

Minutes of Committee meeting 108
Small hall, Institute
Monday 3 June 2024, 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, June Bouaoun, Ingrid Boussaroque, Jo Dowd (Fife Council Community and Neighbourhood), David Graham.

Action
↓

Apologies

Dot Clark, Jose Eglinton, Susan Hunter, Ruth Murray, Gillian Piper.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (18 March 2024) were approved.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £2,647 in the bank account. Changes since the last meeting include £24 income from *Listen Up!* book sales, £25 expenditure for boat club hire and £53 expenditure relating to the website, with £200 expenditure expected shortly for website domain renewal.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

- *Primary School poetry*

Alison reported that the deadline for children to submit poems is this Friday, 7 June. She will circulate entries to the other people who will be judging them (June Bouaoun, Dot Clark and Susan Hunter) in advance of a meeting on 17 June. The school awards assembly is on 25 June.

AC

- *Aberdour Medieval Singers*

The Singers met last week and are meeting again on Tuesday 11 June at 7.45pm, with rehearsals back in the church.

June Bouaoun mentioned the Dunfermline Outreach Festival in September, when Alison Tollick's Scottish Early Music Forum will be performing, and suggested it might be somewhere where the Aberdour Medieval Singers might take part. She is going to send information to Ingrid Boussaroque.

JB

- *Poetry trail*

Simon reported that he, Alan Reid and Alison are still planning to walk the trail.

ST/AC

- *ACA website*

Jose Eglinton had reported that everything from the last meeting still applies; the set up of the new website and transfer of information is a work in progress.

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan (Church Hall war memorial)*

Jo Dowd introduced herself and gave a brief summary of the difference between a Local Place Plan and a Local Community Action Plan. She is going to put something

in writing and send it to Alison for circulation. The Local Community Action Plan is not statutory, it is a community led forum, supported by statutory organisations. The group in North Queensferry consulted with the local community about three things they would like to change. Jo will forward a copy of North Queensferry's Action Plan to Simon, for information.

The first step in Aberdour will be a similar consultation, and a number of local groups, including the primary school, are keen to be involved. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 August.

It is anticipated that the new group will take forward the matter of the missing war memorial names, and it was stressed that this should not be regarded simply as one suggestion amongst others in the things that people would like to change. There is already a great deal of support for it in the village.

- *Publication of Rev. Johnstone's history of Aberdour*
Simon is still working on this and it can be removed from the Agenda for now.
- *HMS Tarlair*
Diana Maxwell is still waiting to hear from the Glenrothes Probus Club about the date for her talk there.

Alison has no more copies of *Listen Up!*, so production of a third edition is becoming more urgent. Diana is to review new information received since the publication of the second edition and will pass it to Alison to update the Word document. We will then need to find a suitable publisher.

DM/AC

- *Aberdour Miscellany*
Diana and Alison have met again to insert photos into the text. It is hoped that it will be finished for publication later in the year, but the document will need formatting and proof-reading once all the content is in place.

DM/AC

Diana provided some background on HMS Tarlair and will send to Jo Dowd a recording of one of her talks on it.

DM

Diana reported that she had not got any further with information about Ian Davie for inclusion in the *Miscellany*. June offered to help with this.

DM/JB

- *Rambles around Aberdour*
Alison sent a digital version to Frank Glynn, who will have a look at whether it can be listed on Amazon as a digital, print on demand file.
- *Where are we from?*
The *Where are we from?* survey remains open. We need to decide what to do with the information. David Graham suggested that we might be able to gather some information from the Census records and volunteered to have a look. [Update – spreadsheet and information attached to the minutes.]

FG

DG

It was suggested we might have a stand at the Festival for people to fill in forms.

- *Black Sands' ballast bank information board*
Alison reported that she has included information on this in our update for the next edition of the *Village News*. This item can now be removed from the Agenda.
- *Music and poetry evening*
Following on from the November 2023 event, we held another one on Friday 24 May. This time, it was a small, but select group – only ten people. Diana and George

both sang, Robin Smith performed some of his own poetry and Alison read a few poems. We didn't hold the raffle because of the small number of people. The reduction in numbers from the last one, where there were over 30 people, could be because it was on a Friday night rather than a Saturday or that it was a bank holiday weekend or that it was pouring with rain. We'll plan another one for the Autumn.

- *Local history exhibition*

Alison and Simon have looked through the photographs and maps that were used for previous local history exhibitions and we have enough information to put on an exhibition now. It was agreed that we would plan something for when the *Miscellany* is published. It was suggested that we might tie in with the postponed Festival Quiz Night, though that might not work if both events use the same venue. It might be that we could tie it in with some talks, perhaps from Steven Blench or Arthur Lloyd, in addition to the idea of linking with the launch of the *Miscellany*.

- *Aberdour walks – Heritage Centre*

There is a third self-guided walk, about Aberdour's New Town, but the Heritage Centre does not have the funds to print it. Simon will circulate a copy of it once the draft has been reviewed by Steven Blench.

ST

Simon is going to check with Bill Rennie, from the Heritage Centre, where hard-copies of the walks are available and how many are left.

ST

It was suggested that the walks might have QR codes at the Heritage Centre so that people could follow them without paper copies. Ingrid commented, though, that it is not easy to read the digital copies online, on her mobile phone, and that they could perhaps be reformatted to make them easier to see. She would be happy to help with this.

- *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 is still waiting for hard-copies of the trail from St Andrews University, but the item can be deleted from the Agenda.

- *Ceilidh Club*

Ingrid report that the Ceilidh Club is on hold for the summer. It is hoped that the change of management at the Foresters Arms will not mean that we can no longer use the function room.

- *'New' neolithic standing stone*

It was agreed that we will walk to the stone on Sunday 7 July. Those wishing to drive will meet at the station at 2.00pm and car share; those wishing to walk will set off at around 11.30am. We can contact each other nearer the time to finalise details.

- *Arthur Lloyd talks/walks*

Alison reported that Arthur has led 12 Walks Around Aberdour, with three more lined up, all fully booked. He has raised £620 so far for Alzheimer Scotland! He is happy to do more if the demand is there. He was featured in a Dunfermline Press article about the walks. This item can now be removed from the Agenda.

- *Talk by Steven Blench*

Steven's talk on Jane Dewar in the Institute on Monday 8 April was a huge success; really well attended and generating a good deal of interest. There will be a second part at some point in the future, and it was suggested that we might ask Steven to repeat the first part, as well as his talk on Hugh Coventry.

ST

- *Aberdour plaques*

It was suggested that we might be able to add information to existing noticeboards, e.g. at Black Sands, Silver Sands, next to and opposite the station. When they walk around the poetry trail, Simon and Alison will also make an inventory of existing signs. Simon will contact Fife Coast & Countryside Trust to ask about the new placing of the board at Black Sands.

ST/AC
ST

- *Fife Doors Open Day*

Simon reported that his house, 7 Seaside Place, will be part of Fife's Doors Open Day, across the weekend of 21/22 September. One room in the house has two walls lined with carved stones – the Aberdour Lapidarium. He commented that, having now been through the process of registering, it would be a good test run for opening up the house in Livingston Lane next year.

The Heritage Centre and St Fillan's church will also be included in the Doors Open weekend. David reported that he is organising the St Fillan's event, including a display on gravestones of interest. Alison suggested that the Hewitt brothers information might be included, and David confirmed that this is planned for 2025. Alison will check whether she has the display panels on the Hewitt brothers from the 2014 exhibition.

AC

- *Christine Kydd singing workshop*

It was suggested that this might be held in the boat club on a Saturday in mid-October, with two hours in the morning and two in the afternoon, and people bringing their own lunch. It would be nice if there could be a concert in the evening, too. Diana is going to check dates with Christine and let Alison know so that she can establish availability of the boat club.

DM

Any Other Business

- *James Wishart*

Alison reported that she had received an email from Jenny Cree asking about information on James Wishart, a relative who built property in Seaside Place. Arthur had found mention in the Aberdour Death Records of Elizabeth Flockhart, daughter of Ninian Flockhart, James Wishart's business partner, and Simon had provided some information on Gowan Brae (his house) and Flock House (next door), which Alison will send on to Jenny.

- *Leaflets in the Institute*

June checked whether any of the Heritage Centre walks leaflets are available in the Institute (they don't appear to be) and noted that there are a lot of leaflets thrown in together, which might mean people miss important information. Simon will mention it to Neil, one of the caretakers (which he did after the meeting).

- *The Scrivener's Corbie by Francis J Glynn*

Simon has just read Frank's latest book and commended it to everyone!

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 22 July 2024, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

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