

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

**MINUTES OF 107th MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON AUGUST 15th**

**2019 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO AT THE PRESTOUNGRANGE**

**GOTHENBURG, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**CONTRIBUTING:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the Chair]

Sharon Beck

Martha Bryce [p/t/e]

Sylvia Burgess [e]

Stephen Connolly [e]

Sharon Dabell [e]

Brett Fletcher

Joe Goldblatt

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

Michael Taylor [p/t/e]

Avril Wills

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Kenneth Cameron

John Curtis

Pauline Jaffray

Pat O’Brien

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange

**1. MINUTES of 106/19 Meeting** of the Trustees held on June 27th 2019, which had been circulated by the Secretary, were proposed/ seconded by Sharon Beck and Arran Johnston respectively and confirmed as a correct written record.

**2. PATHTOVICTORY1745.ORG + NLHF PROJECT ENQUIRIES [1] & [2]**

01. Confirmed that discussions had been held on July 11th with NLHF officers, Tom Ingrey-Counter and Holly Watson, following the submission of the Resilience Report and Project Enquiry [1] .

02. Whilst it was not apparent that NLHF had taken the opportunity to digest the full content of the Resilience Report the opinion was offered that the Project Enquiry [1], our proposal to proceed to a request in excess of £100,000, was unwise; with the further assertion that the case for a Living History Centre had still not been made to the satisfaction at least of Tom Ingrey-Counter.

03. It was suggested that a more modest Project Enquiry [2] be tabled which has now elicited a broadly positive written response from Holly Watson. Arran Johnston is now in the process of preparing a Full Application in line with that Project Enquiry [2] that focuses particularly on the 2020 Commemorations and the sustained and extended engagement of the local community not least through the integration of websites and social media under the banner of Friends of The Prince.

04. Agreed the suggestion of Joe Goldblatt that a high visibility dimension to 2020/ Path to Victory could be accorded by establishing ‘The Prince’s Educational Academy’ as the vehicle for schools and FE engagement by the Trust, this to be included in the Application details at 03. Above.

05. Discussions directly with NLHF officers, and subsequently at their suggestion with Jill deFresne of the PSG NLHF Great Places Project, indicate that the Trust’s determination to adhere to a national and international framework attracting tourists as visitors, as exemplified already in the creation of both tapestries, Jacobite contextualization and Clan engagement strategies, is potentially at variance though not necessarily in conflict with the NLHF’s lately espoused priority focus on immediate ‘local’ community engagement with heritage across all ethnic and minority groups [e.g Great Places].

06. These manifest preferences at NLHF and the Trust’s unrepentant determination would suggest that whilst elements of further support from NLHF can be anticipated NLHF is not likely to be a significant early contributor to the Victory implicit in the envisaged Living History Centre; and that such a conclusion makes it vital to follow alternative routes to such Victory.

07. That inter alia this should lead to an early continuation of discussions with VisitScotland already initiated with its CEO Malcolm Roughead and his Regional Director: EventScotland; and a renewed fund raising approach.

**3. PETITIONS [1] & [2] TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

01. That both Petitions to ELC [1] seeking the name Charlestoun for the Blindwells new town and [2] sustained support for the Path to Victory and Living History Centre are scheduled for consideration by the Council on September 12th.

02. That details of the Petition[1] re Charlestoun had been made available in advance to *East Lothian Courier* and occasioned considerable discussion; and confirmation has been received from ELC that it intends to consult with school children in the PSG area to secure their views.

03. That notwithstanding the proposal to consult school children the Trust has the duty of advocacy lately included in its Objects and will proceed to advance its suggestion with enthusiasm.

**4. PUTATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THE LIVING HISORY CENTRE -PRESTONPANS**

01. That whilst the meeting with ELC led by Head of Communities Sharon Saunders with Planning, Economic Development, Archaeology and Museum colleagues on June 27th had not been able to share details of the putative Master Plan for Prestongrange Heritage Museum, discussions on several issues raised had been helpfully followed through i.e educational links and caring for the Bing after the construction of the new Amenities Facilities at its SE corner.

02. Susan Smith from Economic Development has reconfirmed willingness to provide a letter of ELC support as appropriate for the NLHF Application, which would be followed up.

03. That ELC’s Officers had now shared the putative MasterPlan at Prestongrange Museum with Councillors and are able to meet with Trustees on August 30th to that end.

04. The public release in July, after agreement with Iain Slater of Hargreaves, of the MoU re Charlestoun as a possible location had received good publicity and ELC’s officers notified by Sharon Saunders.

05. Noted that under the terms of the MoU it was expected that Gareth Bryn-Jones in consultation with Arran Johnston will meet with Hargreaves Town Centre planners and begin to develop visual concepts for the Living History Centre there which was now likely to proceed from September.

06. That the crop of Brussels Sprouts on the battlefield seems to be growing well if inappropriately; and that when fresh tenders are sought for 2020 the Trust should reapply.

**5. THE JACOBITE CONTEXT/ TRAIL/ 2019 COLLOQUIUM**

01. That arrangements were now completed and invitations will be dispatched by Mike Taylor for the Trust in the coming fortnight to the **Colloquium** of the interested parties on November 5th 2019 with a view to eliciting further support for partnership along a series of Trails; it will be held in Edinburgh at The Storytelling Centre.

02. That Joe Goldblatt would offer such advice as he could to Michael

Taylor for the structure and design of the Colloquium for which ceiling

budget of £2,000 is available.

03. That the Colloquium is intended to enhance understanding of how

the Jacobite context for the Living History Centre in Prestonpans can

be best presented.

04. That attendees would be asked to indicate the Jacobite Assets

they held and whether as digital images etc.

05. That preparation of an **Application for funding to HES for Organisational Development** of this aspect as illuminated by the Colloquium for submission not later than by September 30th 2020 would continue although no funding could be available until April 2021 from HES.

**6. PRESTONPANS 275th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

1. Noted that the 275th anniversary of the battle in 2020 is to be

the primary focus of the imminent NLHF Application as a key element along the Path to Victory and that it would focus on ways in which cultural aspects might be highlighted – musical evening, songs, poetry, literature, theatre, 3/4 Prestonpans Tapestry exhibitions across Scotland including **Inverurie** [which has its own 275th Anniversary Commemoration and an Alan Breck re-enactment planned], and Dunblane Cathedral; a programme of Battlefield Walks and School Visits and a Competition will also be presented – via **The Prince’s Educational Academy** – which could also include featured lectures and the David Niven film.

1. That Sylvia Burgess and Gordon Prestoungrange were exploring

how the Clan Chiefs and eponymous streets initiative of 2009 Homecoming then 2018 Memorial Tables Dedication might be

built on with support inter alia via **VisitScotland’s Clan Fund**; and at the same time to brief all and update membership of the Committee of High Patronage.

1. Confirmed that the **John Gray Centre** in Haddington had

committed its Temporary Exhibition space to the Trust for a three month exhibition at the end of 2020 to include several Diaspora Panels.

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.**

1. That the request for the 1930s tapestry ‘**Prayer for Victory’** as

An exhibit had been successful and it is hoped some collaboration with

**Preston Mill** might also be arranged.

1. That SBT Publisher Helion Books has now confirmed that a

**Jacobite Conference** will be convened in Prestonpans on September 20th 2020 at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg.

1. That a **Gaelic Song/ Poetry Cultural Event** was being

evaluated possibly in Glenfinnan format in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

1. That discussions with **VisitScotland** had already taken place to

explore promotional support for the keynote events in 2020.

1. That the triple links **of Gardiner’s Obelisk close by**

**Prestonpans Station, Waverley Station and the Scott Memorial** should be embraced howsoever.

**7.** **TAPESTRY EXHIBITIONS/ SCHOOL VISITS/ MOUNT**

**FELIX/ ICELANDIC SAGA PANELS/ US 05**

01. That the Diaspora Tapestry had a successful summer exhibition at Glasgow Episcopal Cathedral and is scheduled for year end at **Summerhall** in Edinburgh.

02. That **Dundee’s Verdant Works** has now confirmed its 3 months

summer exhibition in 2020.

03. That several Prestonpans **Interpretation BattleBoards**, a

capex of £18,000, require restoration and that plans for this can now be advanced.

04. That repairs had now been completed to the **flag pole on the Bing** damaged in winter 2018/ 19.

05. That **School visits and occasional lectures** and tour groups

continue on a regular basis.

06. Confirmed that the **Mount Felix Tapestry** will be exhibited in Prestonpans, now suggested for early 2020, with considerable publicity to the Friends of the Tapestries - on its return to Walton-on-Thames from its 8 centre New Zealand tour – exemplifying our community art strategy.

07. It is anticipated that the Prestonpans Tapestry will be exhibited at The Garioch Centre Inverurie during 2020 alongside restoration there of the battle memorial to the Jacobite victory on December 23rd 1745 now proceeding with local Community Council support.

08. That the 5 donated Icelandic panels, formally handed to the Trust

in the persons of Yvonne Murphy and Gordon Prestoungrange in the Robert Burns Room at the Scottish Parliament with some 50+ present including most of the stitchers themselves, will open in exhibition at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg Lord Mayor’s Bar tomorrow, August 16th.

09. That feedback from the USA indicates US05 is being stitched

currently and a delivery date of October 31st has been targeted by John Mann there so the image can be included in the 3rd Edition of the Official Guide due year end 2019.

**8. ‘FRIENDS OF THE PRINCE’**

01. Reaffirmed 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 very constructive discussions had been held, on advice from Joe Goldblatt with Adam James Data Manager at SCO and enquiries are also in hand with Jane Grant at Edinburgh College re possible project work with them.

03. That the opportunity of the Consultation had recruited some 100 ‘Friends of The Prince’ and that these contacts could now be addressed proactively not least at the 2019 commemorations on September 21st .

04. That STRIVE volunteers were still being sought online.

**9. RECRUITMENT OF TRUSTEES & SUCCESSION PLANNING**

01. Agreed that a Skills Matrix of extant Trustees might still be prepared extending beyond the earlier HLF Strengths Audit.

02. That the gender balance of the Trustees be considered as well as representation of a cognate politician possibly an ELC Councillor, and military representative.

03. That the Trust might next year more suitably convene Trustees four times each year with a ‘Vision Executive Taskforce’ meeting monthly.

04. That succession amongst the executive Trustees would be facilitated and eased by the putative appointees under the Path to Victory strategy.

05. That Gordon Prestoungrange would be unable to take such an active travelling role after the 2019 AGM as hitherto.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

01. That no news has yet arrived of the Trust’s **Thistle Award.**

02. That the Chairman of Caledonian Society of California had been

in touch via Prestonpans Library concerning a possible **Prince’s tartan**

**fragment** held in the USA since the 1930s donated by a former resident of Longniddry.

03. That the **Jacobite Studies Trust** was holding a Workshop in

Venice in May 2020 at which it could be useful for the Trust to have

representation and if possible to present a paper.

04. That it would be appropriate for the Trust to adopt an **Ethical**

**Donors Policy.**

05. Agreed that it was in the best interest of the Trust at this

juncture to explore if and how the **£91K Restricted Funds to hand**

**can be invested** to launch a successful fund-raising activity so that

imminent 2020 tapestry liabilities can be met and more substantial

match funding created for future appeals and applications; noting with

care the basis on which the £91K in hand had been raised originally.

**11. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

01. The **Petitions Committee of ELC** meets in Haddington on **September 12th 2019** re Charlestoun [1] and PathtoVictory1745 [2].

02. The **108/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held at 6pm on **Thursday October 24th 2019** in the Prestoungrange Gothenburg.

03. The **Jacobite Trail Colloquium** takes place on **November 5th 2019** in Edinburgh.

04. SBT’s **6th Biennial Symposium:** ***Beyond Designation*** convenes with HES support at The Engine Shed, Stirling **Wednesday** **November 20th 2019**

05. The **109/19 Meeting** of the Trustees followed by the **13th AGM** will take place **Thursday 21st November** **from 6pm** in The Prestoungrange Gothenburg.