Meeting of the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association (STA)
Wednesday 12th August 2026
Tolbooth Museum

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 Property
8 Events report
9 Collections report
10 Curator's report
11 Shop report
12 AOCB
13 Future date

Minutes

Present. Cressida Coates (CC), Andrew Newton (AN), Gordon Ritchie (GR), Clare Thomas (CT), Louise Coates (LC1), Douglas Cusine (DCu), Dennis Collie (DC), Neil Smith (NS),

1 Welcome.

CC welcomed the trustees.

2 Apologies. Lorna Collie (LC2), Lindsay Petrie (LP), Tony Dodd (TD), Mary Sutcliffe (MS)

3 Minutes of previous meetings.

a) Acceptance. The previous minutes of 8th July 2026 were accepted.
b) Matters arising.

Summary of Action Points	Person	Report
Contact Garlogie Group. Current situation unknown	**LP**	Unknown
Continue investigating tour operators	**TD**	Ongoing. DCu recalled that there was usually an autumn convention by the tour operators and this would be the ideal opportunity for TD to publicise the museum.
Set up new Facebook page	**NS**	Ongoing. NS to supply Instagram login details to MS. CT to investigate further original 'owner' of Facebook page
Follow up Mackie Academy contacts	**TD**	Unknown
Speak to Phil Carr	**DCu**	Done and letter sent to Jim Malcolm
Chase up potential volunteers	**CC/CT**	See chair report
Locate Fire Risk Register	**GR**	Copy of protocol filed in folder above till but more work required**.**
Review new samples from Men's Shed	**LC2/DC**	Done but the Shed's internal accounting is slightly chaotic

Replace old Fireball video with new edition	**LC1**	Hope to finalise shortly

Action Points
LP Contact Garlogie Group.
TD Continue investigating tour operators.
NS/CT Further investigations into Facebook page
TD Follow up Mackie Academy contacts
LC1 Replace old Fire Balls video

4 Chair's Report (CC)

CC followed up a volunteer offer from Pamela Stephenson but no reply.

CC has met with Cherleyne McGregor who is working towards a Girl Guide award. Sharleen doesn't have the capacity to be a volunteer but is more than willing to help in other ways. Sharleen made a number of suggestions:

- Research into why individuals visit the museum
- Research into marketing – short videos, social media, etc.
- Merchandise – patch badges, stickers, improve and create more quizs, Halloween events etc.

At this stage DC is relaxed about costs and CC will have a further meeting Sharleen.

CC has met with Rod McDonald concerning the proposed Ship Bell donation and at the moment Rod is planning for a formal hand-over in the New Year

Action Point.
CC/CT Meet again with Cherleyne McGregor.

5 Treasurer's Report (DC)

DC was on holiday during June so this report covers June and July.

Summary Activity 01/06/2026 to 31/07/2026

Income		**Expenditure**	
Madge's book (Guilianotti)	40.00	Insurance	3264.00
Sumup card (sales)	1086.53	Economove	840.00
Donations	20.00	EDF	208.40
Restaurant rent	1000.00	Electrical	222.00
Cash Donations	600.57	Stock	510.86
Cash Sales	230.25	Jim Malcolm gift	49.95
Total	**£2,977.35**	Men's Shed	100.00
		Bank Charges	11.43
		Total	**£5,206.64**

DC recorded that he is having an ongoing battle with EDF over the costs for the first 94 days of electrical supply after 25th March. He was initially presented with an invoice of £1,169 for this period which he contested. The EDF response was to appoint a debt recovery agency with the prospect of further legal action. DC is standing firm and negotiations continue.

DC will attempt to recover the cost of the storage container used whilst the museum was closed in order to permit the Council to undertake repairs.

6 Secretary's Report (AN)

Storage. The saga continues. A meeting by AN and GR with Tim Stephen failed to resolve the possibility of using the ex-Servitec building and in a recent email the Council declined to permit us to survey the inside of the building citing a poor state of repair and an imminent demolition. However, they did offer a meeting to discuss a CAT and this has been accepted. There is alternative back up plan in so far as Scottish Water has tentatively offered some land to another Stonehaven organisation, STA has been approached, perhaps, as a junior partner. However, these are very early days and finance could be a problem.

Scotrail are visiting the museum tomorrow (13th) to make a video as part of their campaign to encourage the general public to use the train to explore more of Scotland.

Dawn Black, our new MSP, visited the museum on 4th August and spent a good hour viewing our exhibits and expressed her on-going support for the museum.

7 Property (AN)

An additional electrical meter has been installed to monitor usage in the courtyards.

Paul Mair has still not produced a signed version of the MOU but has paid the first instalment of his rent as per the MOU.

8 Events Report (CT)

Jack MacPherson sang in the courtyard on both 8th and 9Th August. In total 117 people attended and the museum received donations totalling £80.

Harbour Festival occurs on 30th August and Wes Lewis will provide a demonstration of mackerel smoking and his wife will be selling lobster rolls; profits will be donated to the museum.

The committee discussed the Children's art workshop held in July and agreed that Natalie should be compensated for' out of pocket expenses'. DC agreed to £25.

Doors Open Days will be held on 19th and 20th September.

9 Collection Report (GR)

Nothing to report.

10 Curator's Report (LC1)

Nothing to report.

11 Shop Report (DC for LC2)

The shop now has a few new items and most are selling. Dunnottar Castle magnets are sold out and DC is looking to source new suppliers as the current supplier is becoming expensive. DC is also exploring the possibility of commissioning a magnet depicting the Tolbooth.

The Collies have tracked individual item sales since 1st April:

- 273 postcards
- 205 magnets
- 52 sea glass jewellery/ornaments
- Chinese charms selling well

- The Harbour Book is the best seller with regard to publications

GR has a large collection of old postcards at his home.

12 AOCB.

Chalk Board Accessories. CT has purchased crayons and cleaning equipment for the board.

Internal Museum Report. GR drew the committee's attention to the internal review of Aberdeenshire Museum Services (report previously circulated).

Fire Safety. DC stated that an engineer will start testing and overhauling all the fire safety equipment on 8th September. In addition an automatic light will be installed in the internal entrance and the internal intruder alarm re-activated. All necessary in order to comply with our new insurance.

Fossil Find. DC was handed a 'fossil' found by an individual on Stonehaven beach. It has been passed to CT who will contact a colleague who may be able to verify the object.

Worthies Book. AN mentioned that a number of visitors, after reading the Worthies folder, asked whether it is available in book form. AN will format the information into an A5 format before any decision is made about publication.

13 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23rd September. This will be the AGM and will be held in St James Hall at 1930 hrs..

Andrew Newton
30th August 2026

Secretary
Stonehaven Tolbooth Association (Tolbooth Museum)
SC043279

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Follow up Mackie Academy contacts	**TD**
Replace old Fire Balls video	**LC1**
Meet again with Cherleyne McGregor	**CT/CC**