

**Meeting of the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Wednesday 27th November 2013
Invercarron Resource Centre**

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting
 - a) acceptance
 - b) matters arising
- 4 Chair's report
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Secretary's report
- 7 Curator's report
- 8 Shop report
- 9 Events Report
- 10 AOCB
- 11 Date of next meeting

Minutes

Present. Andrew Newton (AN), Cressida Coates (CC), Dennis Collie (DC), Gwynne Stewart (GSt), Clare Thomas (CT), Jim Bruce (JB)

1 Welcome. Cressida Coates welcomed the trustees.

2 Apologies. George Strang, Laura Christie

3 Minutes of previous meeting.

a) Acceptance The minutes of previous meeting were accepted

b) Matters arising

Action Point	Person	Report
Organise demonstration of oat grinding	JB	Completed
Circulate contact details	CC	CC has circulated the information for those volunteers that have given their permission
Provide a stock/sale sheet for 2011 – 2012	DC	Done
Seek architect for courtyard	AN	See secretarial report
Submit application for Tourist award	AN	See secretarial report
Organise return of artefacts to Mintlaw.	GS/JB	JB has been in touch and hopes to organise the transfers wb 2nd December
Re-price shop items	GSt	Done by GSt, CC and Louise Cressida
Discuss magazines with Gordon Ritchie	AN	See secretarial report
Contact Liz Johnstone	CC	Liz is happy to help CT with organising school and 'other' visits. Rachel Shanks will bring further

		information to the December meeting
Write to Mearns Leader re private visits	CC	To be done
Talk to Gordon Ritchie about the SHS images	AN	See secretarial report
Send email to volunteers over Hogmanay staffing	CC	See Chair report
Contact AC staff over a new sign near the boardwalk	CC	Waiting for a reply from Aberdeenshire Council
Review line fishing artefacts	IB	IB not present, no update on the situation

Action Point. CC to 'chase' Aberdeenshire Council on boardwalk sign
 CC to write to Mearns Leader re private visits
 IB to report on reviewing line fishing artefacts

4 Chair's report

There will be a Christmas 'gathering' on 18th December at the Resource Centre; so far approximately 24 people have indicated that they will attend and more are expected. The Mearns Singers (formerly Burns Quoir) will provide vocal entertainment.

The rota for December has been completed and the extra Hogmanay/New Year's Day slots are almost complete.

CC would like to extend her thanks to all those volunteers that help to clean up after the flood from the Tolbooth restaurant at the beginning of November.

CC's daughter Louise has registered for a Saltire Award as she has completed approximately 50 hours as a volunteer at the museum. A trustee, other than CC, will sign any required documentation.

CC will circulate the email from Ruaraidh Wishart regarding the forthcoming WW 1 anniversary.

Action Points. CC to circulate the Ruaraidh Wishart email.

5 Treasurer's report

The current assets of the Association stand at £12,412 after making provision for liabilities.

The footfall for 2013 is running at 16,388.

DC also provided an analysis of the sales last Hogmanay/New Year's Day and GSt is content that the STA is well prepared for the approaching festive season.

Postcards	51
Tea Towels	19
Fridge magnets	7
Key ring	1
Tartan purse	2

Pens	1
Buttterfly - small	3
Butterfly - large	1
Coaster	2
Magnetic insects	7

6 Secretary's report

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

- A meeting has been held with David Chouman who is a recognised architect specialising in historical buildings. He has agreed to produce outline ideas on how to cover the outer courtyard and these will be sent to Historic Scotland for discussion.
- Applications have been submitted to Aberdeen City & Shire for a tourist award in 2 categories a) Community Award b) Visitor Attraction of the Year.
- Gordon Ritchie has agreed to take back old Stanehyve magazines and will also think of ways to improve the current Stonehaven Heritage display in the museum

Other topics are:

- A photojournalist visited on 10th November and acquire information for a forthcoming article in an Australian food publication called *Feast*
- We were visited on 12th November by Jacques Coetzer who has been engaged by Aberdeenshire Council to provide articles on regional identity
- The application to Foundation Scotland was refused. A further application has been made to Be Part of the Picture and the result should be known within a fortnight.
- There was a further flooding from the restaurant on Tuesday 19th November. This time it was the chef allowing the sink to overflow. Eddie Abbot has been contacted yet again but the only agreement so far is that the toilet floors will be tiled. Eddie says he will investigate re-flooring the prep area.
- There will be an exhibition held in the Shell Hoosie on 5th December which will outline the proposals for the interior of the Clock Tower.
- No contact with Kirsty Duncan
- On TripAdvisor we are ranked as 5th out of 9 Stonehaven attractions even though we have 18 excellent reviews. Our overall ranking is pulled down by one poor review.
- Next year Visit Scotland will introduce Sustainability Actions into their assessments of tourist facilities. No idea if this will affect our grading.

Action Point. CT to return Stanehaye magazines to Gordon Ritchie

7 Curator's report

GS is away but sent the following email from Keith Knight who has a display in the museum of artefacts discovered whilst metal detecting on the Bervie Braes.

I have contacted Natasha Ferguson of Treasure Trove today and have registered all the finds with images and Grid references that (qualify) for inspection and these will be recorded on to the Scottish database for future reference.

She is happy not too deem any of the early hammered coins on display at the museum as Treasure and will not be wanting to keep them, so they can stay at the museum and all is above board in that department. They are not historically significant enough for Treasure Trove to keep them for further investigation.

She will send me a certificate to this affect in due course which I will produce to you George when I see you next.

However, there are one or two other items in the display that will be required for inspection, so will contact you when I get back on 12th Dec. I also found a very nice Edward 1st long cross penny at Brae-head farm just above the Bervie Braes, last week so am very chuffed indeed with what is the oldest find yet from the field above the braes and this I hope will put into the display at a later date. It dates from 1272 to 1307 so will in all likely hood be the oldest coin or indeed artefact in the museum.

Keith

8 Shop report

GSt reported that there is sufficient appropriate stock to see the museum through until Spring 2014. There are at least 3 cartoons of dinosaurs in stock and imaginative ways of moving this particular item are required.

9 Events Report

CT will investigate how to link into the Stonehaven Events' Facebook site so as to achieve a wider public perception of the Tolbooth museum.

10 AOCB

The Trustees are aware that Raymond Milne (Shell Hoosie) is contemplating retirement; if Raymond does retire the Association will have to consider a suitable way in which to mark the occasion considering the help he has provided the museum over the past 2 years.

11 Date of next meetings

The next regular committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday 29th January** at the Resource Centre at 1930 hours.

The December meeting, to be held on Wednesday 18th December, will not be a committee meeting but all volunteers and their partners are invited to attend and receive some Christmas cheer.

Andrew Newton
28th November 2013

Secretary
Stonehaven Tolbooth Association.
(Tolbooth Museum)
A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC043279)

Summary of Action Points

Action Point	Person
To 'chase' Aberdeenshire Council on boardwalk sign	CC
To report on reviewing line fishing artefacts	IB
To write to Mearns Leader re private visits	CC
To circulate the Ruaraidh Wishart email	CC
Return Stanehaye magazines to Gordon Ritchie	CT