

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

**MINUTES OF 112th MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON MARCH 12th 2020 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO AT THE PRESTOUNGRANGE**

 **GOTHENBURG, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**CONTRIBUTING:**

Herbert Coutts [in the Chair]

Sharon Beck

Sylvia Burgess [e]

Sharon Dabell [e]

Arran Johnston

Joe Golblatt

John Home-Robertson

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

Avril Wills of Lochnaw [e]

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun [e]

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

John Curtis

Brett Fletcher

Pat O’Brien

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange

 **1. MINUTES of 111/20 Meeting** of the Trustees held on February 20th 2020, which had been circulated by the Secretary, were proposed/ seconded by Sharon Beck/ Arran Johnston respectively and confirmed as a correct written record.

**2. JACOBITE TRAIL**

01. That Michael Taylor had identified a small group of those who attended the November 2019 Colloquium and identified suggested next steps; further action with regards to the group and meetings with VisitScotland must necessarily await the relaxation of national Covid 19 constraints. The ambition remains to exchange views with those who have collaborated there with *The Outlander Trail*.

**3. WWW.VISIONFORVICTORY1745.ORG + TASKFORCE 275 REPORTS**

01. That reports from the 3rd Meeting of the Taskforce remain positive with great credit due to the commitment and enthusiasm of the temporary Sessional Resourcing provided to March 31st by Sharon Beck and Arran Johnston.

02. That details of the 10/17 year old’s Invitation were released by 1000+ emails on March 9th in English/ Gaelic and that co-operation of ELC has been assured through Ann Robertson with comments now awaited from Paolo Vestri; press releases have been prepared for issue in English and Gaelic at a suitable time for schools. Some 5 schools with 6 classes have already requested registration packs from across the nation.

03.  Details of the Inverurie exhibition opening April 1st with its several associated elements are complete as is the Helion *Jacobites in the 1745 Conference* for September 19th although postponement in Inverurie is likely due to Covid 19 constraints.

04. Potential contractors and offers to provide discrete elements of

the 275 Programme had been received as required by March 6th and

interviews conducted by the Taskforce.

05. Arran Johnston and Sharon Beck were asked to withdraw from

the meeting so the Trustees could consider the recommended course of action from the Taskforce; necessary discussions then took place.

06. The Trustees resolved unanimously to accept the Taskforce

recommendation that Arran Paul Johnston Heritage Services be granted

the contract to provide sessional staffing within the agreed budgets

from April 1st 2020/ December 31st 2021 to conduct the agreed

Programme 275; in doing so they were to work in partnership with the

myriad discrete volunteers and contractors as identified and approved

by the Taskforce.

07. On awarding the contract in this manner the Trustees resolved, on Joe Golblatt’s recommendation, to record unanimously their most sincere thanks to Arran Johnston and Sharon Beck for the exemplary manner in which they have supported the Trust not only in the design of Programme 275 and the NLHF Application but also the Temporary Contractual Support provided from February 1st/ March 31st 2020.

08. The Trustees recognized that delivering Programme 275 with the added complexity of Covid 19 constraints would be a very considerable challenge but still achievable unless new wholly unexpected circumstances arise; and that potential for any disruption would be kept under continuous review.

09. That there was however certainly potential for enhanced digital deployment by the Trust as Programme 275 carries through with long term benefits and that opportunities for such initiatives should be deliberately sought as a counterbalance to Covid 19 constraints.

**4. ‘CONVERSATIONS’ WITH EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

01. That a holding letter in response to the Trust’s request for a meeting with ELC’s CEO was all that had been received to date.

02. That Herbert Coutts and John Home-Robertson would seek to arrange a meeting with ELC politicians to establish better protection for the battlefield and support for the Living History Centre.

03. That a Draft Partnership Application from July 2020 with ELC to Bòrd na Gàidhlig has been tabled with Sharon Cummins, Head of Communities, who has agreed that if a satisfactory partnership application can be achieved she will sign off for ELC by April deadline.

04. That discussions to gather support for such an application had been held with Newbattle and Edinburgh Colleges and with Ann Robertson and Paolo Vestri from ELC.

05. That there is still no news of any future invitation to tender re agriculture on the battlefield for 2020 but the Trust remains committed to reapply.

06. That Cockenzie & Port Seton CC has resolved to Petition ELC for the adoption of the Master Plan for Cockenzie Power Station lands.

07. Agreed that it was important that a courteous relationship be maintained with ELC and indeed all other parties with which the Trust had cause to relate in pursuit of its Objects.

**5. OUR LIVING HISTORY CENTRE at NW BLINDWELLS**

01. That a follow up meeting had been held with Iain Slater of Hargreaves on even date but he has not yet been able to table [i] draft of a First Refusal Agreement on the NW corner site at Blindwells for 5 years in the first instance with an option to extend by mutual consent; or [ii] to give the Trust’s architect Gareth Bryn-Jones access to their own Town Centre team so that visuals can be speedily created.

02. That Sylvia Burgess would be asked to ensure a meeting is arranged between Iain Slater, Gareth Bryn-Jones and ENA, the Blindwells architects at the earliest opportunity; and secure the draft First Refusal Agreement.

03. That contact will be maintained with EventScotland’s Regional Director Neil Christison who met with the Trustees viewing the battlefield and Living History Centre locations from the Battle Bing as plans evolve.

04. That an informal meeting had been held with Paul Jardine of Jura Consultants, exploring when and how the appeal for funding by the Trust might be launched not least to ensure bridging resources 2021/2024 after completion of Programme 275; no suggestions for immediate steps have arisen.

**6. PARTNERSHIP WITH EDINBURGH COLLEGE**

01. That a fourth partnership meeting had been held by Arran Johnston with IT students and Faculty at Edinburgh College where further good progress is being made on the nascent website’s dendrogramatic wire frames and timescaling; this initiative also encompasses the social media. The sole exclusion is @ [www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org](http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org) for which alternative host provision will be necessary by summer 2021.

02. Website designs for the fund raising Appeal will also be developed as a priority + YouTube and Instagram accounts.

03. It has been resolved to develop the extant website [www.visionforvictory1745.org](http://www.visionforvictory1745.org) for capture of Programme 275 initiatives of which the first there is the 10/17 year olds Invitation to Celebrate.

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

 **FELIX/ US 05/ FLORENCE**

01. That the Diaspora Tapestry exhibition contracted and scheduled for **Dundee’s Verdant Works** has been postponed to Spring 2021 in the light of Covid 19 constraints.

02. That several Prestonpans **Interpretation BattleBoards** require

restoration and that plans for this are proceeding initially with the

board opposite the Memorial Tables on the Waggonway including Gaelic

translations.

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

have continued with a successful visit by 60+ primary school children from St Margaret’s Primary, Dunfermline, with plans in 2020 to train and induct further Guides with some learnt Gaelic competence.

04. Confirmed that the **Mount Felix Tapestry** had had a most satisfactory 2 week exhibition with 252 visitors at the Gothenburg and had delighted the management by creating considerable additional lunchtime trade. Stan McColm, a descendant of a Kiwi Mounted Trooper who was twice invalided to Mount Felix in 1917 and 1918 was amongst the visitors - he is from New Zealand but now stays in Longniddry.

O5. There had been an excellent response from the **New Zealand Association in Scotland and the NZ Consul General in Edinburgh,** Sir Neil MacIntosh attending.

 06. That the Scottish Diaspora’s final panel, **US05**, is being

 completed in Scotland under the hand of Sharon Beck.

07. All revised copy is now with John Unwin for the **3rd Edition of the Official Guide to the *Scottish Diaspora Tapestry*** save the final image of US05; printing some 1500 copies will almost certainly be delayed by Covid 19 constraints.

08. That Capt. Alex Bakovljev had visited the Gothenburg to discuss the formal Regimental Dinner of the **Lothians and Borders Yeomanry** at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg – commemorating the role of Capt. Thomas Nelson III, which has perforce been postponed till later in the year because of Covid 19 constraints.

09. That the Jacobite Studies Trust Conference in **Florence** had been postponed sine die.

**8. CO-OPTION OF TRUSTEES**

01. That **John Home-Robertson**, former MP/ MSP for East Lothian has accepted the invitation of co-option to the Board of Trustees and he was greatly welcomed by all present.

02. That an invitation has also been extended to former Founding Trustee, **Peter MacKenzie,** to rejoin the Trustees and his decision is awaited. He has agreed regardless of such decision that he will inter alia be able to offer a unique contribution through his skills with Gaelic.

**9. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

01. That the fourth meeting of **Taskforce 275** will take place in Prestonpans/ online during **May 13/14th 2020** in such manner as is appropriate within Covid 19 constraints at that time; or earlier as necessary.

02. The **113/20 Meeting** of the Trustees will take place on **Thursday 14th May 2020** as may be appropriate within Covid 19 constraints either from 6pm at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg or by email circulation and comment; or earlier on the call of the chair.

03. That the **114/20 Meeting** of the Trustees will take place on **Thursday 11th June 2020 from 6pm** under whatsoever arrangements shall be deemed appropriate at that time.

04. The **Helion Books** Conference on The Jacobites in the 1745 Rising remains scheduled to take place on **September 19th 2020** in the Thomas Nelson Suite at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg from 10am/ 5pm.



**Encore:** On a clear day one can see forever