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

**MINUTES OF 86/17 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON MAY 4th 2017 AT THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, PRESTONPANS CONCLUDING ON MAY 5th 2017 AT THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND, 38 THISTLE STREET, EDINBURGH**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the chair]

Sharon Beck

Brett Fletcher

Tom Ingrey-Counter [HLF p/t]

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange

Avril Wills of Lochnaw

Sean Wood

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Sylvia Burgess

John Curtis

Sharon Dabell

Pauline Jaffray

Mark Jardine

Richard Mackenzie

Pat O’Brien

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [Treasurer]

1. **MINUTES of 85/17 Meeting** of the Trustees held on April 6th 2017 had been circulated by the Secretary and were certified correct.

**2 HARGREAVES RE BLINDWELLS/ COCKENZIE FUTURE MASTER PLAN/ & INCHCAPE**

1. That Gordon Prestoungrange had met with Iain Slater of Hargreaves in Durham and explored options for the location of the Trust’s Living History Centre at Blindwells NW corner overlooking the battlesite; the possibility had been welcomed and the Trust is authorised to state publicly as and when it so wishes that it is in discussions with Hargreaves.
2. That the Conclusions by Consultants for the ELC Master Plan re the former lands of Cockenzie Power Station have not been published yet with delays occasioned by the ELC Local Council Elections purdah.
3. That InchCape’s 3 Year Planning Consent in Principle due to expire September 2017 will not now be resurrected since Scottish Power has reportedly agreed that InchCape may now construct their putative SubStation on brownfield land to the north
4. Despite this most encouraging news after 3 years of lobbying, Arran Johnston was still asked to table the promised Carnet of the Trust’s case to protect the battlesite remaining today with both HES and ELC in the coming days; and this to include the international 13,000+ online Petition.
5. That a letter should once again be sent to Scottish Power with a view to resuming agriculture on the western side of the battle site.

**3 HLF RESPONSE TO BATHHOUSE APPLICATION**

1. That following the Regional Committee [Scotland]’s reluctance to support the Trust’s Application to restore and interpret the BathHouse and use it as the Trust’s Living History Centre as proposed, HLF’s offer of a formal debriefing by Tom Ingrey-Counter had been accepted.
2. On HLF’s behalf, Tom Ingrey-Counter expanded on the following headline explanations already provided in writing on 24th March: [i] Complexities relating to the Museum site; [ii] substantial required match funding; [iii] concerns around sustainability; [iv] heritage elements and partners lacking per se and in strength. Tom Ingrey- Counter also questioned the location so far away from the battle site itself and whether the proposal was not over ambitious.
3. The Trustees expressed their disappointment at the lack of support forthcoming from HLF and surprise that none of the issues raised had been the subject of requests for further information after tabling in December 2016. Nonetheless it was accepted that the complexities at the Museum site and the distance from the battle site itself were substantive issues and if HLF support was to anticipated at some future stage, they had to be overcome by targeting a unique location close by the battle site.
4. So far as sustainability was concerned and lack of strong heritage elements, the Trustees assured HLF that here they had greater confidence in the light of the two RGA analyses which had repeatedly concluded that a world class facility was feasible and that we had probably understated our heritage elements by focusing overmuch on the tapestries. i.e. an ambitious one, was created.
5. The Trustees resolved that the announcement of the Trust’s Change of Direction should be shared first with Cllr Willie Innes, Iain Gray MSP and Prestonpans Community Council and thereafter with the East Lothian Courier. A meeting with ELC’s incoming Cabinet/ relevant Councillors should be arranged as soon as feasible.
6. That Tom Ingrey-Counter at HLF be asked to initiate early meetings with its Development Officers and that the Trust should seek to access HLF Resilience Funding for the immediate future to carry the project forward.
7. That Hargreaves be asked to introduce the Trust to its Dunbar based Master Plan architects Ewan MacIntyre [ema] so that initial designs for what might be achieved at the NW corner of Blindwells on say a 25 year lease could be better understood.
8. It was resolved to await the outcome of the Cockenzie Master Plan Consultations in respect of any options emergent there.
9. That the Trust’s remaining Restricted Funds of £101,000 were available to progress the issues involved but that they must be directed to achieve actual physical visitor outcomes such as have lately been achieved with the benefit of Viridor, HES and EventScotland support.
10. That by the time of the scheduled exhibition of the Battle Tapestry at Holyrood in late June/ July 2017 the next direction of the Trust should have been clearly established and the drive to raise further Restricted Funds carried forward from thereon.

**4 BANKTON DOOCOT & VISIT SCOTLAND**

.01 That the chains installed at Gardiner’s Obelisk still await replacement by Strawberry Corner Landscapes as does the pruning of the ash tree branches as identified in our consultant arboriculturist’s detailed report re the path from the obelisk/ Doocot; and Sylvia Burgess is liaising with John Shedden, our landscape contractor, to complete the work as soon as possible after notification to the residents at Belvedere & Bankton House.

.02 That Eric Rosoman and colleagues at Atom Coding have now activated their updates of the GPS APP **Prestonpans 1745** with all additional details for the Waggonway, including commissioned artwork from Alan Braby/ Ed Bethune, and corrections/ emendments.

.03 Details of the APP have now been attached to all sign posts for the Waggonway and Battle Trail by APB Displays of Falkirk.

.04 That Gordon Prestoungrange had continued liaison with ELC’s Landscapes & Countryside Team / PSG Area Partnership and the new PSG Area Walkers’ Guide now published contains all the requisite details of the APP and the trails it contains.

.05 That the Waggonway’s 3 x Interpretation Boards using Alan Braby’s images, the restored Morrison’s Haven Board and the new Prestoungrange Gothenburg Board will shortly be ready for production and installation; the Leaflet dispenser at The Gothenburg car park will be replaced with guidance re the APPs and promote access to the new, third APP for the **Prestonpans Murals and Arts Treasures Trail** by end July – with Sean Wood and Tom Ewing much involved in its content.

.06 Resolved that application to VisitScotland to become a registered venue should be made asap, together with a formal Opening with a senior HES officer in attendance.

**5 2017 & 2018 LIVING HISTORY & RE-ENACTMENTS**

.01 That in **2017** the Prestonpans Commemorations, after discussions with Andrew Robertson at ELC, will be linked to the County’s Archaeology Week as Pinkie Cleugh has traditionally been; and additionally with digs at Cockenzie Harbour re the 1722 Waggonway. Activity at Prestongrange Museum is also to be expected.

.02 Thus far, further plans for **Prestonpans 2017** are emergent but with the anticipated publication of his new book, **Gladsmuir**, from Helion on the battle by Arran Johnston it is confirmed that a focus might be given to ‘Literary Cameos’ building on the 2016 Waverley Walk initiative, Cadell’s defense of Cope and the Gaelic connections.

.03 The putative Commemorative Plaque for Colonel Gardiner in Tranent Churchyard might also be unveiled and the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Alan Breck Regiment by The Prince’s Warrant at The Palace of Holyroodhouse will be celebrated.

.04 That when the major re-enactment event returns to **Prestonpans in 2018** great focus will be on the *‘Clans who Came Out with The Prince in 1745’*, as previously targeted in 2008 for the 1st Year of Homecoming, with the Trust’s Committee of High Sponsors invited to assist in the occasion.

.05 That the Scottish Battlefields Trust’s application to LEADER had been revived and will include for a June 5th 2017 deadline additional interpretation of Preston Tower and the collaborative activity with the 1722 Heritage Group lately established by Ed Bethune; applications for additional/alternative support are in hand with two Landfill Trusts and the PSG Area Development Team from ELC.

.06 ELC and EventScotland have already given SBT’s East Lothian County Battle Cycle support as a National Event and HES is promising ‘Organisational Support’ for extensive Interpretation and Evaluation which will include Prestonpans 2018.

**6** **SCHOOL VISITS/ BATTLE GAME BOARD/ WAR GAMES/ BOTH TAPESTRIES’ EXHIBITIONS**

.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 further initiatives in the playing of War Games.

.03 Plans are being finalised for a one month exhibition of the Battle Tapestry in Lorient, Brittany, in August/ September 2017 as part of the Scottish contribution to their *Festival InterCeltic Lorient [FIL]*; it attracts over 500,000 visitors and local support there is once again forthcoming from Jean Cevaer and Hubert of St Nazaire/ Pornichet. Discussions continue with Tom Johnstone who is the Scottish Government’s Representative.

.04 The Alan Brecks will participate during October 2017 at the National Museum ‘Jacobite Festival’ and the Trust’s own plans are now being made following sponsorship from Iain Gray MSP to exhibit the Prestonpans Tapestry at Holyrood for 6 weeks in June/ July prior to the exhibition in Lorient.

.05 The Trust’s umbrage tabled with the Advertising Standards Authority [ASA] re the 2017 Project labelled both as A ‘Jacobite Trail’ and as ‘In the Footsteps of Bonnie Prince Charlie’ funded inter alia by a Growth Fund grant of £40,000 from VisitScotland had occasioned a full dress meeting at VisitScotland and a resolve that our own Growth Fund Application with SBT for a Permanent Jacobite Trail would be tabled with them late 2017 for actions in 2018 and beyond; no response has yet been received from the ASA.

.06 That with the Trust now responsible in the name of PAF / Barons Courts for the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, has had considerable success at the exhibition at Westminster Hall despite the tragic disruption and the dissolution of The Commons; and is now opening today at St Giles Cathedral until May 18th then relocating to 3Harbours in Prestonpans, Crieff and Helmsdale by year end.

**7 THE ‘REAL’ JACOBITE TRAIL**

.01 That Karen Campbell is progressing with the development of the website.

.02 That once this framework is in place @ [www.jacobitetrail.scot](http://www.jacobitetrail.scot) partnership under the aegis of SBT will be sought with key activists to form a Consortium to apply to VisitScotland’s Growth Fund for 2018, positioned as a Legacy to all that has taken place in 2017 and more besides.

.03 Noted that HES has already indicated that this is one focus area where its support for SBT’s County Battle Cycle might be delivered.

.04 Karen Campbell was briefed to proceed with an initial budget of £1,000 in discussion with Gordon Prestoungrange and Arran Johnston.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 **Colonel Gardiner’s Plaque @ Tranent Churchyard** still requiresformalconsent from ELC which is responsible for the churchyard; funds are available to proceed, with details to be included on the APP. Arran Johnston is progressing the matter and agreeing appropriate wording.

.02 ‘**The** **Spirit of the Tartan ‘ as CD**,the *Song-Drama of The Gael* by Dr Arthur Geddes, son of Sir Patrick Geddes [himself remembered in The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry], is finding additional supporters for a 21st Century edition with Ian Green of Greentrax, Margaret Stewart, Iain McCallam and the Kinloch Anderson family; the target date for release is September 2018 for a Double CD with Spoken Prefatory Remarks introducing songs in Gaelic and English around the structure of Arthur Geddes 4 Theatre Scenes.

.04 **Spanish Civil War Theatre: 549** is being developed with support from ELC/ Brunton Theatre and SBT to be presented by Panner Robbie Gordon and Jack Nurse in late January 2018/ early February in Prestonpans Town Hall.

.05 **Scottish National Battlefields Inventory *re* War Games** – it was mooted that all groups located in support of the National Inventory might be invited to consider joining the SBT War Games initiatives at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg in the coming years.

.06 **ELC Support from incoming Council post May 4th 2017** – agreed that action be taken asap after the new Council for East Lothian is installed to identify its continuing even accelerating support for the Trust’s initiatives but a formal outcome looks likely to await the General Election on June 8th .

**9 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**.**01 The Trustees will hold their 87/ 17 Meeting on **Thursday June 8th 2017 at 6.30pm at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg.**

.02 That the 88/17 Meeting of the Trustees be held on Thursday **July 6th 2017**; or earlier on the call of the Chair.

.03 That the 2017 ‘modest commemoration’ of the Battle will take place between **September 22nd/ 24th.**