

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

**MINUTES OF 102nd MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON FEBRUARY 21st**

**2019 IN THE JAMES PARK BISTRO AT THE PRESTOUNGRANGE**

 **GOTHENBURG, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**PRESENT:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the Chair]

Sharon Beck

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

**APOLOGIES:**

Sylvia Burgess [e]

Kenneth Cameron

John Curtis

Sharon Dabell [e]

Brett Fletcher

Pauline Jaffray

Pat O’Brien

Avril Wills of Lochnaw [e]

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange [e]

**1. MINUTES of 101/19 Meeting** of the Trustees held on January 10th 2019, which had been circulated by the Secretary, were proposed/ seconded by Arran Johnston and Sharon Beck respectively and confirmed as a correct record. The Minutes Clerk’s expression *‘catalytic originator’* [Minute 102/19/2/10] to characterise the Prestonpans Tapestry’s seminal role since 2010 in triggering the ongoing renaissance of narrative tapestries across Scotland and internationally was much relished although the expression [Minute 102/19/5/2] ‘*Domesday Jacobus’* was deemed poor Latin.

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

01. Received the Comments and Summaries of the Taskforce in anticipation of the long delayed Haddington meeting on February 22nd with Officers of East Lothian Council [ELC] to report on their progress in identifying and assessing putative locations for the Living History Centre.

02. Agreed that Herbert Coutts should lead the TownHouse discussions with ELC and emphasise that the momentum of the Trust’s activities was severely threatened by any further procrastination on their part.

03. Invited Gareth Bryn-Jones to create generic ‘Concept Visuals’ for the Living History Centre in line with the now confirmed specification tabled by Arran Johnston.

04. Agreed that in the context of the revised Grant Procedures for NLHF [formerly HLF] from February 1st 2019, the timetable for the imminent Consultation on the Draft Manifesto and progress to the Agreed Manifesto should be such as to allow Application for Resilience [2] – Stepping Up – to be made by May 28th 2019. Further that additional sources of grant for Stepping Up should be identified and parallel applications made.

05. Noted that the NLHF would manage such Grant Applications through its Scottish Committee and in so doing would be mindful of the Scottish Government’s Cultural Strategy, Community & the Environment – and that we should give requisite attention to these aspects in our Application.

06. Noted that Martha Bryce’s role as lead PR adviser commences on March 1st and she has already been briefed on the putative requirements for the project as it moves to Draft Manifesto public consultations, including Prestonpans/ Tranent/ Port Seton & Cockenzie CCs, in 2019.

07. That any hiatus in the cash flows necessary for Sessional Staffing and ongoing activities must be carefully addressed as the project moves from the Agreed Manifesto to Resilience [2] Stepping Up with drawdowns from the Permanent Home Restricted Funds made as necessary.

08. That Mathew Wills FCA, Treasurer of the Trust, is liaising with Arran Johnston to review the trading budgets/ management accounts of selected battle sites to accord insights into our own future operating plans and in particular the funding costs [if any] of their capital assets.

09. That Interim Reports for Elements [i] and [ii] as updated to January 31st 2019 should still remain unpublished pro tem having been shared in confidence with ELC for the meeting on February 22nd and with Tom Ingrey-Counter at HLF in the Trust’s Progress Report lately tabled.

10. It was confirmed for the Draft Manifesto that the tapestries/ embroidery activities of the Centre should predominantly see them as a means to an end. The Centre’s role would be ‘non competitive’ with Galashiels rather and focus on the *‘catalytic originator’* role of The Prestonpans Tapestry with its community engagement objectives deliberately honoured and exemplified.

**3. BATTLEFIELD AGRICULTURE IN 2019 + COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT 2015**

01. Noted that the Scottish Government’s Reporter and subsequently Scottish Ministers had formally backed InchCape’s plans for the Offshore Incoming Sub-Station on the Forth which, if it eventually proceeds, clearly calls for a building of architectural interest.

02. That the Trust has been informed that envisaged discussions on February 25th would not now take place on its Expression of Interest under the Community Empowerment Act 2015 to seek the earliest opportunity for agriculture to be resumed on the battlefield/ Zone 4; instead a Formal Response will be forthcoming.

03. Reported that much to the Trust’s surprise an Offer to Lease the relevant farm land for Seasonal Cropping had been published by ELC and that in partnership with Jim Meikle a Tender in the sum of £4,030 had been submitted by the Trust for the period April/ September 2019.

04. No response has been received from ELC to the request for an archaeological field surface following last autumn’s ploughing of two of the three fields in question.

05. That the Trust should in due course seek 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 still remaining although this was not a priority at the present time - if feasible contact with NASA’s observations as recorded at St Andrew’s University should be deployed including appropriate measures of resistivity.

**4. LIVING HISORY CENTRE DISCUSSIONS WITH HARGREAVES**

01. That Gareth Bryn-Jones and colleagues had held a useful site meeting on February 6th with Iain Slater of Hargreaves at Charlestoun and shared in discussions of the emergent ideas for the NW corner of the Town Centre overlooking the battlesite.

02. That a further meeting with Iain Slater will be arranged on March 21st which will by then have the benefit of reactions from ELC following the discussions at Haddington TownHouse on February 22nd.

**5. THE JACOBITE CONTEXT/ TRAIL/ 2019 COLLOQUIUM**

01. That the Jacobite Trail project was continuing with the aim of convening a Colloquium of the interested parties early 2019 with a view to eliciting support for partnership along the Trail – at an appropriate venue in Edinburgh, perhaps The Storytelling Centre.

 02. That Michael Taylor is assisting with the scoping and consequent

 search for funding for an **International Register of Jacobite Assets**

-our *Domesday Jacobus* - as an essential element of the Trail enabling

both online exhibitions and a readily available source for physical

 exhibitions across the Trail.

 03. That the development of the Jacobite Trail was now a very high

 Priority for the Trust in the light of the decision to set the **1745 Battle**

 **in its Jacobite context** in the Draft Manifesto; it is expected that

Michael Tylor will table his Discussion Paper before the next 103rd

 Meeting of the Trustees on March 21st.

 04. That following correspondence with NTS, a letter has been

 received from Diarmid Hearns confirming their willingness for ‘content

 and reciprocal linking of websites’ re The Trail. Similar agreement was

 earlier received from HES.

 **6. PRESTONPANS 275th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

1. Noted that 2020 is the 275th anniversary of the battle, but that

will be the year SBT’s East Lothian triennial cycle will focus at Pinkie Cleugh; accordingly resolved to explore possible ways in which Jacobite cultural aspects might be highlighted – song, literature, theatre, 3/4 tapestry exhibitions across Scotland possibly including Inverurie [which has 275th Anniversary Battle Celebration potential], and Dunblane.

1. To explore whether the Clan Chiefs and eponymous streets

initiative of 2018 might be built on howsoever via Clan Fund.

1. Reported that the John Gray Centre in Haddington had offered its

Temporary Exhibition space to the Trust in 2020 for an extended period.

1. To commemorate the significance of The Thorntree in 1745, and

in the Trust’s logo, possibly with High Profile Ceremonial Plantings of a copse in Thorntree Field.

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

**SCHOOL VISITS/ MOUNT FELIX/ ICELANDIC SAGA PANELS**

01. A proposal for a three month Scottish Diaspora Tapestry exhibition at year end 2019/ early 2020 has been received from Summerhall in Edinburgh via Jenny Bruce and a meeting will be held to explore this option.

02. 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.

03. School visits and occasional lectures and tour groups continue on

a regular basis.

04. That agreement the Mount Felix Tapestry will be exhibited in Prestonpans in November 2019 with considerable publicity to the Friends of the Tapestries on its return to Walton-on-Thames from New Zealand – exemplifying our community art strategy.

1. It is anticipated that the Prestonpans Tapestry will be exhibited at

The Garioch Centre Inverurie during 2019/ 2020 alongside restoration there of the battle memorial to the Jacobite victory on December 23rd 1745.

1. That the gift to the Trust of the **6 Icelandic Saga Panels** is now

expected on May 30th with the team from Iceland travelling to Edinburgh and arrangements being made with the Icelandic Consul in Edinburgh for a ceremonial occasion – followed by exhibition in Prestonpans possibly in association with the 3Harbours Festival. According to agreed protocols no panels can ‘join’ the Tapestry; these six new panels will be deemed Companion Panels and exhibited as suitable from time to time.

**8. ‘FRIENDS OF OUR BATTLE TRUST’**

01. Agreed that it was a vital success factor for the future Living History Centre that a pattern of ‘membership’ / Friends be established connected via social media to ensure high levels of repeat visits.

02. That the present structure of ‘£100 Guarantor Voting Members’ since 2006 was not itself appropriate for expansion and that careful thought must be given to how best to extend engagement and permit democratic participation in the work of the Trust in the coming years.

03. That professional advice based on comparative research should be undertaken to identify how best to move forward including the creation of the social media framework.

04. That the initiative should embrace those already in support as Alan Brecks, Friends of the Tapestries, website news subscribers and Online Petitioners.

 **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. That **van arrangements** have been made without capital purchase; the Trust has agreed to finance the requisite insurances for strictly limited drivers.
2. That an order will be placed shortly for **Colonel Stewart’s**

**Plaque** in Prestongrange Church Graveyard and that for **Colonel Gardiner installed in due course at Tranent**.

1. That all necessary steps are now being taken led by Sharon Beck to complete Diaspora panel **US05** from Maine for which a budget of £500 has been made available; all materials including lightbox designs and wools to have been dispatched to the US by end February 2019.
2. 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.

1. That the **Wikipedia** site of the Trust and of its two tapestries should be kept under review and updated annually.
2. That the **paper file archives held by Gordon Prestoungrange in Milton Malsor** should be edited by Sylvia Burgess and Gordon Prestoungrange and transferred to Prestonpans in the coming months.
3. That the **EGM** convened on even date had elucidated the

Objects of the Trust and the Secretary would lodge all necessary documents with Companies House; and the website’s Charter link will be updated.

08. That the incoming **Publican[s] of The Prestoungrange Gothenburg** be invited ex officio to become a Trustee in succession to the departed Sean Wood.

**10. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

1. That the **103/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held on **Thursday March 21st 2019**
2. That the **104/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held on **Thursday April 11th 2019**
3. That the **105/19 Meeting** of the Trustees will be held on **Thursday May 9th 2019**