

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STONEHAVEN TOLBOOTH ASSOCIATION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2024

Present:

Cressida Coates (CC), Andrew Newton (AN), Mary Sutcliffe (MS), Liz Ritchie (LR), Gordon Ritchie (GR), Douglas Cusine (DCu), Ian Balgowan (IB), Neil Smith (NS), Lindsay Petrie (LP), Clare Thomas (CT)

Apologies:

Dennis Collie, Louise Coates

3 a. Minutes of Previous meeting held on 4th September 2024 were accepted.

b. Matters arising:

1. Ship's bell - IB is still trying to make contact with Rod Macdonald about this
2. Sign for Bernie Braes - IB is trying to get a metal pole. - ongoing
3. 2025 Globus visits. CT has not yet heard from them -ongoing
4. Old printing blocks from Bruce printers. LR has asked for drafts of possible notelets.

Chair Report:

CC welcomed N to his first meeting of STA. She is continuing discussions about the agate display. She has spoken to Liz Hunt about sketches and awaits further information. CC asked about the December Rota; we would play it by ear with regard to opening on Boxing Day and would try and open on other days in the school holidays including until 4.30 on New Year's Eve and definitely open on New Year's day for the Dip.

Treasurer's Report:

Summary of Activities 01/09/2024 to 30/09/2024

Income

Expenditure

Sumup Card	£717.29	Nil
Online Donation	10.00	
Bank Interest	2958.07	
Cash Sales	845.40	
Cash Donations	1261.09	
Writing Workshop	35.00	
Total	£5826.85	

Note: The Sumup card had 10% as donations and 90% as sales

Heads up for October financial activities

1 Paid out £15,600 for first instalment of Courtyard work. £12,480 (80%) reimbursed

2 £960 received from Meikle Carewe Windfarm for production of Madge Mackie's 'Auld Toon Memories'

Secretary's Report:

October was a good month for the museum footfall as 1091 individuals crossed the threshold, this was a 40% increase on October 2023. During the month we hosted visits from - 5th Stonehaven Brownies, Elphinstone Institute, Babes in the Woods, The Croft Nursery and held a session on Halloween Tales.

Following acceptance of the financial report at the last AGM meeting the mandatory annual report was submitted to OSCR on 6th October. It can now be viewed online. OSCR have a policy of gradually increasing the quality of the submitted annual reports and they are now seeking more information on the financial reserve policies of all charities; accordingly we have stated that from 2023 our policy is to 'mark' £50k for the future maintenance of the grade A listed Tolbooth, £10K for improving the Inner Courtyard and £20K set aside for any adverse trading period.

CAT/Grants:

GR is to instruct Burnett & Reid Solicitors in connection with the offer and conveyancing for the transfer.

Inner Courtyard:

A report was submitted by AN. DCu suggested that we ask the funder what their view is on sharing/leasing the Inner Courtyard. NS Suggested a roof or cover over the Courtyard. The location of the bin store is to be agreed and deed plans to be amended.

The STA committee is happy to continue negotiation with the Restaurant. It was noted that the fire escape was going to be dealt with by the Restaurant.

Events:

As mentioned by AN we had had several visits from different organisations. We were enquiring about hosting the Bell Ringers but this might be difficult with the ongoing work in the Courtyard.

Collections:

GR advised that the panel about Dunnottar Castle was to be erected. He is looking into new panels for the education area. He is continuing to have photos mounted. GR also made a suggestion about having different talks and he could do one for volunteers and visitors about the historic photos. A date would be set and publicised. A panel about the Tolbooth Building might be of interest. It was agreed that the sum of £35 could be paid for restoration of a photograph of the harbour in 1944.

There might be a loan of a portrait of Earl Marshal from Dunnottar Church.

Collections:

LP advised that the cataloguing was in progress.

The ancient stones are to be put in the courtyard - either on the ground or wall.

Shop:

LR has reordered some items. Amy has come up with some ideas for rearranging the goods including putting tea towels on the walls. Doric tea towels were being reordered. It was hoped that the two books being produced would be ready by Christmas.

Clock Tower:

This is still being opened when there are two volunteers.

AOCB:

1. There is a group of visitors coming from US and LR will open the museum for them.
2. Harbour Book - 1000 copies would be printed and 500 of the other book.
3. Aberdeen University would be approached for placements - suggested work include interpretation boards and interviewing volunteers.
4. LR would speak to the Community Development Officer at Mackie Academy.
5. IB advised that Men's Shed might be able to produce a set of wooden coasters and stand with local pictures. He would enquire about cost.
6. Christmas Party for volunteers. DC had offered his house as a venue. Joseph is the new manager of the Castle and he might be invited to the event.

Date of Next Meeting:

8th January 2025.