

**Meeting of the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Wednesday 29th January 2014
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
 - 1) Dinosaur Quiz
 - 2) 'Wash Up' Festive Opening Times
- 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), George Strang (GS), Ian Balgowan (IB)

1 Welcome. Cressida Coates welcomed the trustees to the first meeting of 2014 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2 Apologies. Laura Christie

3 Minutes of previous meeting.

a) Acceptance The minutes of previous meeting were accepted

b) Matters arising

Action Point	Person	Report
To 'chase' Aberdeenshire Council on boardwalk sign	CC	CC is still chasing Aberdeenshire Council
To report on reviewing line fishing artefacts	IB	Work has commenced
To write to Mearns Leader re private visits	CC	CC has written to the leader but no sign of a published article. To be 'chased'.
To circulate the Ruaraidh Wishart email	CC	The original email has been lost but CC will contact Ruaraidh again
Return Stanehaye magazines to Gordon Ritchie	CT	Done

Action Point. CC to continue 'chasing' Aberdeenshire Council on boardwalk sign
CC to write again to Mearns Leader re private visits
CC to contact Ruaraidh Wishart again

4 Chair's report

CC commented favourably on the excellent footfall over the festive season with thanks due to all concerned.

There will be a meeting with Kirsty Duncan (Cultural Services Manager) at the Tolbooth on 7th February 1530 hours. All trustees welcome.

5 Treasurer's report

There were 535 visitors in the week after Christmas and a further 195 in the first weekend in January.

Donations and sales were at the level expected during December/January but expenditure exceeded income by £247; this was mainly due to the purchase of a display case for the *Cutty Sark* model.

6 Secretary's report

David Chouman has been engaged to produce outline plans for covering the outer courtyard. A fee has been agreed for the work which David has capped at two days work.

There has been no word from Aberdeen City & Shire over the submission for a tourist award; the award ceremony is scheduled for 25th March.

Aberdeenshire Council is now proceeding with the internal renovations of the Clock Tower (Old Town House) and it has been aired that STA maybe asked to open/close and generally oversee the Tower. No such discussions have taken place despite Aberdeenshire Council informing Stonehaven Town Partnership to the contrary. The committee authorised the secretary to engage in such discussions if arranged.

Subsequent to two significant egresses of water from the restaurant there has been some action on the part of Aberdeenshire Council. Brian Watt, Allan Whyte, Paul Higson (North East Preservation Society) and Mike Scott (Historic Scotland) have agreed action is required and Annika Samland (building surveyor from Aberdeenshire Council) has now surveyed the premises and will meet with the restaurant tenant in week beginning 3rd February. We hope that there will be a satisfactory outcome to the situation.

Afterdark Paranormal Ltd has booked the museum for Saturday night 26th July.

Neil Curtis (Aberdeen University) has declined the STA's offer of placements for museum students. The explanation given is that although the projects suggested were very acceptable the students have already been placed. The university wishes to hold the suggested placements back until 2015.

7 Curator's report

LC and JB have now completed the inventory except for a couple of pictures. The next phase is to ensure that all donated artefacts have the correct documentation. However, it appears

that some artefacts are being donated 'over the counter' without the donor providing their personal details.

Some artefacts have been returned to Mintlaw as agreed at the October meeting.

Before Christmas the museum took in 20 calendars to sell on behalf of the Stonehaven Flood Action Group. We have only managed to sell 5 and they also seem to be a slow seller at other retail outlets in Stonehaven. The trustees agreed to donate £40 to the Flood Action Group and dispose of the remaining 15 calendars as they see fit.

GS reminded everyone that this was the centenary of the start of WW1 (4th August is the exact date) but will need help if a display is to be created. CC will discuss with Ruaraidh Wishart and also invite the latter to make a presentation to the trustees.

A visitor to the museum informed staff that he was aware of a similar museum in Cork that was due to close and the owner wished to sell his artefacts. JB made enquiries and reported that the prices were unrealistic and also the present owner hoped to re-house the artefacts within Ireland.

GS wished to purchase a bucket and mop in order to cope with any future flooding. This was agreed but CC believed that she had a spare mop head in her garage. To be investigated.

8 Shop report

GSt reported that all the squeezey dinosaurs have gone.

The tea towels have sold well and stock requires replenishment. The opportunity will be taken to review all stock levels.

Liz Johnstone has donated a large number of 'Treasure Trail packs.' These normally retail at £5.99 but STA propose a price of £3.00. CC will check with Liz that this acceptable.

Action Point. GSt to undertake a stock take and order accordingly.

CC to check price of Treasure Trails with Liz Johnstone

9 Events Report

There have been no new bookings at the moment but CT will liaise with Liz Johnstone over obtaining some in the future.

The cover image for the FaceBook site was not received from AN so he will re-send.

Action Point. AN to send cover image to CT

10 AOCB

Dinosaur Quiz - AN suggested that a cheap item should be sourced to replace the defunct squeezey dinosaurs as a reward for the Quiz.

'Wash Up' - It was determined that the best hours to open on Hogmanay are:

1200 - 1700

2000 - 2300

Boxing Day and the 2nd January also have plenty of visitors at the harbour and it could be worthwhile to open on these days but it is heavily dependent on suitable weather and the

availability of enthusiastic members. It was decided that these days should be considered for last minute decisions for informal opening

Creels - IB reported that Raymond Milne had offered two creels to the museum and the trustees gratefully accepted the offer.

Barometer - IB noted that the barometer that used to be housed outside the Harbour Master's office has disappeared and he is anxious to investigate further.

Wicker creels - GS is to determine the ownership of the two creels used for transporting fish to market.

Membership - there was some concern over the inactivity of some members and whether they still anxious to support the STA. CC stated that she will shortly writing to all members.

Summer Opening - The trustees agreed that the summer season would commence on 7th April with the hours reverting to the normal 1330 - 1630 hrs.

Keys - JB requested a spare set of keys as he is frequently at the museum before Raymond Milne is available. To meet this request we need a variation in the Access Agreement and this will be discussed at the next meeting with Kirsty Duncan.

Action Point. GS to determine ownership of wicker carrying creels.

CC to ascertain level of commitment/activity of members

Trustees to raise issue of spare key with Kirsty Duncan

11 Date of next meetings

The next regular committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday 26th February** at the Resource Centre at 1930 hours.

JB tenders his apologies and DC is unsure whether he can attend.

Andrew Newton
30th January 2014

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

Summary of Action Points

Action Point	Person
Continue 'chasing' Aberdeenshire Council on boardwalk sign	CC
Write again to Mearns Leader re private visits	CC
Contact Ruaraidh Wishart again	CC
Undertake a stock take and order accordingly	GSt
Check price of Treasure Trails with Liz Johnstone	CC
Send cover image to CT	AN
Determine ownership of wicker carrying creels	GS
Ascertain level of commitment/activity of members	CC
Raise issue of spare key with Kirsty Duncan	Trustees