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

**MINUTES OF THE 84/17 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON MARCH 2nd 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

Arran Johnston [p/time]

Gordon Prestoungrange

Anne Wills

Avril Wills

Sean Wood

**APOLOGIES:**

Brett Fletcher

 Gareth Bryn-Jones

 Sylvia Burgess [Secretary]

 John Curtis

 Sharon Dabell

 Pauline Jaffray

 Mark Jardine

 Richard Mackenzie

 Pat O’Brien

 Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

 Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

**1 MINUTES of 83/17 Meeting** of the Trustees held on January 19th 2017 had been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

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

1. That Iain Slater of Hargreaves was ready to meet with the Trustees and to update on all aspects including the Prince’s Loch; and that the putative name should be explored again along with % for the arts and interpretation of the Riggonhead Defile. The opportunity to ‘Walk’ in September 2018 should also be raised.
2. That draft conclusions and several options had been tabled by Consultants for the Master Plan re the former lands of Cockenzie Power Station; comments at the meetings had strongly favoured the retention of the whole battle site as already argued by the Trustees. A final report is expected in the coming weeks.
3. That Inchcape sale of their interest in the offshore windfarm and hence the putative SubStation is still unresolved, but the CRA has launched a second CRtB application although 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.
4. That Wessex Archaeology had shared its findings at the site with Arran Johnston which carried the debate no further forward except in identifying that the lands in question had not been disturbed since 1745 save by agriculture; and Arran Johnston is preparing a Summary for the Trust of the Wessex Findings & Discussions.
5. Barbara Cummins, Head of Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland, had been contacted and had asked her colleagues to respond; they had indicated that whilst we would not be formally Consulted before HES resolved whether to Object or not, they would consider all the fresh evidence we have tabled since their original decision to withdraw their original Objection; they had also indicated their decision would be made in line with ‘national policy’ – on which HES has been invited to clarify precisely what such ‘policy’ might be in this context but no answer has yet been forthcoming; finally, Iain Gray MSP has written to HES suggesting that our Trust should be formally consulted.
6. It was resolved to ask Herbert Coutts to write on the above issue to Jane Ryder OBE, Chairman of HES, and inter alia to invite her to visit Prestonpans and perhaps formally declare Open the Bankton Doocot and Battle Trail.
7. It was further resolved, for the avoidance of any and all doubt about the Trust’s position, to ask Arran Johnston to create a ‘Carnet of All Our Fresh Evidence’ together with details of the 13,000+ Petition, to be tabled with HES and ELC by end March 2017asking them to reinstate their original Objection to InchCape’s proposal on the grounds of adequate brownfield lands being available to the north of the battlefield; and to consult officially with the Trust before making any determination on the revised Application by InchCape.

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

1. That HLF Scotland had confirmed that the £3.7m Application as tabled covered all the issues required and that it would be considered by the Scottish Committee on March 9th . After such consideration the Trust would be immediately notified and if it was endorsed by that Scottish Committee it would be forwarded to the London Committee of HLF the following week with a formal response expected before end March.
2. That following the Open Public Meeting attended by several Community Councillors, Prestonpans Community Council [PCC] had discussed it at their subsequent meeting and agreed to establish their own Heritage Group which would ensure that all aspects at the Museum over and beyond the Bath House are developed effectively and imbalances are avoided.
3. PCC has invited the Trust to nominate a member to their Heritage Group and resolved that the Trust would be delighted so to do, making available at the same time all research work undertaken since 1997 at our sister charity, The Barons Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun.
4. 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 be made immediately.

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

**VISIT SCOTLAND**

.01 That the chains installed at Gardiner’s Obelisk still await replacement by Strawberry Corner Landscapes.

.02 That all other work including the additional bench has now been completed for the Viridor Project using Strawberry Corner as contractors.

.03 That our consultant arboriculturist’s detailed report on pruning the ash tree on the path from the obelisk/ Doocot had recommended action and Sylvia Burgess is liaising with John Shedden, our landscape contractor, to complete the work as soon as possible after notification to the single resident at Belvedere/ Bankton House who had been concerned with the matter.

.04 That Eric Rosoman and colleagues at Atom Coding will complete their update of the GPS APP **Prestonpans 1745** by end April 2017 with all additional details for the Waggonway, including a commissioned artwork from Alan Braby/ Ed Bethune, and corrections/ emendments for the other two elements for a cost approaching £2,000 including VAT.

.05 Details of the APP will be attached to all sign posts for the Waggonway and Battle Trail by APB Displays of Falkirk.

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

.07 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 be place with Eastern Displays shortly for production and installation; the Leaflet dispenser at The Gothenburg car park will be replaced with guidance re the APPs and promoted 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.

.08 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.

.09 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 Waverley initiative, Cadell’s defense of Cope and the Gaelic connections. 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.

.03 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.

.04 That the outcome of the Scottish Battlefields Trust’s applications to LEADER for £185,000 + would now hopefully be known by March and if successful will have a significant impact on many of the Trust’s activities.

.05 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.

**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, with a recent group tour for Longniddry Primary which were the first school to take in the Doocot DVD – which was well received

.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 afoot for a 10+ day exhibition 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 A selection of panels have been exhibited in Glasgow to assist a new community group establish its own Renfrewshire tapestry as was so well accomplished in Walton on Thames.

.05 The Alan Brecks have been invited to participate during October 2017 at the National Museum in its ‘Jacobite Festival’ and the Trust’s own plans are being made to exhibit the Prestonpans Tapestry at the same time.

.06 The Trust has taken umbrage at 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. It cannot by any stretch of the imagination be labeled as In The Prince’s Footsteps … ; accordingly a Complaint for Misleading Advertising has been lodged with the ASA and their response is awaited.

.07 The issues raised at .06 above have given a fillip to existing plans the Trust has to work from its Prestongrange Museum hub as a fulcrum for a comprehensive Jacobite Trail [working with the SBT and myriad others] across the period 1688/ 1807. A website [www.jacobitetrail.scot](http://www.jacobitetrail.scot) has been registered and initial website design is being explored, with a grant from VisitScotland’s Growth Fund targeted for delivery by September 2018.

.08 That with the Trust now responsible in the name of PAF / Barons Courts for the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, details of its exhibitions will in future be considered here – already including Westminster Hall, 3Harbours, Edinburgh, Crieff and Helmsdale after its return from Iceland on March 3rd 2017.

.09 The Friends of the Tapestries are preparing to undertake an immediate check/ TLC in March before the Diaspora Tapestry travels to Westminster Hall, and to staff exhibitions across Scotland during 2017 following the well-attended annual update meeting on January 20th.

.10 That venue for the grand Homecoming to Edinburgh of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, for the first time compleat, is still pending; the occasion will include the dedicated Schools Panels undertaken in partnership with EducationScotland.

**7 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 whose uncle Ronald composed The [thus far untraced] Overture in 1932; target date for release is September 2018.

.04 **Carham Millennial Commemoration 2018** is being developed with support from English Heritage and the SBT with extensive research required to identify where the battle took place and how the national boundaries were thereafter set between Scotland and England. The possibility of a linked activity at neighbouring Paxton House was identified as worth exploring.

.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 in the coming years.

**8 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

.01 The Trustees will hold their 85/ 17 Meeting on Thursday **April 6th 2017.**

.02 That the 86/17 Meeting of the Trustees be held on Thursday **May 4th 2017** after the Westminster Hall exhibition has closed on April 29th.

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