

Meeting of the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Wednesday 25th August 2021
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 CAT and Grants - update
- 8 Events report
- 9 Collections report
- 10 Curator's report
- 11 Shop report
- 12 Clock Tower report
- 13 AOCB
- 14 Future date

Minutes

Present. Cressida Coates (CC), Andrew Newton (AN), Clare Thomas (CT), Dennis Collie (DC), Mary Sutcliffe (MS), Douglas Cusine (DCu), Ian Balgowan (IB),

1 Welcome. CC welcomed the trustees to the second face-to-face meeting.

2 Apologies. Gordon Ritchie (GR), Louise Coates (LC), , Liz Ritchie (LR), Graham McIntosh (GM), Jim Bruce (JB)

3 Minutes of previous meetings.

a) Acceptance. The previous minutes of 28th July were accepted

b) Matters arising.

Action Point	Person	Action
Contact Council re bins	CC	Photographs of the bin interiors have been circulated to various members of the Council and all bins have now been emptied except one. Situation is ongoing.
Submit final claim to MGS.	AN	Completed
Source flooring for Guild of Weavers	????	Flooring now not needed as flagstones are of adequate size.
Provide numbers attending on 14th to CC	Trustees	Done

4 Chair's report (CC)

The new volunteers are settling in and there was a mingling of new and old members at the social meeting on 14th inst.

CC has struggled fulfilling some of the August dates and the September rota request is now out, again aiming for 4 days a week. Hopefully there will be a good response.

5 Treasurer's report (DC)

DC provided the committee with a summary of financial activity from 30th July to 25th August 2021.

Income

Digital Sales	104.00
Courtyard Donations	383.00
Shop Sales	167.00
Grant (MGS)	1042.00
Barrel Donations	151.00
	£1847.00

Expenditure

Stock	152.00
Uniforms	108.00
Website	56.00
	£316.00

DC requested that where a UK tax paying citizen makes a donation to the museum they should be asked to complete a Gift Aid form as we can claim an additional 25% back from HMRC.

6 Secretary's report (AN)

The result of the Keeping Scotland Beautiful competition will be announced on 24th September. On that date a BBQ will be held at the Recreational Ground between 1800 and 2000 hrs; all participants are invited. More details to follow.

The Scottish Geology Trust will run a 'beach event' on Sunday 26th September and will use the Courtyard as their base. They will be completely self-sufficient with their own gazebo and no request for power.

7 CAT and Grants – update

CAT – Nothing to report from GR

Grants – DC is still working on the new 'Peebles book' which will be part funded by the Coastal Community Fund.

The final instalment of the MGS grant has been paid (see Treasurer's report).

8 Events report (CT/MS/LR)

There will be two further events this weekend:

- Saturday there will be another demonstration of mackerel smoking
- On Sunday we host the Grampian Guild of Weavers and Spinners.

There has been a good feedback from the community over the story telling and magic show held in the Courtyard.

As far as MS and CT are aware no payments have been made to any of the demonstrations except for the original storytelling by Pauline Cordiner. CT will contact the Corn Dolly lady to ask whether they have any expenses.

MS raised the prospect of a repeat performance by the Folk Club and Geordie Murison in September and will contact Geordie.

Action points.

CT to inquire about Corn Dolly expenses

MS to contact Geordie Murison

9 Collection Report (GR)

Nothing to report at the present time but CC advised that the group would have to meet soon. The group consists of CC, LR, GR and DCu.

IB reported on comments from two separate groups of visitors where they praised the eclectic collections and their random display.

10 Curator's report (LC)

LC has now completed photographing all the artefacts and is now adding some explanatory text. CC reminded the meeting that LC will be moving to Bath at the end of September and consideration should be given to appointing a new curator.

11 Shop report (LR/MS) – email from LR

- Fleeces and gilets in male and female sizes are now in the kitchen cupboards – but I need to find a better home for them as they are terribly squashed in the cupboards. Think I have a plastic crate in our garage that might fit the bill.
- Tea towels – have now received delivery from Sprint Designs of tea towels.
 - Doric tea towel – they only had 10 in stock and not the 20 ordered – they have printing machine issues but they will get in touch when they can again run off more.
 - Ordered instead some 'Cheers' tea towels (Cheers in different languages) – which I thought might go well in the run up to Christmas and New Year and might go well if Mary/Clare winter event takes place.
 - New items - ordered a small quantity (5 each) of artist prints tea towels of Highland Cow and Puffin – see how they sell. Slightly more expensive and so will sell for £7.00
- Postcards – some card (Dunnottar Castle and 4 Seasons) are running low – but I'm inclined to wait until we need more, in order to make it worthwhile. With summer season almost over, we should not need much until next year.

[Secretarial note- after the meeting the stocks of postcards were reviewed. Good stock of STA printed postcards; the Dunnottar castle is from an unknown source and stock very low].

12 Clock Tower report (AN)

Nothing further to report from the Council although it is noted that the clock is now functioning again and the floodlights on the steeple are also working. The balustrade lights still appear to be out.

13 AOCB.

Tour of Britain. LR (by email) reminded the committee that the Tour of Britain cycle race will be in Stonehaven on Sunday 12th September. The committee suggested a few things that the museum could do to celebrate the event:

- Hang out suitable bunting. CC to investigate purchase.
- Ask GR for a the loan of the shop bike
- Establish whether JB has a penny farthing cycle.

Donation Boxes. GM had recently visited the Garioch museum and observed a number of donation boxes scattered around the museum. He wondered whether STA should invest in more boxes. The committee agreed to investigate further.

Fiona-Jane Brown. STA approached this lady to undertake biographies of various prominent, but now deceased, individuals who had strong connections with Stonehaven. Unfortunately F-J has tried to turn this project into one of re-organising the museum's exhibits. Two trustees have explained to her that she has no remit for her preferred option. As STA has had no communication from F-J for a while DCu proposes that the proposed contract is terminated before it even begins. The committee concurred.

John Duncan (1794). Several members of the community are anxious to honour the life of John who was a prominent botanist born in Stonehaven and lived here until 1816. One suggestion is that a plaque be erected on the wall of his abode. Unfortunately it is not clear where he lived. The committee request that GR provides an 1800 plan of the town in order to try and identify the actual house.

Action Points

CC to purchase bunting

Trustees to cost appropriate donation boxes.

GR to provide plan of Stonehaven circa 1800

13 Date of future meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM and it is proposed to be held on 6th October. CC will try to source a venue.

Action Point

CC to identify a suitable venue for AGM

Andrew Newton

5th September 2021

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association (Tolbooth Museum)

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC043279)

Summary of Action Points

Action Point	Person
Inquire about Corn Dolly expenses	CT
Contact Geordie Murison	MS
Purchase bunting	CC
Cost appropriate donation boxes.	Trustees
Identify a suitable venue for AGM	CC
Provide plan of Stonehaven circa 1800	GR