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

**MINUTES OF 99th MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON October 4th 2018 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO AT THE PRESTOUNGRANGE GOTHENBURG, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the Chair]

Sharon Beck

Arran Johnston [*withdrew Item 2.01*]

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

Sean Wood

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Sylvia Burgess

Kenneth Cameron

John Curtis

Sharon Dabell

Brett Fletcher

Pauline Jaffray

Mark Jardine

Richard Mackenzie

Pat O’Brien

Avril Wills of Lochnaw

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange

1. **MINUTES of 98/18 Meeting** of the Trustees held on August 8th 2018, which had been circulated by the Secretary, were proposed/ seconded and confirmed as a correct record.

**2 ACHIEVING THE ‘AGREED MANIFESTO’ WITH HLF RESILIENCE [1] SUPPORT**

1. Received and Agreed the advice of the HLF Resilience Taskforce recommending acceptance of the Element [ii] Comparative Evaluation Tender at £9,500 [nil VAT] from Preferred Bidder Dr Arran Johnston, as a Sessional Staff member in Good Standing; confirmed a Letter of Acceptance be forwarded to him together with deadlines and several focus issues arising during the discussion of his Proposal.
2. Following discussion, that Arran Johnston should ensure his studies addressed our key objective of identifying leadership and strategic models for sustainability, whilst also evaluating the focus/ scope/ context adopted by each facility, and the dynamics and sequencing of visitor experiences.
3. Noted that it was to be anticipated, if good progress was achieved by end November by DC Research, that they would be invited to share in consolidation of the External Audit with the conclusions from the Comparative Evaluation (Element [ii]) to create the ‘Draft’ Manifesto and beyond that the processes of Consultation in Element [iii] to arrive at the ‘Agreed Manifesto’.
4. That Tuula Jodie, Hopetoun House Scottish Textile Conservation Leader, be invited to make an assessment of the Conservation Requirements of the Tapestries for the sum of £800, under guidance from Herbert Coutts, for report by mid/ late October and for discussion at the 100th Meeting of the Trustees on November 15th.
5. That Tuula Jodie had already received casual input from Dorie Wilkie, the Lead Stitcher on the Prestonpans Tapestry’s creation in 2009/ 2010, during its recent exhibition at Cockenzie House and also been made aware of the already pending recommendations from Dorie Wilkie to the Trust.
6. That it was important to table an HLF Resilience [2] Application at the earliest opportunity in 2019 to seek implementation of the ‘Agreed Manifesto’ and that the Restricted Funds for the permanent Living History Centre including tapestry displays would be invested at that juncture as matching funds.
7. The HLF Resilience Taskforce was instructed that both Elements [i] and [ii] studies must address the balance of digital and tactile Living History both in assessing the status quo and subsequently arriving at the ‘Draft’ Manifesto; this to include combined audience sequencing options of tactile/ digital and digital/ tactile alongside ‘simple virtual reality’ approaches.

**3. BATTLEFIELD CONSERVATION/ MEMORIAL TABLES & AGRICULTURE**

1. Reported that the deliberations of the Government Reporter on the Application for the SubStation to be built on the former Power Station site are currently in hand.
2. That with the support of Ray Montgomery, ELC Manager of the acquired Power Station lands, the two Memorial Tables had been authorised for installation at a midpoint on the Waggonway under an MoA – which involved the donation of the tables by the Trust to ELC but with the right of withdrawal at 3 months’ notice by either party.
3. That the site had been prepared and the Memorial Tables had been duly installed by Gardner Molloy for an additional cost of £5,000 and been visited by all Clan Chiefs / Representers on September 15th with the Provost of East Lothian and a Representative of the Lord Lieutenant.
4. That Arran Johnston was still updating the associated Interpretation Board with Osprey but that Keith Scott had arranged for additional English/ Gaelic signage at the northern end of the Waggonway and updated the extant signage at the southern end.
5. That Beathag Mhoiresdan has already provided the requisite Gaelic translation: *Bùird Cuimhneachaidh a’ Bhatail,* which had been used by ELC.
6. That the Trust would continue to seek the earliest opportunity for agriculture to be resumed on the battlefield/ Zone 4 in discussions with ELC and a meeting with Susan Smith of Economic Development should be arranged shortly.
7. That Arran Johnston should seek competitive quotations for an archaeological survey of the battlesite to the immediate east and west of the Waggonway, and of the Waggonway itself, with particular reference to the Scheduled Monuments designations.

**4. ‘LIVING HISORY CENTRE’ DISCUSSIONS WITH HARGREAVES & POSSIBLE BROADER SCOPING**

1. That Gareth Bryn-Jones was still awaiting an opportunity for a site visit with Iain Slater and the Charlestoun Design Team working for Hargreaves, exploring how the Trust’s Living History Centre might possibly be located at the NW corner of the new community.
2. That ELC is aware of these discussions but not participating therein.
3. In discussion of ‘sustainability’ arising from the HLF sponsored Element [ii] Comparative Study of Battlesites, the question arose as to whether, in a ‘putative broader context/ scoping’ that already included The Jacobite Trail, The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, The Alan Breck’s Regiment and all East Lothian’s battles, close proximity to the battlefield would remain a priority.

**5. THE JACOBITE TRAIL & 275th ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE**

1. That the Jacobite Trail project was continuing with the aim of convening a Symposium of the interested parties early 2019.

02. That Gail Williamson from HES has been followed up and is circulating details there.

03. Reaffirmed that collaboration with HES/ NTS must be a key vector in the future development and that open exploratory debate should be held howsoever, possibly at SBT’s 6th Biennial Symposium although that should now be postponed until Spring 2019.

04. That the putative design of the Trail was deemed a good basis to open discussion with changes as the participating members made their views apparent.

05. That Herbert Coutts should hold exploratory discussions with Mike Taylor to see how he might work with the Trust to develop a comprehensive Jacobite Assets Inventory in the coming years, not only as a key element in presenting the Trail on line but also as a ready source of artefacts for selected Exhibitions by members; together an application for funds might be considered.

06. Discussed what form of commemoration might be most appropriate in 2020 being the 275th anniversary of the battle, and that being the year SBT’s re-enactments in the East Lothian cycle will focus at Pinkie Cleugh; resolved to explore possible ways in which Jacobite cultural aspects might be highlighted – song, literature, theatre and an exhibition in Prestonpans Town Hall preferably in partnership with ELC’s Museum Service and building on outcomes at 05. above.

**6. PRESTONPANS SEPTEMBER 15/16 2018**

.01 The SBT led re-enactments with the Trust’s own Parade and Memorial Tables Commemorations attracted some 2500 visitors and re-enactors and were an outstanding success – the best yet achieved for which Arran Johnston and Sharon Beck along with the Alan Brecks and countless supporters are to be congratulated

.02 The Prestonpans Tapestry was on display at Cockenzie House and the Paper Soldiers exhibition of 2500 combatants on each side in the Thomas Nelson Suite at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg – both of which drew additional visitors.

.03 Martha Bryce was outstanding in her contribution to PR/ and Marketing with a concluding visit by tv’s BBC2 Mary Beard show broadcast the following Friday September 21st and extensive coverage in *East Lothian Courier.*

.04 The sessions with residents in all eponymous street named after Clans along with Johnnie Cope Road and Gardiner Road & Crescent, and HLF/Lottery Ticket holders, were only a qualified success but shortcomings were more than compensated for by the exceptional attendances on the Parade and later by Clan Chiefs and Representers for all who Came Out in September 1745 led by Sir Malcolm MacGregor and formally Welcomed by Lord Lieutenant Michael Williams and East Lothian Provost John MacMillan.

.05 Thanked Sylvia Burgess for all the effort she put in to get the Chiefs and Representers along.

.06 Aadam Mohammed’s contribution for the enhanced food/ drinks provision with a major marquee and beer ‘festival’ from The Prestoungrange Gothenburg was all very well received.

.07 The biggest disappointment was the late total withdrawal of all British Army representation because of a New Colours Ceremony; steps are now in hand to seek to arrange a unique occasion when they can indeed visit and commemorate fallen comrades at their dedicated Memorial Table on the Waggonway.

.08 There was also notable distress for visitors by the premature closure, on their own initiative without any consultation, of the Prestonpans Tapestry exhibition at Cockenzie House; and unsolicited misbriefing of Tuula Jodie [vis. 2.05 above] re transportation and storage - which Arran Johnston and Herbert Coutts were asked to redress as soon as possible.

.09 Agreed that Dorie Wilkie be asked for an Explanation of the actions taken at Cockenzie House to be tabled at the next meeting of the Trustees and its details to be made public; and that lack of consultation with Arran Johnston and /or Sharon Beck was unjustified and unacceptable.

**7.** **TAPESTRY EXHIBITIONS/ BATTLE BOARD WAR GAMING/ SCHOOL VISITS**

.01 The Diaspora Tapestry exhibition at Garioch, Inverurie has been extended by a further month to November 10th. Future plans for 2019 already include New Lanark Mills where dates are now agreed as March 2nd/ April 28th with an option of a further month to late May if required. It then goes to Glasgow’s Episcopalian Cathedral during the West End Festival in June/ July.

.02 Book/ merchandise sales at Stanley Mills had exceeded £2,000 and were going incredibly well at Garioch where Arran Johnston’s new title was also delivered and a well attended Official Launch arranged.

.03 That the possibility for a *stitcher-driven* Hong Kong Exhibition is still being explored although a much broader Asian tour would probably be more appropriate for 2019/ 2020, visiting the stitchers there.

.04 That Brett Fletcher is proceeding well with the carry-easy Battle Game Boards for all three locations in partnership with SBT and HES Interpretation Fund support; the large scale Prestonpans Board was used for major exhibition and play purposes at the Encampment with support from Warwick Louth.

.05 School visits and occasional lectures and tour groups continue on a regular basis.

.06 Stitcher interest has been aroused for taking forward the long-hoped-for exhibition on Merseyside but no venue or dates are yet fixed.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

.01 Efforts are still in hand with Eric Roseman to restore the full **online access to the Prestonpans Tapestry** which was lost when Raeltech replaced their main server. The PowerPoint access there is still functional.

.02 Final **stitchers’ detailing at the Scottish Diaspora website** is in hand.

.03 That **Friends of the Tapestries** meeting will be convened on Wednesday November 14th both to update all involved but also to enable DC Research to meet with individuals as part of its External Audit.

.04 **1745 Association:** two short articles for the Jacobite magazine in Spring and Winter issues have been prepared and Members were hosted by the Trust on September 8th with that opportunity taken by DC Research to elicit opinions.

.05 Confirmed that the update of the **Asset Register** will be completed for the 12th AGM in November which is most important to ensure full insurance cover and adequate re-ordering of merchandise and Official Guides.

.06 That the commemorative plaque for **Colonel Gardiner** at Tranent Churchyard will now be dedicated in the coming months at a special event to be agreed.

.07 That the plaque for **Captain Stewart** at Prestongrange Church is also approved and funded, but not yet commissioned.

.08 That Sean Wood continues discussions with potential donors/ sponsors for the work of the Trust including **The Rocketeers**, and would keep all informed on any progress.

**9. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

.01 That the **100/18 Meeting** of the Trustees followed by the **12th AGM** of the Members both be held on **November 15th 2018**

.02 That a ‘Celebratory’ Meeting with the **Friends of the Tapestries** will take place on **November 14th** at which DC Research will have the opportunity to meet with stitchers.

.03 The **11th** **AGM of the Alan Brecks Regiment** will be held on December 8th in the presence of its Colonel-in-Chief, Martin Margulies.

.04 That the **HLF Resilience Taskforce ‘Integration Workshop’** bringing Elements [i] and [ii] and Tuula Jodie’s Conservation Advices together to form the Draft National Manifesto will be held in January 2019 on a date yet to be agreed.