

Meeting of the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Wednesday 22rd January 2020
Community 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 Clock Tower
- 11 AOCB
- 12 Future dates

Minutes

Present. Cressida Coates (CC), Andrew Newton (AN), Dennis Collie (DC), Gordon Ritchie (GR), Douglas Cusine (DCu), Jim Bruce (JB), Liz Ritchie (LR).

1 Welcome. CC welcomed the trustees to the first meeting of 2020 and wished them all a Happy New Year.

2 Apologies. Louise Coates (LC), Mary Sutcliffe (MS), Clare Thomas (CT), Gwynne Stewart (GS), Ian Balgowan (IB)

3 Minutes of previous meeting.

a) Acceptance. The previous minutes of 20th November were accepted.

b) Matters arising

Action Point	Person	Action
Speak to Keith Hunt	IB	AN recently 'bumped into' Keith Hunt and 3 alternatives were explored. 1 The small garage at the back of the museum – not secure, rotten floor and being used by a third party. 2 The redbrick ex-MOD building – rented by a fishing enterprise. 3 – The Granary. GR highlighted that the use of the Granary would be non-exclusive and we would require lockable units.
Resolve PayPal problem	DC/AN	On going
Meet Councillor Dickinson	CC	See under Secretary's report
New Subgroup	GR	See under Curator's report
Tolbooth email address for Chair	AN	CC sends out a quarterly newsletter to

		Tolbooth and ex SHS members. CC is currently using her official address without any adverse comments; if a new address is required this will be created.
Check counter in Clock Tower	CC	See under Clock Tower
Report back on meeting with Paul Higson	CC/DC	See under AOCB

Action Points.

DC/AN to resolve PayPal problem.

4 Chair's report (CC)

The January rota is filled and the February rota will be issued shortly.

5 Treasurer's report (DC)

Income/Expenditure 1st to 31st December.

Income -	Barrel Donations	£ 352
	Cash Sales	373
	Card Sales	24
	Total	£749

Expenditure -	Stock	278
	Total	£278

DC has ordered 30 mementoes of the Queen's Award to be issued to those volunteers that have requested it. These will be engraved by a local supplier.

GR asked whether there had been any sales of SHS publications. DC did not have the information to hand but will check.

LR will remind volunteers in the next issue of *Stanehyve* of the benefits of joining the Co-op Community Fund.

Action Point

DC to check on sales of SHS publications.

LR to mention Co-op fund in next issue of *Stanehyve*.

6 Secretary's report (AN)

STP has inquired whether the STA wished to renew its sponsorship of the Land Train in 2020 at the 2019 price and the committee agreed.

STA have received a thank you from Aberdeenshire Council for its participation in Doors Open Days 2019 and hope that STA will participate in the same event in 2020 (19th and 20th September). No decision was taken over whether to participate this year.

On Friday 17th January the museum took delivery of a model of the Stonehaven War Memorial. At a small ceremony CC, DC and AN thanked Colin Sandeman (model maker) and made a presentation to Colin and his wife.

The opening of the museum on Hogmanay evening was not a great success as footfall was extremely low. This was traced to crowd control at the harbour being actioned early than usual. There has been a discussion with the Fireballs committee, an apology received and a promise to involve STA in the 2020/21 event. JB opened the museum on 2nd January and experienced a high footfall. The committee agreed to consider opening the museum on the public holiday on Monday 4th January 2021.

Tom McPherson has created a new combined video for the auditorium. Whilst Tom has thoroughly checked the new video it appears to malfunction occasionally. Committee members are asked to monitor the situation.

AN met with Heidi Bisset of Visit Aberdeenshire at the museum and she made a number of suggestions to increase the museum's profile. Heidi followed up the visit with an email of potential actions but on reflection STA already covers many of the actions listed.

After a year of negotiation with the Council, this included help from Councillor Dickinson, we are faced with fact that AC will only offer STA a rolling one year licence – this restriction is based on the Council's stance that anything longer will contravene the Council's Asset Disposal Policy. We have asked to see the relevant part of the Policy but it seems to be the Council's own interpretation of the Policy as there appears to be nothing relevant in the text. However, we have received a 'letter of comfort' from the Council stating that they have no other plans for the building. Strange. The Council are also requesting that STA indemnify them against death or injury at the museum. We already hold Public Liability Insurance so we have referred to our insurers for clarification.

The issue of a one year rolling licence has a severe effect on funding by third parties – basically funding is unavailable. This, coupled with Ergadia's non-compliance with some of the terms of the contract between ourselves, has resulted in almost certain failure of the extension project. AN recommended that the committee informs NESFLAG that we wish to terminate all further action. DCu asked for time to consult with Mike Walton. AN indicated that he did not have the time to progress any further work on the extension but is willing to pass his experience on to others.

Action Point

DCu to contact Mike Walton

7 Curator's report (LC)

In LC's absence CC informed the committee that all recent donations of artefacts have been entered on the register and the latter is up to date.

GR, on behalf on the museum subgroup, tabled a review of the museum's artefacts. The subgroup's remit is to examine the artefacts and produce suggestions on improved displays whilst retaining the ethos of the museum. GR and DCu had a walk around and noted all the exhibits. This was only a preliminary examination but a couple of generic observations were:

- Improved signage for individual artefacts is required
- Items with a common theme, e.g., household objects, are scattered in the museum and they would benefit from being shown together.

The subgroup also tabled ideas on possible improvements:

- Develop the school display
- Restrict ship models to Stonehaven only models
- Re-site the R W Thomson banner
- Use the Marine Scotland area for rotating displays

New displays could include:

- Famous Stonehaven people
- Stonehaven industries

- Stonehaven as a holiday resort

All the above is up for discussion but in the interim the subgroup will examine the information contained in the artefact register. DC stated that the register was very flexible and could be configured in a number of ways to aid investigation of the objects.

DCu suggested a project of photographing local birds and tagging them with their local name. DCu will explore this venture further.

GR expressed a desire for more volunteers to join the subgroup and this will be considered; CC does not have the time and although Shona Barclay was invited to join the latter is also time short at the moment.

DC confirmed that STA had sufficient cash reserves for new display material.

Action Point

LC (CC?) to provide copy of artefact register.

8 Shop report (GS)

GS was absent but she is asked to check that some items for sale are not displaying two different prices.

Action Point

GS to check that there is no double pricing.

9 Events report (CT)

CC intimated that there was a recent event when a Father arranged to 'marry' the dinosaur hunt with presents for his daughter's birthday party. No report on the event.

The museum is booked for another wedding on Friday 20th March.

CT is engaged in arranging a visit from Durriss Primary school in early April.

10 Clock Tower (AN)

The faulty counter has now been picked up by the Council and we await a replacement.

Since the modernisation of the Clock Tower in 2015 it appears that the Council has been using an unmetered electricity supply. This has been discovered by SSE and obviously the latter are anxious to remedy the situation, install a meter and get a back payment. AN has been plagued by Council and SSE employees wishing access and also threats of a warrant access. All correspondence is now forwarded to the Council.

One positive outcome from these visits is that the Council are now aware of the internal condition of the ground floor of Tower and plan to renovate the woodwork and place a roof over the large cupboard.

11 AOCB.

Breakfast at Lathallan. The next meeting is on 30th January and DCu will attend.

Co-op Community Fund. DC will meet with Stewart Aitkin of this fund.

Stanehyve Magazine. CC reported that the feedback from some Tolbooth volunteers was not favourable as they thought that the ethos of the museum was being lost in ex-SHS articles. GR pointed out that 75%

of the magazine content was Tolbooth related. The committee believe the reaction was to be expected when changes were made to an established format and that the editors should persevere with the layout of the re-vamped magazine. However, the font size of the text ‘Tolbooth Times’ will be increased. Any contributions can be sent either to Liz Ritchie or Gordon Ritchie who are looking for articles for the spring edition (due out April).

Signage. DCu wants to investigate the possibility of hanging a sign on the railings outside the public toilets, IB is looking at replacing the sign that has gone missing at the beginning of the Old Pier and DC wants to replace the sign outside the museum entrance. All the actions are supported by the committee.

12 Dates of future meetings

12th February 11th March 8th April 13th May 10th June 8th July

Andrew Newton
23rd January 2020

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

Summary of Action Points

Action Point	Person
Resolve PayPal problem	DC/AN
Check on sales of SHS publications	DC
Mention Co-op fund in next issue of <i>Stanehyve</i> .	LR
Contact Mike Walton	DCu
Provide copy of artefact register.	LC(CC?)
Check that there is no double pricing	GS