

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

**MINUTES OF 108th MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES HELD ON OCTOBER 24th**

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

**GOTHENBURG, PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE**

**CONTRIBUTING:**

Herbert Coutts [Joint Chairman in the Chair]

Sharon Beck

Martha Bryce [p/t/e]

Sylvia Burgess [e]

Sharon Dabell [e]

Brett Fletcher

Joe Goldblatt [e]

Arran Johnston

Gordon Prestoungrange of Lochnaw

Michael Taylor [p/t/e]

Avril Wills of Lochnaw [e]

**APOLOGIES:**

Gareth Bryn-Jones

Kenneth Cameron

John Curtis

Pauline Jaffray

Pat O’Brien

Julian Wills of Dolphinstoun

Mathew Wills of Prestoungrange

**1. MINUTES of 107/19 Meeting** of the Trustees held on August 15th 2019, which had been circulated by the Secretary, were proposed/ seconded by Brett Fletcher/ Sharon Beck respectively and confirmed as a correct written record.

**2. COMMEMORATIONS IN PRESTONPANS September 21st 2019**

01. That wreaths had been laid at the Cairn and Memorial Tables together with the dedication of Colonel Gardiner’s memorial plaque at Tranent Churchyard with the banner of Gardiner’s 13th Dragoons on display - where a cameo re-enactment of Walter Grosset’s approach eliciting musket fire from the Alan Breck’s on September 20th 1745 was also presented with support from Alan Brady of the 1722 Waggonway Heritage Group.

02. That The Prince’s Battle Standard was raised again at the Battle Bing after repairs to the pole by a detachment of the Edinburgh City Guard in an act of reconciliation.

03. That the Paper Soldiers exhibition of the battle was displayed over the weekend at the HQ in the Prestoungrange Gothenburg alongside Andrew Hillhouse’s battle scenes.

04. That Peter MacKenzie, a former founding Trustee, with support from Prestonpans Community Council, arranged what is now his traditional battlefield walk which was well attended.

**3. PATHTOVICTORY1745.ORG + NLHF PROJECT ENQUIRY [2]**

01. Confirmed that Arran Johnston is in the final stages of preparing a Full Application in line with Project Enquiry [2] and Holly Watson’s response thereto. that focuses particularly on the 2020 Commemorations and the sustained and extended engagement of the local community not least through the integration of websites and social media under the banner of Friends of The Prince.

02. Agreed to carry forward the suggestion by Joe Goldblatt that a high visibility dimension to 2020/ Path to Victory could be accorded by establishing ‘The Prince’s Educational Academy’ as the vehicle for schools and FE engagement by the Trust.

03. Agreed to hold further discussions with Dr Jill deFresnes of the PSG NLHF Great Places Project notwithstanding that the Trust’s determination to adhere to a national and international framework attracting tourists as visitors, as exemplified already in the creation of both tapestries, Jacobite contextualization and Clan engagement strategies, is potentially at variance though not necessarily in conflict with the NLHF’s lately espoused priority focus on immediate ‘local’ community engagement with heritage across all ethnic and minority groups.

04. These manifest preferences at NLHF and the Trust’s unrepentant determination would suggest that whilst elements of further support from NLHF can be anticipated NLHF is not likely to be a significant early contributor to the Victory implicit in the envisaged Living History Centre; and that such a conclusion makes it vital to follow alternative routes to such Victory.

05. That the proposal from Joe Goldblatt to seek tenders for Fund Raising Strategies and Action Lines should now proceed.

06. That Arran Johnston and Joe Goldblatt would meet with IT faculty at Edinburgh College to explore whether or not a partnership for the development of the Trust’s online and social media requirements can be forged.

07. That Herbert Coutts has suggested an approach might usefully be made to Glenkinchie re future collaboration.

**4. PETITIONS [1] & [2] TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

01. That both Petitions to ELC [1] seeking the name Charlestoun for the Blindwells new town and [2] ‘Sustained Support for the Path to Victory and Living History Centre’ had been deemed ‘not eligible for consideration’; and a meeting with the Provost, Head of Communities and Manager Economic Development arranged for AM October 24th.

02. That Petition[1] re Charlestoun had been deemed unnecessary since a Consultation with school children across the county was under way. Insultingly, details of the Consultation were finally provided to the Trust on the day that the Consultation closed so action was taken in two respects: [i] Douglas Proudfoot, Head of Development at ELC was notified that there was a statutory requirement that the Designated Battlefield be taken into account by ELC which had clearly not been the case thus far and [ii] a letter was sent to all School Heads across the county drawing their attention to ELC’s statutory responsibility notwithstanding that they had already submitted their responses.

03. On October 24th the outcome of the Consultation was published in the *East Lothian Courier* showing six names on a short list which will now be offered for further public consultation leading to a final Council decision on December 10th.

04. That ELC’s disinclination to consider ‘Sustained Support for PathtoVictory1745.org’ in Petition [2] was asserted on the grounds that discussions were already ongoing and that until those had been exhausted the Petition was premature. A letter was sent requesting an early meeting with ELC’s Officers and Provost to examine how this process could be made more effective and coherent which was duly convened AM October 24th.

**5. PUTATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THE LIVING HISORY CENTRE -PRESTONGRANGE MUSEUM & NW CHARLESTOUN**

01. ELC had persisted that it was not able to share details of its putative Master Plan for Prestongrange Heritage Museum publicly although an open presentation on the matter had been given by officers in Prestonpans Town Hall attended inter alia by Councillor Willie Innes, CEO of ELC, who made positive comments about the Trust’s earlier unsuccessful HLF application for the BathHouse and opined that ELC’s officers should make haste to invest the capital budget already available there in excess of £1m..

02. That at the agreed meeting with the Provost and officers on even date further details had been provided including of an application to Scottish Government for a further £500K regeneration grant for the Museum much of which was intended to be spent on restoring the fabric of the Museum including the Beam Engine, making new provision for the Rail Engines and extending the centre/ shop/ exhibition area.

03. That notwithstanding the MoU already in place with Hargreaves it was appropriate in the context of the emerging opportunities at the Museum to reopen discussions with the Council in the terms of an MoU provided that the full details of that MasterPlan were made available to the Trust and the Trust had the opportunity to participate as partners in its coming development.

04. That any MoU must be posited on the foundational acceptance by ELC that the Designated Battlefield must be protected and interpreted with access thereto from any Centre at the Museum deliberately provided for; and that the Trust’s economic business model of entrance donations/ café/ shop must be maintained.

05. That the Draft MoU tabled should provide the initial basis for such discussions with ELC with the final Draft agreed by Trustees on November 5th at the Jacobite Trail Colloquium before tabling with ELC for a meeting before end November.

06. That further discussions with Hargreaves under their MoU would continue in parallel with any developments with ELC re the Museum to explore further how and where the Centre at Charlestoun might be located such meeting now expected in mid November.

07. That discussions already commenced with VisitScotland CEO Malcolm Roughead re ‘putative visitor/ event best design’ of our Centre should continue with an invitation to Neil Christison, our Regional Director at EventScotland, to Prestonpans during November.

08. That no further invitation to tender re agriculture on the battlefield has been received although for 2020 the Trust remains committed to reapply.

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

01. That arrangements for November 5th are now complete and a considerable and disparate level of participation is expected at the Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh 10.30/ 3.30, for which the Trust is most appreciative of the role Dr Mike Taylor has taken as Convenor.

02. Herbert Coutts has been invited to take the chair with Mike Taylor as Raconteur; the Provost of ELC has also be invited to attend.

03. That whilst the Colloquium is designed for free flowing

conversations Thierry Guheneuf will make a short presentation of the

recent researches in Brittany with the local Jacobite Trail in Aberdeen

described by Mike Tyalor. Additionally, trigger themes will be held in

readiness to ensure as much constructive ground is covered as feasible

e.g.

* What benefits might a Trail afford to members of differing capacities
* Who might wish to be a member of The Trail and how would membership be determined
* What criteria for inclusion would be appropriate
* How would The Trail be resourced – financial and administrative + leadership
* How would The Trail be manifest – online/ cross marketing leaflets/ shared events/ onsite at each location
* What were the Lessons and legacies from ‘Jacobites 2018’ @ NTS/ NMS/ Holyrood

04. That the Colloquium is intended inter alia to enhance The Trust’s

understanding of how the Jacobite context for the Living History Centre

in Prestonpans can be best presented. The Colloquium can explore if

this can be a realistic ambition.

05. That attendees will be asked to indicate the Jacobite Assets

they hold and whether as digital images etc.

06. That preparation by the Trust of an **Application for funding to HES for Organisational Development** as illuminated by the Colloquium for submission not later than by September 30th 2020 would continue although no funding could be available until April 2021 from HES. It could be accompanied by a **Growth Fund Application to VisitScotland** as already explored by the Trust.

**7. PRESTONPANS 275th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

1. Noted that Arran Johnston was finalizing the application for

support to NLHF in the sum of £95K with proposed match allocation of £50K from Restricted Funds and support from ELC requested in excess of £15K in kind together with warehouse accommodations. Baron of Dolphinstoun has confirmed £5K support and application will be made to NLHF PSG Salt of the Earth Funds by November 4th.

1. The specifics of the 2020/ 2021 programme tabled by Arran

Johnston are for a 2 year project expanding engagement to mark 275th anniversary of the battle, 300th birthday of Charles Edward, and 10th anniversary of The Prestonpans Tapestry.

• Nationwide project for 10-17 year olds to create poetry, prose or visual

art, increasing relatability of heritage and encouraging young audiences to contribute to its legacy. Resulting in exhibitions and publication.

• Development of Friends support network, recruiting and training new volunteers and guides, with a rejuvenated online presence which is visitor-focused and makes both battlefield and activities more accessible.

• Renovated travelling exhibition of The Prestonpans Tapestry, reaching at least 4 relevant communities across Scotland.

• “Prestonpans 275” Exhibition at John Gray Centre, exploring changing landscape and cultural interpretation of the heritage; bringing a unique collection together through new partnerships with loaning collections; supported by workshops and related events.

• Songs of War: community theatrical/musical/poetic performances highlighting works relating to the heritage in English, Scots and Gaelic, creating alternative entry points for interest in the history.

• 275th Anniversary events reaching diverse audiences: concert, costumed battlefield walks for both local schools and general public, historian’s conference with Helion publishing, new exhibition panels on the clans and regiments.

• Legacy plan harnesses momentum through 2021, creating sustainable networks and resources.

1. That Sylvia Burgess and Gordon Prestoungrange are exploring

how the Clan Chiefs and eponymous streets initiative of 2009 Homecoming then 2018 Memorial Tables Dedication might be

built on with support inter alia via **VisitScotland’s Clans and Historic Figures Fund** for which an application of £10K has been submitted; and at the same time to brief all and update membership of the Committee of High Patronage.

1. That SBT Publisher Helion Books has now confirmed that a

**Jacobite Conference** will be convened in Prestonpans on September 20th 2020 at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg.

1. That a **Gaelic Song/ Poetry Cultural Event** was being

evaluated possibly in Glenfinnan format in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

1. That the triple links **of Gardiner’s Obelisk close by**

**Prestonpans Station, Waverley Station and the Scott Memorial** should be embraced howsoever and, as may be possible, contact made with Viscount Waverley and a performance of *The Waverley Overture* by Hector Berlioz.

**8.** **TAPESTRY EXHIBITIONS/ SCHOOL VISITS/ MOUNT**

**FELIX/ ICELANDIC SAGA PANELS/ US 05**

01. That the Diaspora Tapestry is next scheduled for **Dundee’s Verdant Works** in summer 2020 but the putative winter 2019/2020 exhibition at Summerhall in Edinburgh did not prove feasible.

02. That several Prestonpans **Interpretation BattleBoards**, an

original capex of £18,000, require restoration and that plans for this

are proceeding.

03. That **School visits and occasional lectures** and tour groups

continue on a regular basis with plans in 2020 to train and induct further Guides.

04. That a **Nocturnal Battlefield Walk** will take place on November 28th under the auspices of the Saltire Festival.

05. Confirmed that the **Mount Felix Tapestry** will be exhibited in Prestonpans, now suggested for early 2020, with considerable publicity to the Friends of the Tapestries - on its return to Walton-on-Thames from its 8 centre New Zealand tour – exemplifying our community art strategy. That the New Zealand Consul in Edinburgh certainly be invited to participate along with the local Kiwi community.

06. It is anticipated that the Prestonpans Tapestry will be exhibited at The **Garioch Centre Inverurie** during 2020 alongside restoration there of the battle memorial to the Jacobite victory on December 23rd 1745 now proceeding with local Community Council support.

07. That the 5 donated **Icelandic panels** were well received in exhibition at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg Lord Mayor’s Bar from August 16th and later at Glasgow Cathedral on request of its Director of Music when an Icelandic choir was singing there.

08. That feedback from the USA indicates **US05** is being stitched

currently and a delivery date of October 31st has been targeted by John Mann there so the image can be included in the 3rd Edition of the Official Guide now due early 2020.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

01. That the Trust’s application for a **2018** **Thistle Award** did not reach the short list; suggested by Sharon Beck that a *Superficial SuperThistle Award* be instituted with rules we could conform to successfully reach the short list.

02. That the **Jacobite Studies Trust** has issued an invitation to

Drs Arran Johnston and Gordon Prestoungrange to present a paper in

**Florence in May 21/23 2020** at which will be useful for the

Trust to share its future vision for Prestonpans based as it has been on

sustained research and activities since 2006.

03. Agreed that it was in the best interest of the Trust at this

juncture to invest from its **Restricted Funds as proposed by Joe**

**Goldblatt** to launch successful additional fund-raising activity

in order that imminent 2020 liabilities can be met and more substantial

match funding created for future appeals and applications; noting with

care that this must conform with the basis on which the Restricted

Funds in hand had been raised originally.

04. That an invitation has been issued to the British Army’s

**Lothian Yeomanry**, and accepted by them, for a Regimental Dinner at

The Prestoungrange Gothenburg in April 2020 in honour of Capt.

Thomas Nelson who provided the funding to build The Gothenburg as

the Trust Tavern in 1907/ 1908, who played rugby for Scotland and

was killed at Ypres in April 1916.

**10. DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

01. That the **Jacobite Trail Colloquium** takes place from 10.30/ 3.30 on **November 5th** **2019** at the Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh. 02. That SBT’s **6th Biennial Symposium:** ***Beyond Designation*** convenes with HES support at The Engine Shed, Stirling **Wednesday** **November 20th 2019**

03. That the **109/19 Meeting** of the Trustees followed by the **13th**

**AGM** of Members will be held at 6pm on **Thursday November 21th 2019** in the Prestoungrange Gothenburg.

04. That the **Alan Breck Regiment of Prestonpans Volunteers will hold its Annual Dinner and AGM** in the presence of its Honorary Colonel-in-Chief Martin Margulies at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg on **December 14th 2019.**

05. The **110/20 Meeting** of the Trustees will take place on **Thursday 16th January 2020** **from 6pm** at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg.

06. That the **111/20 Meeting** of the Trustees will take place on **Thursday 12th March 2020 from 6pm** at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg.