

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

**MINUTES OF 103rd MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON MARCH 21st**

**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]

Christopher Hadley

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

Avril Wills of Lochnaw

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones [e]

Sylvia Burgess [e]

Kenneth Cameron [e]

John Curtis

Sharon Dabell [e]

Brett Fletcher

Pauline Jaffray

Pat O’Brien

Michael Taylor [e]

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [e]

**1. MINUTES of 102/19 Meeting** of the Trustees held on February 21st 2019, which had been circulated by the Secretary, were proposed/ seconded by Sharon Beck and Arran Johnston respectively and confirmed as a correct record. The **MINUTES of the EGM** held on even date to further elucidate the Objects of the Trust were also noted with confirmation from the Secretary that the Resolution passed thereat had been forwarded to Companies House.

**2 ACHIEVING THE ‘AGREED MANIFESTO’ WITH HLF RESILIENCE SUPPORT – Element [iii]**

01. Received the Policy Papers and Initial Financial Comments arising since the 102nd Meeting as input to the Draft Manifesto the contents of which have been scoped by the Taskforce whose Minutes dated March 20th/ 21st 2019 are appended to these Minutes.

02. Agreed that Drs Stephen Connolly and Arran Johnston would now proceed to create the formal documentation to be known as the Draft Manifesto by end March so that ‘public consultations’ can take place throughout April leading to the nationally Agreed Manifesto by May 9th 2019.

03. Agreed that the Draft Manifesto should consist of [a] The Vision for a Living History Centre Prestonpans and [b] The Transition Phase of up to three years for which NLHF funding would be sought in a formal application on May 28th.

04. Final arrangements for the ‘public consultation’ will be made at the next meeting of the Trustees on April 11th 2019 but would include revisiting those parties consulted at External Audit stage by Dr Stephen Connolly; one key purpose of these revisits would be to obtain Letters of Support for subsequent funding requests.

05. Noted that Martha Bryce’s role as lead PR adviser had already commenced on March 1st and she has already been briefed on the putative requirements for the project as it moves to Draft Manifesto public consultations, including Prestonpans/ Tranent/ Port Seton & Cockenzie CCs, in 2019. Marie Sharp of East Lothian Courier is also being alerted.

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 and access to NTS financial officers will be requested to gain their critique.

07. That the Transition Phase of the Manifesto would include the continued display of both tapestries but also their preparation for exhibition at the Living History Centre, to which latter end the two evaluations by Tuula Pardoe will prescribe the requirements.

08. That the Transition Phase would make extensive pro bono use of The Prestoungrange Gothenburg as HQ and additional micro-museum facility for the Trust and its current owners have offered to gift the premises to the Trust provided proper arrangements for its continuing ‘principled’ purpose in the community as Arts Centre/ Bistro/ Bar/ Microbrewery are accommodated; discussions to explore this option will be held in the coming weeks.

09. That the Agreed Manifesto must specifically address 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 perhaps through the public consultation process in April.

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

01. Received two disappointing responses from ELC since the 102nd Meeting, the first re the Trust’s tender to farm the battlefields during 2019 and the second re possible purchase of the battlesite under the Community Engagement [Scotland] Act 2015.

02. That the farming of the battlefields in 2019 had been allocated to Brussels sprouts, our tender being deemed too low; the possible purchase had been ruled out by ELC’s wish to keep the entire Scottish Power lands as ‘clear as possible’ for incoming investors.

03. After a thorough and well appreciated review by Christopher Hadley, who had advised Jim Meikle in tabling our tender, it was resolved to write to ELC questioning both these outcomes, with a FoI request in respect of the farming tender. The substance of Christopher Hadley’s comments has important implications for the Trust’s proposed re-tender in 2020 if that opportunity arises, and well beyond.

04. The battlefield is within the Designated Area of the Scottish National Battlefields Inventory and as such any decisions are required to take into account these elements of national heritage. There is no evidence this was done in respect of farming nor that potential investors had been made aware of the heritage involved. Furthermore since the Master Plan has consistently supported the case for conservation of the battlefield there can be no relevant defence of keeping that area ‘clear’ for incoming investors. It must accordingly be deemed needless planning blight inflicted on the community.

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

06. That the Trust reaffirmed 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. That a separate Expression of Interest made under the 2015 Act in respect of Prestonpans Town Hall should be 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 the delayed meeting with ELC led by Head of Communities Sharon Saunders on February 22nd 2019 in Haddington Town House had occasioned a promise that a speedy response would be forthcoming as to which locations surrounding the battlefield might be available.

02. ELC was wont to suggest at that meeting that the Trust might reassess its decision not to locate at Prestongrange Heritage Museum since there were now plans afoot there for partnership initiatives.

03. The Trustees indicated then and at this meeting reaffirmed that option was not acceptable taking particular note of the HLF’s comments when it rejected our earlier application there.

04. Agreed, following the meeting with Iain Slater of Hargreaves Services [Blindwells] Limited in Edinburgh earlier in the day, that a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding be drawn up with them to explore the location of the Living History Centre in the NE corner of their new community, *Charlestoun*, overlooking the battlefield.

05. Agreed, via Susan Smith, to seek an urgent early April meeting with ELC so that other options might be included in the Draft/ Agreed Manifestos, and in so doing to add the recently available ELC brownfield land to the immediate east of the Battle Bing to the areas being evaluated by them.

06. That Gareth Bryn-Jones will continue in consultation with Arran Johnston to develop visual concepts for the Living History Centre Prestonpans.

**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 Michael Taylor has tabled a Discussion Paper on the scoping

for an **International Register of Jacobite Assets,** an essential

element of the Trail enabling both online exhibitions and a readily available source for physical exhibitions across the Trail, but was unable to attend the meeting to advance this discussion.

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.

04. Herbert Coutts was asked to correspond with Michael Taylor so

that a decisive discussion can take place and plans to seek funding

agreed at the next meeting of Trustees on April 11th 2019.

**6. PRESTONPANS 275th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

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

the intended Transition Phase, 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 Dunblane Cathedral. A programme of Battlefield Walks and School Visits would also be presented.

1. To explore whether the Clan Chiefs and eponymous streets

initiative of 2018 might be built on howsoever 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.

**7.** **TAPESTRY EXHIBITIONS/ BATTLE BOARD WAR GAMING/**

**SCHOOL VISITS/ MOUNT FELIX/ ICELANDIC SAGA PANELS**

01. A three month Scottish Diaspora Tapestry exhibition at year end 2019/ early 2020 has been agreed at Summerhall in Edinburgh following Glasgow Cathedral in June 2019.

02. That Brett Fletcher is proceeding well with the carry-easy Battle

Game Boards for all three locations in partnership with SBT and HES

Interpretation Fund support.

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

a regular basis.

04. Agreemed 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.

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

expected on June 3rd 2019 with the team from Iceland travelling to Edinburgh and arrangements being made via Jenny Bruce with the Icelandic Consul in Edinburgh and Caithness MSP Gail Ross, for a ceremonial occasion – followed by exhibition in Prestonpans possibly during the 3Harbours Festival. Yvonne Murphy has also indicated that she might be able to attend.

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

these six new panels will be deemed Companion Panels and exhibited as suitable from time to time.

**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 initiative should embrace those already in support as Alan Brecks, Friends of the Tapestries, website news subscribers and Online Petitioners.

**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. Efforts are still in hand with Eric Roseman to restore the full

**online access to the Prestonpans Tapestry** which was lost when Raeltech replaced their main server. The PowerPoint access there is still functional.

1. That the **paper file archives held in Milton Malsor and Brackley** are being edited by Sylvia Burgess and Gordon Prestoungrange and will be transferred to Prestonpans in the coming months.

05. That the incoming **Publican[s] of The Prestoungrange Gothenburg** had declined to join the Trustees although they have promised to give the fullest support at all times.

06. 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

**10. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

N.B. The next three meetings 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 Transition Phase.

1. That the **104/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held on **Thursday April 11th 2019**
2. That the **105/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held on **Thursday May 9th 2019** with possible additional consideration **Thursday** **May 27th 2019**
3. That the **106/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held on **Thursday June 27th 2019**