

Minutes of Committee meeting 114
Small hall, Institute
Monday 28 April 2025

PRESENT:

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

Action

Apologies

Dot Clark, Susan Hunter, Liz Sutherland.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (10 March 2025) were approved.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,857 in the bank account. There has been no income since the last meeting and the only expenditure was £105 for Institute bookings for committee meetings and talks for the past year.

No-one has come forward to volunteer as Treasurer, in response to the *Village News* piece, so Alison remains in that role.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

- *Primary School poetry*
June Bouaoun and Alison attended a primary school assembly today to launch this year's poetry competition. The theme is garden related, or village in bloom, or related to the natural world, inspired by the work going on at the moment in the school garden. The deadline for submission is 6 June and the awards assembly is on 19 June. Frank Glynn suggested we might find a local poet to help judge the poems, and June wondered about a local poet, or perhaps even the Rector of Inverkeithing High School, coming along to present the awards. **AC/JB**
- *Poetry trail and Aberdour interpretation boards*
Simon is putting together a report on the poetry trail and information boards. **ST**
- *ACA website*
David Graham reported that the old Aberdour Culture website (www.aberdourculture.org.uk) is not accessible at the moment. Alison has been in touch with Digital Fife about it, but the response this afternoon asked only why we are moving away from Digital Fife, with no explanation for the non-functioning of the old one. Alison will pursue this. **AC**

It was agreed that we could now delete the 'under construction' comment from the new site – www.aberdourcultural.org.uk We also need to ensure that our Facebook page is showing details for the new site. **AC**

Alison is going to add an Events page to the new site. David has added pages on the Heritage Centre walk leaflets, Bill Cochrane's booklets about the village (which are downloadable), and Arthur Lloyd's books (which are not downloadable).

AC

Simon Taylor extended formal thanks to David and Alison for their work on this.

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*

There was an update on the Local Community Action Plan (LCAP) in the latest *Village News*. It was agreed that this item could now be deleted from the Agenda.

- *Church Hall war memorial*

It is important that we do not lose sight of the aim to include on the memorial the missing names that Jose uncovered. Alison has not heard back from Iain Fleming, Community Council Chair, regarding the appropriate contact at Fife Council, so she has emailed Alistair Mutch (Fife Council), who Jose was in touch with last year.

AC

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

This is on hold until Simon can dedicate more time to it.

ST

- *HMS Tarlair*

Diana Maxwell recently gave a talk at Aberdour Golf Club for the West Fife National Trust for Scotland group and sold the last six copies of *Listen Up!* She gave Alison £30 to pay into the ACA account. She has been asked to give a talk to the Ravensraig Probus group and is corresponding with them about a suitable date.

Alison reported that the third edition of *Listen Up!* is still with Liz Short and she has advised that the original files are so old now that she is finding it difficult to do a patch-up on the pdf as there are compatibility/technical issues with the software she uses to do the page make-up. She has suggested it would be easier to reset the whole book but that will take a lot of time, which she does not have at the moment.

Liz thinks it would be best to reprint a small quantity of the current, second edition and then launch a new edition in, say, a year's time, which would allow her time to figure out the best way to incorporate the updates without making it look like it has been cobbled together. Liz has advised that if we asked someone else to do this, we would be looking at a cost of around £350-400, but has volunteered to do it for us free of charge.

Diana had suggested we do a re-run of 50 books for now. Alison has been in touch with Bell & Bain, who printed the last edition, and it would cost around £250 for a run of 50. It was suggested she goes back to them to see how much it would cost to print 100 copies.

AC

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

This is still in the same position as at the last meeting; it is with Alison.

AC

The companion volume, *An Anthology of Poetry and Prose Featuring Aberdour and Inchcolm*, contains the following:

- Introduction: Simon Taylor
- *Macbeth*, a play by William Shakespeare
- 'Sir Alan de Mortimer', a poem by David Vedder
- *Mortimer's Deep*, extract from a historical novel by Simon Taylor
- 'The White Lady of Otterstone' by Captain Vere Hussey Bogle
- 'Sir Patrick Spens', a poem by anonymous
- *The Salt Farmer*, extract from a historical novel by Frank Glynn

- *The Hermit of Inchcolm: A Romance of the 17th Century: Also A Tour to Inchcolm: Being an Historical and Descriptive Account of the Island*, by anonymous with the pseudonym “Prince Charles Edward”
- Thomas Carlyle’s links to Aberdour, an essay by Ronnie Kerr
- 1880s – *George Dalton*, a serialised novel by David Pae (partly summarised)
- 1908 – The Fife Pageant

Simon reported that, following the last meeting, he has had some useful feedback from Liz Sutherland, and asked if anyone else would be interested in reading it. Frank Glynn indicated he would be – Simon is going to send him a copy.

ST

June sang with an acapella group at the Newhaven Oyster Festival at the weekend and one of the songs they sang was a sea shanty that mentions Aberdour. She is going to send details to Simon.

JB

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

Frank has continued to struggle with the formatting required by Amazon and has given Alison a memory stick containing the latest file. We are going to have a think about anyone else in the village who may be able to help with the formatting. Thanks again to Frank for all the time he has spent on this.

AC

- *Where are we from?*

Alison reported that Dot Clark went to the library, rummaged through everything local they have there and there was no sign of a "Where are we from?" write up.

It was suggested that we include in the *Miscellany* the information received in response to the survey.

AC

- *Music and poetry evening*

The next words and music event is happening on Saturday 24 May and has now been advertised via email, Facebook and posters in the village.

Alison contacted Alison Tollick after our last meeting to advise that we feel an afternoon format, with tea and biscuits, would not be suitable for the type of event we hold in the boat club, and to ask whether she might, with her early music forum hat on, think about organising a kind of “interactive” afternoon session, bringing a group together and playing music. To date, no response has been received.

- *‘New’ neolithic standing stone*

Simon reported that he went into the Heritage Centre with John Burrell and looked through old copies of the *Village News* on the touch table. There is something in there about the standing stone, in the *Village News number 50* (December 2008). Andy Carnduff had put together a series of walks around the village and one took him past the stone. The copy of the *News* included a picture of the stone with Andy next to it. The stone was not reported, though, as, at the time, it was believed to be a gate post.

It was suggested that we might put together a leaflet containing all those walks, that could be made accessible via our website. David commented that he had put together a document for Liz that contained some of them – he is going to send a copy to Simon for information.

DG

- *Names of places in the village*

Simon volunteered to compile information on how names of various places in the village came about (e.g. the Heath Robinson steps, Jacob’s Ladder, the Sailor’s/Sailors’ Well, the Ballast Bank), but will not start this until later in the year.

ST

It was commented that the bridge over the railway near the new Cala homes is called Sandy Shotts, which is an old name that was no longer used when Simon and Diana were growing up in the village.

- *ACA constitution*

Alison, Simon and Diana have reviewed the existing constitution and put together a new one, to be reviewed/adopted/approved at an EGM before our next meeting. The EGM will need to be advertised at least 14 days before the meeting.

AC

Alison will circulate copies of the old constitution and new constitutions, for information. Changes are fairly minor, relating mainly to references to ‘members.’

AC

Frank commented that a local group has recently applied for charitable status and used a ‘template’ constitution. He wondered whether it would be worth us having a look at that. Alison asked whether it was a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation), which is a form of charity for smaller groups, with less onerous reporting to OSCR (the Scottish Charity Regulator). Frank and Alison will investigate. It may be that we could go down this route, which would open up different funding streams for the Cultural Association.

FG/AC

- *George Thomson’s fiddle – Frank Glynn*

Frank’s talk on George Thomson’s fiddle is taking place in the Institute on Monday 26 May and has now been advertised via the usual channels. We are borrowing a mic and speaker from Tony Pearce and a projector from the Aberdour Climate Action group, via Lesley Gordon. Alison contacted the Drinks Cabinet regarding running a bar for us, but they are not in a position to do that and trying to run it ourselves is a big undertaking, involving training, etc., so the event is going to be BYOB. Alison applied to Fife Council for a licence for this, had an interview and risk assessment, and we are now good to go.

Alison will send the jpeg file of the poster to Frank.

AC

- *Storytelling*

Alison and June had discussed this briefly today. It was suggested that we organise an evening later in the year with winter tales, possibly in the small hall in the Institute. June is meeting Beverley Bryant this week and will talk to her about it.

JB/AC

Any Other Business

- *Heritage Centre touch table*

Simon commented on what a fantastic resource this is and wondered whether there is a way in which the files and photographs could be made available online, perhaps through the Community Council website, or via the ACA site. Alison will contact John Burrell and Arthur Lloyd about this.

AC

- *Arthur Lloyd walks and talks*

Alison reported that Arthur has led another four walks around the village, raising nearly £200 for Alzheimer Scotland. She and June had both seen Arthur being filmed today – his son organised this as a record of Arthur’s walk around the village. It would be great if this could be available online, too.

Alison reported that Arthur is writing a new book about the street names in Aberdour and had asked her about fundraising to publish it. When he published the first book, he asked a number of people to donate a set amount and seems keen to do this again. The general feeling at the meeting was that a crowdfunder might work better, as then people are able to give as little or as much as they want. Alison will contact Arthur about this.

AC

Alison reported that Arthur had been asked by the Festival team to do a talk on the street names, but they wanted it to fit into the early evening slot, which is quite short. Arthur had responded that his talk would take around three hours, with two intervals, and that he does not want to do part of it as a taster. He is waiting to hear back from them. Alison confirmed to him, though, that ACA would be happy to host the talk, as we have done in the past.

- *Sculpture trail*

Just before the meeting, June had shared with Alison information on a sculpture trail around the city of Victoria in Canada, celebrating the city's 150th anniversary. It was agreed it would be nice to do something similar here, but we have enough projects on the go at the moment!

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 30 June 2025, 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, Liz Sutherland, Simon Taylor, ACA website.