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

**MINUTES OF THE 78/16 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON JUNE 2nd 2016 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO at THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, 227/ 229 HIGH STREEET, PRESTONPANS**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

Sharon Beck

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange

### Avril Wills

### *in attendance part-time:*

### Ed Bethune [Coastal Regeneration Alliance]

### Iain Gray MSP

### Further residents of Bankton House & Steadings &

### Battlefield Supporters/ Volunteers

**APOLOGIES:**

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 77/16 Meeting** of the Trustees held on 21st April 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 Herbert Coutts will seek to arrange.
2. Reported that the post-Power Station Consultation Group funded in part by Scottish Enterprise would in future be Minuted; and although Proposals have not been invited, Prestonpans Community Council had established a Sub-Committee led by Cllr. Calum Miller that had produced an extraordinary Draft MasterPlan that argued the battlesite to the west should be given over to Commercial/ Industrial Development to create Jobs.
3. That in response Arran Johnston had initiated a Petition website with the proposition that it should never be thus re-zoned, which had collected supporters very quickly reaching 6500 at the time of writing.
4. That in due course the Trust should table its own plans formally with respect to the battlesite and all areas included in the HES National Inventory.
5. That the Joint Chairmen had already written to the local media in respect of Cllr Calum Miller’s views, as had Arran Johnston from the Scottish Battlefields Trust, and an urgent meeting should now be sought with the Chairman of the Community Council to ensure the Draft goes no further.
6. Reported that Gordon Prestoungrange had written to Fiona Hyslop MSP, who is continuing as Cabinet Secretary for Culture, inviting her to visit with us and to assist us with normalising our relationships with HES despite our implacable opposition to the putative SubStation for Repsol/ Inchcape proposed with HES concurrence for the battle site’s burial area in Thorntree Field.

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

1. That a second formal meeting of the Joint Working Group [JWG] with ELC’s Cllr Tim Day in the chair had taken place in Haddington but once again Minutes were not yet available.
2. No agreement had been reached on the MoU required by the Trust despite a promise to that end, rather the view had been tabled by ELC’s Legal Department hat no such MoU as the Trust requires can be forthcoming.
3. That no response from the JWG Chairman Cllr Tim Day had been received re the putative In Kind contribution @ £10,000pa to the project costs by ELC which has been outstanding now for 18 months.
4. Fiona King from BarkerLangham LLP confirmed that a site meeting with HLF should take place as soon but that it required considerably better progress with ELC before that made sense.
5. That it is clear that whilst Cllrs Willie Innes & Tim Day are committed to the proposals the relevant Officers at ELC are giving the mater no priority whatsoever, indeed conjuring up applying negative and procrastinational issues.
6. It is clear that the Trust’s/ Cllr Willie Innes’ HLF summer deadline in August 2016 is now almost impossible to achieved and that Herbert Coutts should write directly to Cllr Tim Day expressing our deepest frustration and indicating that unless urgent progress is forthcoming the Trust will certainly begin exploring other options for its Living History Centre and Tapestry displays.
7. That Gordon Prestoungrange had met with Darren Barker in Newark to review all aspects of the project and in particular arrangements during Fiona King’s upcoming maternity leave of absence; and he confirmed he will himself step into the role.
8. 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 That Arran Johnston had completed all details of the designs with Freakworks Exhibitions of Leith for the interior of the Doo’cot which would ready well before the September Commemorations of the battle. Briefing for Eastern Displays, including use of the Gaelic language was still pending.

.02 That Residents at Bankton had again been invited to meet the Trustees to reach a final resolution of the optimal pathway from the Obelisk/ Bankton Doocot; discussions had also taken place in the field with residents; and the overwhelming consensus was to use the dedicated pathway. Accordingly [i] John Shedden/ Strawberry Corner would now proceed with the requisite landscaping within a budget of not more than £4,000, and [ii] the final signage will be erected by ELC.

.03 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. .

.04 That the East Lothian Railway Partnership / Scotrail Group will be placing station information boards at Prestonpans in the near future and if not o our total satisfaction can be amended at first revise.

.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. Text for each location will be provided using Gaelic and French as well as English for [i] and [ii] with additional translations provided by Beathag Mhoireasdan and Jean Migrenne of Bayeux.

.07 Recent careful clarification from Viridor re call downs of their Grant has meant that funding is now arriving timeously. Call downs from the Bord na Gaidhlig Grant held via ELC are also being drawn down as appropriate.

.08 That Arran Johnston is liaising with Gareth Bryn-Jones and Gardner Molloy on the requisite details to appear on the top surface of the Memorial Tables.

**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 to be expected they will include the by-then-completed ‘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 anticipated 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 Church.

.03 Whilst it was hoped the Doo’cot might be ready by then, whensoever it was formally opened, a key event would be held, perhaps inviting the Chairman of HES to perform the task.

.04 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].

.05 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, commencing at 2016 3Harbours in The Pans but also across the years ahead.

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

.01 That a comprehensive Exhibition of the Tapestry and key

artefacts is to be held at Prestonpans Community Centre from June 4th/ 10th 2016 during 3Harbours Festival; Battlefields Walks undertaken in collaboration with Ed Bethune of the CRA/ Waggonway Friends ; and the opportunity to recruit Tour Guides and additional active Trustees explored through a series of talks.

.02 That it was hoped that Tapestry and artefacts can also be

exhibited elsewhere during the year in Dundee and in Carlisle at the anniversary commemorations there, and possibly at Dunblane Cathedral, Derby and Falkirk in due course.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 **Phonetic Lexicon for ‘Gaelic’ speaking Highlanders** is now with Anna Beard and Bord na Gaidhlig funds are 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 should ask for ELC to provide an inventory of its archives from the ’45; and that the public at large 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 **Recruitment of ‘Active’ Trustees** – that proposals in respect of Jacobite nominees and representatives from the Bankton estate would be considered at the next meeting on July 14th together with that of Kenneth Cameron.

.05 **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 is possible offer ‘authentic’ tales from the ’45 for *Outlander* fans including Guided Tours and the Walkers APP; that *Outlander* fans ae already appearing in The Pans and the showing of the battle the coming weekend is expected to arouse even greater interest.

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

1. That the **Joint Working Group with ELC will meet on the call of its Chairman, Cllr Tim Day.**
2. The Battle Trust will exhibit **The Prestonpans Tapestry at the 11th 3Harbours Festival from 4th/ 10th June 2016** at The Prestonpans Community Centre.

.03 The next 79/16 Meeting of the Trustees will be held from 6pm on **Thursday 14th July 2016** at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg or earlier on the call of the chair.

.04 The Trustees will meet for the 80th occasion on **Thursday August 18th 2016**.

.04 The Scottish Battlefields Trust’s Triennial East Lothian Cycle will see the **DUNBAR 1650 Re-enactment** take place on **September 16th / 18th** **2016**

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