**THE BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS (1745) HERITAGE TRUST**

**MINUTES OF THE 75/16 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th February 2016 at 6 pm IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO at THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, 227-229 HIGH STREET, PRESTONPANS**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

 Sharon Beck

 Sylvia Burgess [Secretary]

 Brett Fletcher

 Arran Johnston

 Gordon Prestoungrange

**APOLOGIES:**

 Gareth Bryn-Jones

 John Curtis

 Sharon Dabell

 Richard Mackenzie

 Baron of Dolphinstoun

 Baron of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

 Pauline Jaffray

 Pat O’Brien

 Avril Wills

**1 MINUTES of 74/16 Meeting** of the Trustees held on 21st January had

been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

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

 **REPSOL/INCHCAPE**

1. That the Scottish Government had officially declined to accept the

application for Community Right to Buy tabled by the Coastal Regeneration Alliance, in respect of Greenhills/ the 1745 Battlesite. An appeal is being lodged as well as a formal complaint of maladministration

1. That Gordon Prestoungrange had written again on behalf of the Trust to

 the incoming CEO of Historic Environment Scotland, seeking a reply to the

 earlier letter but no response thus far.

1. That there have been no further reported developments in respect of

Blindwells/ Charlestoun or from the ELC’s Un-minuted Consultation Group.

1. That in view of the present failure to secure agreement with Scottish

Power for the Memorial Tables to be placed on the battlesite, an application for their temporary placing at the Prestonpans Community Centre be discussed with the Centre’s management team, and conclusions reached by the forthcoming exhibition there of the Prestonpans Tapestry from June 4th /10th

**3** **PARTNERSHIP WITH ELC @ PRESTONGRANGE MUSEUM & HLF**

 **APPLICATION**

1. That Cllr. Willie Innes had been unavailable to clarify and act upon the agreement reached with the Trust at Haddington Town House on December 10th 2015 because of pressure of Council Budgetary Business.
2. That the further delays occasioned by Council Officers following that December meeting were making the postponed [at ELC’s request] Summer Application to HLF increasingly impracticable; and that Herbert Coutts would seek an urgent meeting with Willie Innes to seek to get matters back on track.
3. That if progress has not been achieved by the Trust’s next [76/16] Meeting on March 17th, consideration should be given to abandoning any further discussions with the Council.
4. That the issue of ELC’s contribution in kind of £10,000 towards BarkerLangham’s fees at £25,000 + VAT remains unresolved with Officers seemingly wishing to dissociate the ELC from the work that has been/ is being carried forward. Payments of £12,000, already due to BarkerLangham LLP, have been released from the Restricted Funds.
5. That the requisite Consultation across the local community,

commenced at the annual re-enactments, was still continuing successfully under the leadership of BarkerLangham.

1. That the Trust wishes Cllr Willie Innes, as Leader of ELC

Council, to make a formal public statement of its commitment to the Trust so that the Trust can proceed not only with HLF but more broadly across Government and private funders to seek the total £6m required for the world class facilities.

**4 VIRIDOR PROJECT/ BORD NA GAIDHLIG**

 .01 That the scheme for the Doo’cot’s Interpretation of Colonel Gardiner’s life and demise at the battle tabled by Arran Johnston had been shared with Eastern Displays of Musselburgh and Freakworks Exhibitions of Leith, and both are willing to submit tenders within the budget available. It was agreed that Arran Johnston should proceed directly now to commission the works after formal sharing with the Residents of Bankton House and Bankton Steadings.

 .02 That Arran Johnston should as early as convenient [a] convene a meeting [possibly by invitation at the Gothenburg] of all the Residents affected to share the Trust’s plans both for the Doo’cot and the Walkway from the Memorial to the Doo’cot; [b] formally agree acceptable wording for the signage at each end of the Walkway; [c] formally agree which one week each year the Walkway would be padlocked at each end and who would apply those padlocks; [d] invite a nominee from the House and another from the Steadings to join the Board Trustees to ensure future co-ordination.

 .03 That Gordon Prestoungrange had finalised the ‘total’ Battle Trail/ Walk signage and is awaiting quotations from Keith Scott/ ELC’s suppliers; and that Bethag Mhoiresdan had once again provided Gaelic translations. Erection would take place in time for the formal opening of the Doo’cot.

 .04 That the poles and chains are all now in place, that aspect having been managed by Strawberry Corner landscapers, who are now proceeding to tackle the ‘total’ landscaping from the Memorial along the Walkway to the Doo’cot, pre-empting Spring growth and applying a suitable dressing surface at the muddiest sections. The gates and railings at each end will again be painted by the Alan Beck Regiment as contractors to Strawberry Corner.

 .05 Discussions have taken place at the East Lothian Railway Partnership / Scotrail Group concerning signage from the ‘up’ platform to the battlefield walk and developments are awaited.

 .06 That approval be given to the APP design at an estimated cost of £12,500 for [i] the battlefields walkers’ trail – short & long; [ii] the Prestonpans Tapestry; [iii] the Tranent/ Cockenzie Waggonway – as tabled by Eric Roseman and Atom Coding, who have already created a similar very successful APP for the Diaspora Tapestry. It is hoped it can be completed by June 2016 and extensively available for the ‘modest’ 2016 re-enactments schedules.

.07 Budgets, and financial call downs from Viridor have proved

difficult with the changes to suppliers necessarily made and efforts

are still being made to get agreements back in order including a face-

to-face session in Taunton following Viridor’s comments on the Trust’s

3rd Quarterly Report on the Project earlier this month.

 .08 That Gardner Molly is proceeding for June completion with the

 creation of the two memorial tables as designed by Gareth Bryn-

 Jones; and that Consent will be sought to locate them pro tem at

 Prestonpans Community Centre i.e. being in the grounds of the

 former Preston House where many of the deaths occurred. Arran

 Johnston was compiling a list of the Regiments on both sides for

 inscriptions on their top surfaces.

**5 PRESTONPANS ‘MODEST 2016’ RE-ENACTMENTS**

 .01 That the Dunbar re-enactments would take place on September

 16th / 18th being the third weekend of the month; which means that

 September 23rd / 25th is available for ‘modest’ commemorations in

 Prestonpans.

 .02 The 2016 modest yet visible series of commemorative events

 will be led by the Alan Brecks as is now customary. It is to be

 expected they will include the by-then-completed ‘Battlefield Walk –

 with APP, visits to the outcomes of the Viridor/ Dolphinstoun/ Bord na

 Gaidhlig grants, to Colonel Gardiner’s putative plaque at Tranent and

 the two Memorial Tables. It is also very much expected that the

 Prestonpans Battle Game can be played - possibly in tournament

 format.

 .03 Looking forward to 2017, EventScotland have designated it as

 the nation’s Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology; it is envisaged

 the Trust should make provision for a ‘special’ event during the

 ‘Modest 2017’ re-enactments September 22nd/ 24th [immediately after

 the SBT’s Triennial Re-enactment in Pinkie Cleugh on September 15th/

 17th 2017 at which the Alan Breck’s will appear as The Lothian Levy].

**6** **SCHOOL VISITS/ BATTLE GAME BOARD/ WAR GAMES**

 .01 Arran Johnston reported that School Visits were proceeding with

 support from East Lothian Council and directly.

 .02 That Brett Fletcher in association with Warwick Louth, was

 working in the Scottish Battlefields Trust to take initiatives in the

 playing of War Games, including Scottish battles, with the first event

 already attracting over 100 registrations at The Prestoungrange

 Gothenburg on Saturday February 20th.

 .03 That all save the electrics of the Prestonpans Battle Game have

 now been retrieved from Gordon Veitch and the board is now being

 restored and soldiers created de nouveau under the direction of Brett

 Fletcher. Approval was given for capital budget allocation to enable

 this work to be completed.

**7** **TAPESTRY/ FRIENDS GROUP**

 .01 That a comprehensive Exhibition of the Tapestry and key

 artefacts will be held at Prestonpans Community Centre from June 4th/

 10th 2016 during 3Harbours Festival; the Viridor Project / Bankton

 Doo’cot will be explained and presented; Battlefields Walks

 undertaken; and the opportunity to recruit Tour Guides and additional

 active Trustees explored through a series of talks.

 .02 That a ‘Collegiate Friends of the Battle Trust’ will be

 established if possible as a focus for Tour Guides.

 .03 That it was hoped that Tapestry and artefacts can also be

 exhibited elsewhere during the year in Carlisle at the anniversary

 commemorations there, at Dunblane Cathedral, Derby and Falkirk.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 **Walker’s Leaflet & Tours:** The leaflet is now finalized and

 will be complementary to the APP; Arran Johnston confirmed that East

 Lothian Council had agreed to support their distribution once the

 Viridor elements are in place re the Doocot.

 .02 **Phonetic Lexicon for ‘Gaelic’ speaking Highlanders** is now

 proceeding well and Anna Beard has been commissioned by the Alan

 Breck’s to undertake the role.

 .03 **Colonel Gardiner’s Plaque @ Tranent Churchyard** has now

 received support from the Minister and goes next to Kirk Session;

 once consent is gained, funds are available to proceed, with details

 included on the Walkers’ leaflet and APP.

 .04 **East Lothian Museums/ Archives** – that the Trust should ask

 for ELC to provide an inventory of its archives from the ’45; and that

 the public at large be asked to be in contact if any have finds

 accumulated over the years with a full amnesty proffered.

 .05 **Queen Margaret University** – that discussions are taking

 place with staff at QMU on March 16th to explore inter alia the extent

 to which it might be engaged in the Pinkie Cleugh re-enactments in

 September 2017, and more broadly with our Trust and the wider Arts

 Festival.

 .06 **Recruitment of ‘Active’ Trustees** – that whilst the

 contribution of all Trustees is greatly appreciated, there is a need for

 more ‘actives’ and every effort will be made to recruit in the

 coming months, not least at Bankton.

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

 .01 The next 76/16 Meeting of the Trustees will be held from 6pm on **Thursday 17th March 2016** at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg or earlier on the call of the chair.

 .02 That the 77/16 Meeting of the Trustees will be held from 6pm on **Thursday 21st April 2016** at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg, or earlier on the call of the chair.

 .03 The Battle Trust will exhibit **The Prestonpans Tapestry at the 11th 3Harbours Festival** **from** **4th/ 10th June 2016** at The Prestonpans Community Centre.

 .04 The Scottish Battlefields Trust **DUNBAR 1650 Re-enactment** will take place on **September 16th / 18th**

 .05 The Battle Trust’s **‘Modest 2016’ Re-enactments will take place in Prestonpans from September 23rd / 25th**