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

**MINUTES OF THE 76/16 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON MARCH 17th 2016 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO at THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, 227/ 229 HIGH STREEET, PRESTONPANS**

 **PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

Sharon Beck

Sylvia Burgess [Secretary]

Brett Fletcher

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange

###  Avril Wills

**APOLOGIES:**

 Gareth Bryn-Jones

 John Curtis

 Sharon Dabell

 Richard Mackenzie

 Baron of Dolphinstoun

 Baron of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

 Pauline Jaffray

 Pat O’Brien

**1 MINUTES of 75/16 Meeting** of the Trustees held on 17th February 2016 had been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

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

1. That a response had now been received from David Middleton, incoming CEO of Historic Environment Scotland, but with no change of action on their part.
2. That there have been no further reported developments in respect of Blindwells/ Charlestoun or from the ELC’s Un-minuted Consultation Group.
3. 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 ELC’s Officers have finally proposed April 13th for the first meeting of the Joint Working Group chaired by Cllr. Tim Day, and it as agreed to attend on the condition that the MoU was the first item on the Agenda and that the August 4th deadline for HLF Application was adhered to including the ‘holistic’ MasterPlan for the Museum.
2. That Herbert Coutts would seek an urgent meeting with Willie Innes to seek to get matters timeously back on track.
3. That if progress is not achieved on April 13th 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.
6. That the Trust still 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 Arran Johnston was pursuing the scheme for the Doo’cot’s Interpretation of Colonel Gardiner’s life and demise at the battle with Eastern Displays of Musselburgh and Freakworks Exhibitions of Leith, both of whom are willing to work 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 the ‘total’ Battle Trail/ Walk signage has been completed and the quotations from Keith Scott/ ELC’s suppliers is £1,300 from the Bord na Gaidhlig Grant; erection will take place in time for the formal opening of the Doo’cot.

.04 That the chains installed by Strawberry Corner had proved insufficiently robust and were being replaced; and John Sheddon was now proceeding to tackle the ‘total’ landscaping from the Memorial along the Walkway to the Doo’cot, pre-empting Spring growth whilst 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 still awaited.

.06 That sign off for the APP design had been given embracing [i] the battlefields walkers’ trail – short & long; [ii] the Prestonpans Tapestry; [iii] the Tranent/ Cockenzie Waggonway , working with Eric Roseman and Atom Coding. It is hoped it can be completed by June 2016 and extensively available for the ‘modest’ 2016 re-enactments schedules. Text for each location will be provided using Gaelic as well as English for [i] and [ii] above but not the Waggonway. The extant French will also be included for the Tapestry.

.07 Clarification from Viridor re call downs of heir Grant has been received and it is to be hoped future calls can be made efficiently.

.08 That Gardner Molly has ordered the requisite sandstone and is now 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. Arran Johnston is compiling a list of the Regiments on both sides for inscriptions on their top surfaces.

**5 PRESTONPANS ‘MODEST 2016 & 2017’ BATTLE**

**RE-ENACTMENTS**

.01 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.

.02 That wreaths would be laid at the several memorials including on the battlefield where the Memorial Tables will eventually be placed.

.03 Whilst it was hoped the Doo’cot might be ready by then, whensoever it was formally opened, a key event would be held, perhaps inviting the Chairman of HES to perform the task

.04 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 and the Prestoungrange Gothenburg, was working in the Scottish Battlefields Trust to take initiatives in the playing of War Games, including Scottish battles, and the first event had been highly successful attracting over 100 registrations on Saturday February 20th.

**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 in collaboration with Ed Bethune of the CRA/ Waggonway Friends ; and the opportunity to recruit Tour Guides and additional active Trustees explored through a series of talks.

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

exhibited elsewhere during the year in Dundee and in Carlisle at the anniversary commemorations there, and possibly at Dunblane Cathedral, Derby and Falkirk in due course.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 **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; and Bord na Gaidhlig funds are available to capture the outcomes.

.02 **Colonel Gardiner’s Plaque @ Tranent Churchyard** has now received support from the Minister and goes next to Kirk Session and ELC as responsible for the churchyard; once consent is gained, funds are available to proceed, with details included on the Walkers’ leaflet and APP.

.03 **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 – possible as a corollary to the Consultation re Prestongrange Museum.

.04 **Queen Margaret University** – that discussions had taken place and developments were awaited.

.05 **Recruitment of ‘Active’ Trustees** – that no progress had yet been made but that the proposed induction of Brett Fletcher as Treasurer had commenced and the planned handover would be from November 1st 2016 i.e. the next financial year.

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

.01 That the Joint Working Group with ELC re Prestongrange/ HLF will meet in Haddington on **April 13th 2016** from 12noon/ 2.30pm; followed by a meeting with the ELC Food & Drink Group from 4.30pm

.02 The next 78/16 Meeting of the Trustees will be held from 6pm on **Thursday 2nd June 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** **2016**

.05 The Battle Trust’s 10th Anniversary will see **‘Modest 2016’ Re-enactments take place in Prestonpans from September 23rd/25th 2016**