

Minutes of Committee meeting 112
Small hall, Institute
Monday 20 January 2025, following AGM at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, June Bouaoun, Andy Carnduff, Dot Clark, Frank Glynn, Ruth Murray.

Action

Apologies

Ingrid Boussaroque, David Graham, Liz Sutherland.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (4 November 2024) were approved, with one amendment – the date of Diana Maxwell’s talk at the Aberdour Golf Club is 12 March, not 11 March.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £2,126 in the bank account. Income since the last meeting is £90 for the Christine Kydd singing workshop and £23 from donations at the words and music night in November. Expenditure is £15 for a gift voucher for Fiona McElhinney to thank her for independently examining the accounts again, and £450 to Christine Kydd for the singing workshop in November.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

- *Primary School poetry*

Nothing new to report. Action kept “live” ready for next year’s competition, however June Bouaoun commented at the AGM that she would be keen to engage primary school pupils with poetry, particularly Burns’ poetry, and wondered whether this might lead to more entries to the poetry competition in the summer. She will contact the Aberdour Primary School Head to see whether this might be of interest.

JB

- *Aberdour Medieval Singers*

As reported at the AGM, the group has continued to meet in person on the second Tuesday of each month in the church hall. Thanks was recorded to Ingrid Boussaroque for creating the enthusiasm and momentum for the group to keep going. It was suggested that we hold a “concert” for Ingrid at our meeting in April (Tuesday 8 April).

ST

It was noted that we were joined at the last session by Virginia Blankenhorn, who is a Celtic scholar with a special interest in Scottish Gaelic and Irish song.

- *Poetry trail*

Simon Taylor, Alan Reid, June Bouaoun and Alison Chapman walked the poetry trail in November, to see which ones need replacing or updating, and at the same time took photos of the information boards currently in place. It is hoped that we will be able to issue a new poetry trail leaflet at some point in the future. Andy Carnduff

ST/AC

suggested that we might find a way to make it accessible online, so that people can follow the trail via their mobile phones.

- *ACA website*

Alison reported that Jose had been in touch to say that he is now getting on with things again and will get back into the website to continue the transfer over. He will understand, however, if we feel that this item is not being progressed quickly enough and would be happy to hand it all over to someone else. He would also be happy to meet up with Alison, or whoever, to transfer across all the Admin details for renewals, etc.

Alison commented that David Graham had in the past expressed a willingness to help out with the website and it may be that he would be prepared to take it over from Jose. He has done an excellent job with the St Fillan's website. It was agreed that Alison would contact David to see how he feels about it now. Assuming he is still keen, Alison will arrange a handover with David and Jose.

AC

We would like to formally record a huge Thank You to Jose for the enormous amount of work he has put into the new website and the transfer of information from the old one. It is very much appreciated.

- *Church Hall war memorial / Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*

If the LCAP forum goes ahead, it is important that we do not lose sight of the aim to include on the memorial the missing names that Jose has uncovered. Andy Carnduff suggested that we approach the Community Council about it.

ST/AC

- *HMS Tarlair*

The third edition of *Listen Up!* is ready to be published and is with Liz Short for proofreading. It turns out that there was a re-printing of the second edition in 2017 and some changes had been made to the text at that time. Unfortunately, Alison had forgotten this and made the changes for the third edition in the first print of the second edition (2015), so had to re-do them in the correct version. These are now with Liz. There is a question about re-sizing of photographs to fit in extra text – if this means a lot of changes to the layout, we may have to re-think things. Again, a huge Thank You to Liz for all her help and support.

AC/DM

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

This is still in the same position as at the last meeting; it is with Alison for checking/formatting, and she has some old copies of the *Village News* that might have content worth including.

AC

In the Chair's Report for the AGM, Simon commented that the companion volume – *An Anthology of Poetry and Prose Featuring Aberdour and Inchcolm* – is practically complete and we wonder whether it would be a good idea to publish that first. ST is going to circulate a synopsis of what it includes.

ST

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

Frank Glynn has spent a lot of time reformatting the digital version to get it into a format that is compatible with Amazon's requirements, and this is ongoing. A big Thank You was extended to Frank for his work on this.

FG

- *Where are we from?*

Andy reported that a group was set up around 20 years ago to work on something similar to the local action plan, which looked at where people in the village came

from, and that the outcome from that group (a big collection of documents) was deposited in the Aberdour library. Simon and Alison will investigate.

ST/AC

- *Music and poetry evening*

We had a great evening on 23 November, with a number of people taking part who had not joined us before. It was great that Christine Kydd stayed on after her workshop and entertained us, too.

It was agreed that we would hold a 'regular' words and music event at the boat club on Saturday 24 May. Alison will check the availability of the club and report back.

AC

As reported at the AGM, Alison Tollick has been in touch regarding the words and music events. She wonders whether the evening timing and the difficulties of getting down and up the hill might deter a lot of older people and others with mobility issues, and whether it might be possible to do something similar on an afternoon, in a more accessible venue (e.g. the Institute), with tea and biscuits. There was some discussion about this and a question of whether an afternoon format would be right for this sort of event. Frank commented that he had been involved with interactive sessions, bringing a group together and playing music for them, and he wondered whether Alison Tollick, with her early music forum hat on, might be able to organise something similar. He volunteered to talk to her about it.

FG

- *'New' neolithic standing stone*

Simon and David have been looking at whether a map might be put together to guide people to the stone. Andy Carnduff commented that this stone was mentioned in the *Village News* about twenty years ago, which means that, despite the OS and local Fife archaeologist not knowing about, it is not new. It would be useful if we could find a copy of the information that was in the *News*. Andy commented that most of the issues of the *News* are stored electronically in the Heritage Centre.

ST

- *Talk by Steven Blench*

Steven Blench is giving a talk on Hugh Coventry next Monday evening, 27 January 2025. Alison has a screen and is borrowing a speaker and mic from Tony Pearce. Simon reported that Steven does not yet have a projector, and volunteered to ask Arthur Lloyd if we might use his.

ST

- *Aberdour interpretation boards*

As reported earlier, Simon has started making an inventory of existing interpretation boards. He has been in touch with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust about the new placing of the board at Black Sands, but has not had a response. Andy commented that the person to contact is Robbie Blyth on 07940 774065. Alison has an email address for him and will let Simon have it. [Robbie.Blyth@fifecountryside.co.uk – this is from 2019, but hopefully is still the right one.]

ST

- *Christine Kydd singing workshop*

This went very well, though number of attendees was lower than anticipated thanks to dreadful weather that day. The cost to put it on was £475 (£450 to Christine and £25 for the boat club hire) and income was £300.

- *Teinds barn*

Diana commented that the barn had been de-listed as a historic monument when the owners of one of the houses next to it wanted to make some renovations. Andy reported that there are two very thick walls that are still there. He volunteered to speak to the person who owns the land to establish the current position.

AndyC

- *Names of places in the village*

We had wondered at the last meeting how the names of various places in the village (e.g. the Heath Robinson steps, Jacob's Ladder, the Sailor's/Sailors' Well, the Ballast Bank) might be recorded and preserved. All thoughts welcomed.

ALL

Any Other Business

- *ACA constitution*

Alison suggested at the AGM that it might be time to review our constitution.

ST/AC

- *ACA lunch club*

Eight of us had a very nice lunch in the Aberdour Hotel on 15 January. It was suggested afterwards that we make it more frequent than an annual event, perhaps twice a year, and possibly base it around something.

ST/AC

- *Skiff building*

It was mentioned that Chris Prowse has a skiff building kit and had at one time talked about getting together a group of people to build and row it. Andy Carnduff suggested this might be something ACA could assist with. *Who might take this on?*

- *Fife banner*

Ruth Murray reported that she and the Friday Friends group have made a large banner portraying Fife life and are now looking for somewhere to hang it. They have spoken to Willie and Karyn Crowe regarding the possibility of putting it in the church hall, and also to the Carnegie Museum and Galleries in Dunfermline, but have got no further with either of these venues. It was suggested that Ruth might contact the Kirkcaldy Galleries and Museum to see whether they would be interested.

- *Talks / films*

Frank Glynn asked whether we would like him to repeat his talk on George Thomson's fiddle – we would! It would be nice if it could be held in St Fillan's again. Alison will liaise with Frank regarding a suitable date.

AC/FG

Alison reported that Liz Sutherland had suggested ACA might consider hosting an occasional film night in the village, especially during the winter months when it might be quite a welcome offering.

Alison commented that it would be good if we could host more talks, and perhaps films, if we could find a suitable venue. Years ago, we hosted talks fairly regularly in the function room of the Foresters Arms, but obviously that is no longer an option due to its recent closure. Studio 72 would be too expensive. The Institute might be an option, perhaps in the smaller hall for films? Again, all thoughts would be welcomed.

ALL

- *CALA / Hillside*

Simon reported that he has submitted an objection on behalf of the ACA to the CALA / Hillside proposal to increase the number of housing units from 125 to 186.

- *Professor Gordon Maxwell*

Simon reported that Gordon Maxwell, archaeologist and Aberdour resident, died in November last year. He was very involved with the Heritage Centre and local history. His widow Kathleen Maxwell has kindly given Simon his Aberdour material. Simon brought along 2 items to show the group - a copy of a map showing a

proposed housing development along the Heughs, pre-railway, and a map of the Nine Lums limestone mine.

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 10 March 2025, 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.