

Minutes of Committee meeting 106  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 29 January 2024, 7.30pm

**PRESENT:**

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, Jose Eglinton, Steven Blench, June Bouaoun, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Ruth Murray.

**Action**  
↓

**Apologies**

Ingrid Boussaroque, Dot Clark, Susan Hunter, Gillian Piper.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (20 November 2023) were approved.

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £2,585 in the bank account, changes since the last meeting being the addition of £30 from *Listen Up!* book sales, £95 from the raffle at the music night, and £120 grant from the Aberdour Community Council, less £25 for the boat club booking for the music night.

**Update on projects / ideas and actions arising**

- *Primary School poetry*

This item is on hold until the Spring when we launch this year's competition.

- *Aberdour Medieval Singers*

Simon Taylor thanked Ingrid Boussaroque for her work and enthusiasm, and reported that with each person paying £3 per session we are breaking even on the cost of hiring the upstairs room in the Church Hall (£20 per session).

Simon reported that the Singers will be singing at a National Trust for Scotland meeting at the Aberdour Golf Club on Wednesday 13 March. He will soon be sending out details of this, with dates for the next rehearsals.

- *Poetry trail*

Alison Chapman still has two poetry plaques at home and she, Simon and Alan Reid will walk the trail sometime soon.

**AC/ST**

- *Banner project*

Now that we have received £120 from the Community Council towards the cost of materials, this item can be removed from the Agenda.

- *ACA website*

Jose Eglinton reported that he is struggling with migrating information from the old website to the new one, and that the work will take a long time. Also, he has Medieval Singers information from Ingrid to add to the site. Frank Glynn has offered to help and Simon suggested that Jose, Frank and David Graham might get together to form a website sub-group to progress this.

**JE/FG**

It was noted that the new site has been hidden and the old one now has a note on it to advise visitors that a new site is in progress.

- *Battle of the Somme cds*

This item is to be removed from the Agenda; Jose does not have enough time to work on the cds and suspects there is not enough interest to warrant production.

- *Church Hall war memorial*

Jose is going to follow up the Fife Council lead that Alison had found to see whether the Council might support displaying the missing names at the Church Hall.

JE

Jose reported that he is filling in the census records information for the St Fillan's website and once that is finished, the World War One and Two information will be complete.

- *Publication of Rev. Johnstone's history of Aberdour*

As reported in the Chair's Report for the AGM, Simon is still working on this. David had suggested aiming for publication in 2026, to tie in with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of St Fillan's church, and there was general approval of this.

ST

- *HMS Tarlair*

Diana Maxwell reported that she has just given a talk to the Blackhall, Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes local history group and sold six books there. She gave the cash to Alison to bank. The next talk will be to the Cupar Probus Club on 28 February.

We now have very few copies of *Listen Up!* left, so production of a third edition is becoming more urgent. Diana is going to go through the second edition, together with the notes from Alison containing more information received since last publication, and will pass notes on to Alison to update the second edition master.

DM/AC

Diana noted that there is a lot of misinformation circulating about hydrophones and detection of U-boats.

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

Simon, Diana and Alison have been looking at this and it is now a shared Google document with Alison for updating.

AC

[After the meeting, Diana suggested that it might be good to have something in the *Miscellany* about Ian Davie, who died recently. He was the street cleaner for Aberdour for many years and was a very well known and liked character. Diana is to contact Ian's niece about this.]

DM

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

Alison reported that she is still working on the formatting, with apologies for the length of time it is taking.

AC

- *Where are we from?*

The *Where are we from?* survey remains open and hopefully some information will be included in an event/exhibition during next year's Aberdour Festival.

- *Black Sands' ballast bank information board*

Alison reported that the Residents Association has received £350 from Aberdour Community Council for update of the information board. A draft of the new board had been sent to Simon and Alison and they have now sent comments back to the Residents Association.

- *Music and poetry evening*  
 This took place on 25 November and went very well. We plan to organise another one in, say, June this year.
- *Aberdour Festival exhibition*  
 Alison has not heard any more from the Festival committee regarding their thoughts on an exhibition for this year's Festival, but there is not enough space in the Heritage Centre for this. Simon suggested that the exhibition focuses on the old photos, and perhaps the old maps, that we have shown in previous Festivals. Alison will show Simon the photos and maps she has and perhaps bring some along to the next meeting. We would need to think about a suitable venue, particularly as most of the bigger venues will be in use throughout the Festival. **AC**
- *Aberdour walks*  
 As discussed in the AGM, two of the self-guided walks commissioned by the Heritage Centre have now been printed. They are available from the Heritage Centre, the Purple Shop, and Alison has a few copies, too. It was suggested that digital versions could be made available via the ACA and Aberdour Noticeboard and Heritage Centre Facebook pages, as well as via, for example, Fife Cultural Trust (OnFife) and Fife Coast & Countryside Trust, as well as hard copies in, for example, Sands Café, Café @ Number 16, the phone box by the clock, the Post Office. **AC**

It was also suggested that Simon and Steven might lead the walks at some point. **ST/SB**

There is a third self-guided walk, about Aberdour's New Town, but the Heritage Centre does not have the funds to print it. Perhaps this could be made available digitally, too. **ST/SB**

Frank Glynn had asked at the last meeting about the background to the Heritage Centre's logo and whether there could be a link attached to it when the walks' leaflets are put online, so that people can find out more about it. Simon was following this up. [After the meeting, Simon provided a Word document with full details, to be circulated with the minutes.] **ST**
- *Aberdour Geological Trail*  
 The Aberdour Geological Trail leaflet can be downloaded as a pdf – <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/assets/university/schools/school-of-earth-and-environmental-sciences/documents/geoheritage-leaflets/aberdour-geological-trail.pdf>. Simon has contacted St Andrews University to see if hard-copies are available and whether we would be allowed to reprint it ourselves. **ST**
- *Ceilidh Club*  
 The second Ceilidh Club event is taking place tomorrow night (Tuesday 31 January 2024) in the Foresters Arms' function room. Alison reported that Ingrid had said a number of attendees had asked about paying for it and she suggested having a donation box for ACA. Alison commented that we might perhaps suggest that Ingrid charges a small fee and keeps that for herself, as she has done all the work and all we have done is help promote the events. **AC**
- *'New' neolithic standing stone*  
 Simon and Alison are going to come up with a date for a summer excursion to the "new" stone. **ST/AC**
- *Ladies Walk*  
 Diana had come across Scottish Walking Trails on YouTube and specifically a Scottish Adventurers walk in Aberdour on 15 January 2023. The commentary included mention that Ladies Walk had been built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Lady Mary

Douglas-Hamilton (who was born in 1850, so the dates do not tie up). Diana has not been able to track down the source of the information. This is a link to the YouTube film - <https://discoveringscotland.com/aberdour-and-silversands/>  
Diana has been in touch with Arthur and will share his response.

DM

- *Arthur Lloyd talk*

Alison reported that she has not had an update from Arthur regarding whether he will be giving a talk during this year's Festival on people who have shaped the village. If he doesn't give it during the Festival, ACA would be happy to host it.

### Any Other Business

- *Talk by Steven Blench*

Steven has a talk prepared on Jane Dewar, a local woman from the 18<sup>th</sup> century with a very colourful and interesting story. ACA would like to support and promote this talk, which is likely to last around one and a half hours, with an interval in the middle. Steven has been in touch with the Institute's caretaker, Neil, who has confirmed that the only night on which the big hall is not being used is a Monday night. We would like to host the talk and possibly run a bar or provide a free drink with the price of the ticket, but would need to allow several weeks to apply to Fife Council for the relevant alcohol licence. Alison will ask Robin Smith what the Aberdour Players did when they ran an event with a bar.

AC

We would also need to look at who might provide technical support. For a talk for the Residents Association, Steven is borrowing a projector and that might be possible again. It was also suggested that John Burrell might be able to help. [Following the meeting, with her art festival hat on, Alison discovered that John is not likely to be available to help for a while.] We also need to look at mics and AV equipment – it may be that the Festival could help with this or point us in the direction of someone who can.

AC

- *Aberdour plaques*

During the AGM, David had commented that he had recently visited North Queensferry and noticed a number of plaques around the village, of varying sizes, providing information about the places in which they are located, and suggested that we might think about something similar here. Discussion followed about what form such plaques might take (e.g. brown plaques like the one on Diana's house noting that Captain Ryan lived there) and what information is already on display in the village, as well as whether QR codes might be an option. It was agreed that David would contact someone he knows from the North Queensferry Heritage Trust for information on how they went about it and where the funding came from.

DG

- *Fife Doors Open Day*

It was suggested during the AGM that we might promote places to visit in the village during Fife's Doors Open Day in September and that we could think about getting a list together – there must be lots of interesting places to visit.

- *Christine Kydd singing workshop*

Christine Kydd is touring with Fiona Ross and Simon and Diana reported that she would be willing to run a singing workshop in Aberdour. Alison had already contacted the boat club about whether we might be able to hire the club for a day at a weekend and confirmed this would be possible. Diana suggested that we might organise a workshop with a concert by Christine and Fiona in the evening, possibly in June.

DM/ST

- *Wooden pier*

Ruth Murray asked whether anyone was interested in restoring the old wooden pier, perhaps someone with experience in submitting Heritage Lottery Fund proposals.

Simon responded that the Aberdour Residents Association would be the group to talk to about this.

- *Burns/Scots poetry with the primary school*

June Bouaoun asked whether ACA has any involvement with Aberdour Primary School on Burns' poetry and Alison responded that we do not. Frank commented that Fife Council runs something across all schools. Simon suggested that perhaps for this year's poetry competition we could ask for poems in Scots.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 18 March 2024, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

Steven Blench, June Bouaoun, Ingried Boussaroque, Alison Chapman, Dot Clark, Jose Eglinton, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Susan Hunter, Diana Maxwell, Ruth Murray, Gillian Piper, Simon Taylor, ACA website.