no panels can ‘join’ the Tapestry;

these six new panels will be deemed Companion/ Associated Panels and exhibited as suitable from time to time these to include US Presidents stitched by Gill Lindsay.

**8. ‘FRIENDS OF THE PRINCE’**

01. Agreed that it was a vital success factor for the future Living History Centre that an audience of Friends of The Prince be established connected via social media to ensure high levels of repeat visits and also opportunities to recruit Supporters/ Volunteers/Event Convenors.

02. That the present structure of ‘£100 Guarantor Voting Members’ since 2006 was not itself appropriate for expansion and that careful thought must be given to how best to extend engagement and permit democratic participation in the work of the Trust in the coming years.

03. That professional advice based on comparative research should be undertaken to identify how best to move forward including the creation of the social media framework; exploratory discussions have already been held with Kirstie Pirie of Source Marketing.

04. That the opportunity of the Consultation would be taken to begin recruitment of ‘Friends’ and that an integrated/ interactive structure diagram should be tabled for the next meeting on May 9th .

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. That with support from Hannah Bradley, a joint application with SBT for a **Thistle Award** for the 2018 Parade and Re-enactments will be submitted to VisitScotland
2. That led by Sharon Beck, completion of Diaspora panel **US05** from Maine is in hand with all materials dispatched to the US at end February 2019.
3. That Technovisual had been successful in restoring **online access to the Prestonpans Tapestry** in time for the Consultation.
4. That the **paper file archives held in Milton Malsor and Silverstone** are being edited by Sylvia Burgess and Gordon Prestoungrange and will be transferred to Prestonpans in the coming months.

05. That the telephone number **01875 819922** has been restored for the Trust with answerphone/ redirection facilities with a totally discrete number for the Publicans at 01875 898200

06. That the **flagpole on the Bing** required attention and Sylvia Burgess would liaise to that end with Arran Johnston.

07. That donations totalling £180 from the **Broughton History Society** and **Northampton Arts Society** had been received in respect of lectures given by Jenny Bruce and Gordon Prestoungrange.

08. That **Professor Joe Goldblatt,** now retiring from QMU, had volunteered his guidance in raising the necessary capex for the Living History Centre, suggesting that an Endowment of £2m. be included as well as direct expenditures; and that it would be appropriate to approach Sir Charles Fraser concerning the proposal for Fundraiser Balls at the Palace of Holyrood House in 2020/ 2021.

**10. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

N.B. The next meeting will be closely concerned with the completion of HLF Resilience [1] Project and the ‘Public Consultations’ on the Draft Manifesto to reach the Agreed National Manifesto – which is to be the basis for the application to NLHF/ Viridor/ HES for support during our 3 year Path to Victory.

1. That the **105/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held at 7pm on **Thursday May 9th 2019** [preceded by the 19th Meeting of the Trustees of the Scottish Battlefields Trust at 6pm].
2. That meeting ispreceded on **Wednesday May 8th** with an afternoon of Open Consultation on the Vision for Victory 1745; then Friends of the Tapestries at 6.30pm both to be held in **Prestonpans Town Hall** from 1pm/ 9.30pm.
3. That the **106/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held on **Thursday June 27th 2019**