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

**MINUTES OF 87/17 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON JUNE 8th 2017 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO AT THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, HIGH STREET, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

Sharon Beck

Brett Fletcher

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

Sean Wood

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Sylvia Burgess

John Curtis

Sharon Dabell

Pauline Jaffray

Mark Jardine

Richard Mackenzie

Pat O’Brien

Avril Wills of Lochnaw

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

1. **MINUTES of 86/17 Meeting** of the Trustees held on May 4th 2017 had been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

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

1. That Hargreaves had expressed interest in the possibility of locating the Trust’s Centre at the NW corner of Blindwells and Herbert Coutts and Arran Johnston had 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.
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.
4. Despite this most encouraging news after 3 years of lobbying, Arran Johnston was still asked to table the promised Carnet of the Trust’s case to protect the battlesite remaining today with both HES and ELC in the coming days; and this to include the international 13,000+ online Petition.
5. That following a meeting and a crop rotation agreement with a local farmer, a further letter had been sent to Scottish Power with a view to resuming agriculture on the western side of the battle site.

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

1. That the Trust was seeking an early meeting with HLF to explore the opportunities for all development aspects commencing with evaluation of the potential sites close to the battlefield i.e. Blindwells, St Joseph’s [recently acquired by ELC] and the brownfield areas at the vacated Coal Store.
2. The initial proposal to meet with Tom Ingrey-Counter and Diane Gray on June 8th had perforce been postponed by unforeseen diary clashes at HLF but a search for an early date is taking place.
3. Discussions with HLF will include exploration of whether HLF Resilience Funding is available for the Trust as it advances to the next stage.
4. Diane Gray had suggested that the Trust’s statement to the press reporting its lack of success at HLF thus far should be brief and advice was proffered by Shiona MacKay of HLF; the resultant release was as follows:

*"Our project to restore the Bathhouse at Prestongrange Museum was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2016. It did not receive funding but we have received constructive advice from HLF as to how to develop our proposal further as a first-class interpretative project. We shall certainly be taking this advice forward with HLF and more widely with VisitScotland and within our community to find the best solution for celebrating this important aspect of Prestonpans' heritage, and bringing clear benefits to our local economy, as soon as is feasible.”*

*"We have briefed ELC Council Leader Cllr Willie Innes, Iain Gray MSP, Prestonpans CC Vice Chairman Jimmy Yule and Iain Slater of Hargreaves on the developing situation."*

1. Formal meetings with the Leader of ELC, Cllr Willie Innes, and Officers of Prestonpans CC had been held and details of the Trust’s next steps shared. Both had expressed the wish to be kept in close contact and at ELC the Trust is advised to hold an early meeting with John Macmillan, Chair of the Council’s Tourism Group.
2. Discussions have also been held with Alasdair MacLauchlan of VisitScotland to [i] advance the Listing and grading of the 1745 Battlefield Walk/ Bankton Doocot and [ii] to elicit their engagement with the Trust as it formulates its revised plans for the Battle Centre.
3. *East Lothian Courier* has received details of the above Press Statement and, although Prestonpans CC will be notified on Tuesday June 13th it is expected that local press coverage will be given on June 22nd in tandem with the exhibition which opens at the Scottish Parliament Main Hall on June 21st until July 20th on the sponsorship of Iain Gray MSP.
4. That Gordon Prestoungrange would meet with Darren Barker as soon as convenient to keep him up to date.

**4 BANKTON DOOCOT & VISIT SCOTLAND OPENING**

.01 That the chains installed at Gardiner’s Obelisk still await replacement by Strawberry Corner Landscapes as does the pruning of the ash tree branches as identified in our consultant arboriculturist’s detailed report re the path from the obelisk/ Doocot; and Sylvia Burgess is liaising with John Shedden, our landscape contractor, to complete the work as soon as possible after notification to the residents at Belvedere & Bankton House.

.02 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.

.03 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 end July – with Sean Wood and Tom Ewing much involved in its content.

.06 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 September 21st , wreath laying, guided Battlefield Walks and an Evening in The Gothenburg.

.03 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.

.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.

.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.

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

.01 The theft of the Netherlands Kirk Diaspora Tapestry from St Giles Cathedral, despite its subsequent safe return to the Police with a Letter of Apology from the thief, has given the Trust cause to think again about security at exhibitions and insurance.

.02 It was agreed that the extant arrangements were cost effective and that the Trust’s hands were tied by Arts Insurers approaches to any compensation for losses or indeed damage.

.03 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’.

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

.05 The Trust’s umbrage tabled with the Advertising Standards Authority [ASA] re 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 had occasioned a full dress meeting at VisitScotland and a resolve that our own Growth Fund Application with SBT for a Permanent Jacobite Trail [see 7. below] would be tabled with them late 2017 for actions in 2018; no response has yet been received from the ASA.

.06 That with the Trust now responsible in the name of PAF / Barons Courts for the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, has had considerable success at the exhibition at Westminster Hall despite the tragic disruption and the dissolution of The Commons; and is currently at 3Harbours in Prestonpans before moving to Crieff, Helmsdale and Irvine by year end.

**7 THE ‘REAL’ JACOBITE TRAIL/ NTS & VISITSCOTLAND**

.01 That Karen Campbell is progressing with the development of the website and aiming to complete her Archival Segments by August 31st 2017 with her budget of £1,000.

.02 That once this framework is in place @ [www.jacobitetrail.scot](http://www.jacobitetrail.scot) partnership under the aegis of SBT will be sought with key activists to form a Consortium to apply to VisitScotland’s Growth Fund for 2018, positioned as a Legacy to all that has taken place in 2017 and more besides.

.03 That the National Trust for Scotland’s CEO Simon Skinner has been contacted to activate the putative collaboration agreed in 2015 with his predecessor Kate Mavor

.03 Noted that HES has already indicated that this is one focus area where its support for SBT’s County Battle Cycle might be delivered.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 **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; a cost estimate of £350 was approved.

.02 ‘**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, Margaret Stewart, Iain McCallam and the Kinloch Anderson family; the target date for release is September 2018 for a Double CD with Spoken Prefatory Remarks introducing songs in Gaelic and English around the structure of Arthur Geddes 4 Theatre Scenes. Funding has become a challenge with Greentrax no longer able to underwrite £12,000 investment costs giving a breakeven sale required of 2,500; accordingly an application to Creative Scotland for support will be tabled.

.04 **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.

.05 **Death of playwright and actor Andrew Dallmeyer -** Andrew, who wrote two plays for the Trust, *Battle o’ Pots ‘an Pans* [which toured and went to The Edinburgh Fringe] and *Colonel Gardiner: Vice & Virtue* was a good and true friend and supporter of our community theatre. He will be well missed by all particularly the Prestoungrange Players whom he coached . His insightful plays live on with us however for which we are most sincerely grateful.

.06 **Andrew Crummy –** That Herbert Coutts would write to Andrew wishing him well with his illness and promising to keep him up to date with plans to house his two excellent tapestries for which the Trust is responsible.

.07 That Sylvia Burgess would continue investigations for a **replacement/ supplementary van** for the Trust and its associates.

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EXHIBITIONS**

**.**01 The Trustees will hold their 88/ 17 Meeting on **Wednesday July 5th 2017 at 6.00 pm at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg.**

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

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

.04 That the Prestonpans Tapestry will be on display in the Scottish Parliament from **June 21st/ July 20th 2017**; and at Festival Interceltique in Lorient, Brittany from **August 4th/ September 2nd 2017.**