**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TRUSTEES OF BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS [1745] HERITAGE**

**TRUST WITH COUNCILLORS & OFFICERS OF EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

**HELD IN THE FLETCHER ROOM, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

December 10th 2015

**Present: ELC** - Cllrs Willie Innes & Tim Day, Myra Galloway, Kate Maynard, Andrew Robertson, Tom Shearer; **1745** **Battle Trust** - Sharon Beck, Herbert Coutts, Arran Johnston, Gordon Prestoungrange

1. **ELC Commitment to Develop Master Plan for Prestongrange Museum**

Cllr. Willie Innes, Leader of East Lothian Council, opened the meeting by confirming that ELC was now ready to [a] develop a Master Plan for Prestoungrange Museum; [b] bring forward its Capital Budget commitment to that end; [c] accept the 1745 Battle Trust’s proposal to take an ‘at least 50 year lease’ on the BathHouse in line with the Draft MoU already tabled by the Trust; and [d] provide formal and public confirmation to the Trust by the Council of East Lothian to these effects.

Cllr. Innes accepted that there had been regrettable delays since such a proposition was first aired at the ELC Petitions Committee in January 2010 due to inescapable financial circumstances and other museum priorities. He asked the Trust whether, in the light of these commitments, it was acceptable for the intended February 2016 Round 1 Bid to HLF re the BathHouse to be delayed until Summer 2016 to enable such a Master Plan to be created by ELC with the use of external Consultants.

1. **Battle Trust’s Acceptance of Postponement of the Trust’s Round 1 Bid to HLF**

Speaking for the Trust, Joint Chairs Herbert Coutts and Gordon Prestoungrange confirmed that, in the light of the above commitments by ELC, such a postponement would be readily acceptable provided the delay was only until summer 2016 whilst a Master Plan for the whole site was prepared along the lines already agreed by the Trust with ELC’s Officers at the Joint Vision Development Meeting in December 2014 and as further detailed in the Draft MoU as now tabled.

The Trustees suggested that for this to be achieved expeditiously, BarkerLangham LLP be considered as possible Consultants for such Master Plan since they have been involved with all stages thus far since 2006 - working directly for the Trust – including RGA’s economic feasibility assessments.

The Trustees reconfirmed that the Trust regarded the creation and sequential implementation of such a Master Plan as the *sine qua non* for its own presence at the Museum site in order that the necessary number of day-visitors/ tourists can be attracted in a thoroughly inviting holistic world class context, and repeat visits deliberately encouraged for the benefit of all facilities.

The Trustees affirmed that the Draft MoU contained their comprehensive proposal for involvement with ELC, and that there were a number of essential elements included therein that they wished to highlight specifically to the meeting:

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* 1. The Trust will not in the immediate future wish to proceed with any ‘new’ buildings at the Museum but will lease the entire BathHouse from ELC for at least 50 years in a clean, water-tight condition and empty of the collections and other items previously stored there;
  2. The Trust will manage the entire BathHouse and environs to provide a Living History interpretation of the events leading up to the Battle in September 1745 including the display as a ‘continuous’ exhibition of the Prestonpans Tapestry;
  3. The Trust will within the BathHouse manage both cafe facilities and the sale of merchandise and exercise its right to charge for admissions and events as appropriate to ensure adequate revenue accrues;
  4. The Trust will join with ELC in all such ways as it is empowered to act as a Charity to ensure the most effective development of the entire Museum site including links to Cuthill Park and Morrison’s Haven and will as occasion merits have access to communal areas of the Museum site e.g. for small scale re-enactments and displays;
  5. The Trust will work in partnership with the Scottish Battlefields Trust, especially in respect of Pinkie Cleugh 1547, as occasion might require, and by virtue of its recognised commitment to narrative embroidery also in partnership with the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry and the Friends thereof.

1. **Immediate Action Lines for January 2016**
   1. It was mutually agreed that a Steering Group be formally constituted with membership and terms as tabled in Draft MoU [3] to meet first in January 2016 under the Chair of Cllr. Tim Day/ Vice Chair Herbert Coutts. The Steering Group will take all necessary steps to enable the Round 1 Bid to HLF to be accomplished by the Trust to HLF’s Summer deadline.
   2. BarkerLangham LLP will continue to provide its existing contracted services to the Trust and ELC in preparation of the Round 1 Bid including the ongoing Community Consultation, and act as Secretary to the Steering Group as may be required.
   3. Invitations to Tender will be issued by ELC after the January 2016 Meeting of the Steering Group to Consultants to create the Master Plan for the entire Museum site in line with the agreed Vision developed in December 2014 and detailed further in the Draft MoU.
   4. That following the January Meeting of the Steering Group, East Lothian Council *per se* will formally approve the MoU on the initiative of its Leader Cllr. Willie Innes and, in consultation with the Trust, issue such a statement / Press Release of its firm commitment to the future activities of the Trust in the BathHouse at the Museum. It is this important public statement by Cllr Willie Innes that will be used by the Trust as the basis for its own broadscale search for vial additional funding beyond the HLF.

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