

Minutes of Committee meeting 115
Small hall, Institute
Monday 30 June 2025

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, June Bouaoun, Dot Clark, Rebecca Davies, David Graham, Ruth Murray.

Action

Apologies

Frank Glynn, Susan Hunter, Liz Sutherland.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (28 April 2025) were approved.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,996 in the bank account, which includes £235 donated for publication of Arthur Lloyd's new book, which will need to be transferred to him.

Income since the last meeting was £39 in donations from the words and music night at the boat club and £208 in donations at Frank Glynn's talk (£100 of which had been promised at the words and music night). Expenditure since the last meeting was for book tokens for the primary school poetry competition prize winners, payment for a draft print of *Rambles Around Aberdour*, payment for re-printing 50 copies of the second edition of *Listen Up!* and renewal of our website domain name.

No-one has come forward to volunteer as Treasurer, though we mentioned it for the second time in the *Village News*.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

• *Primary School poetry*

Ronnie Kerr kindly agreed to help judge this year's entries – 13 of them – and he, June Bouaoun, Alison Chapman, Dot Clark and Frank Glynn met to go through them. There was almost unanimous agreement on the winners. Ronnie and Alison went along to the awards assembly on 19 June to present certificates and tokens. We normally have four Highly Commended winners, but this year we couldn't decide between five of them, so gave each of the five a £10 book token (the winner receives a £20 book token, and there is also a winner of the Blake Trophy for Originality). Alison has returned the original poems to the school, and scanned copies will be displayed in the village during the Aberdour Festival.

• *Poetry trail and Aberdour interpretation boards*

Simon has put together a report on the poetry trail. The harbour keel poem needs attention, the bridge and Ladies' Walk plaques need replacing (Alison has them), the poem in St Fillan's churchyard needs only the vegetation clearing around it, and

ST/AC/JB

the plaque by the former Forthview Hotel may need a clean. Once these alterations have been made, we will look to print a new trail leaflet.

Simon commented that the interpretation boards around the village need a serious overhaul and he has started putting together a report on them. It was suggested that we put the idea of an overhaul to the Local Community Action Plan team.

ST

Simon has not heard back from Fife Coast and Countryside Trust about the siting of the information board at Black Sands.

- *ACA website*

Alison has chased Digital Fife about the old Aberdour Culture website no longer being accessible (www.aberdourculture.org.uk), but has had no response. Thankfully, the new one is up and running, so it is not a complete disaster, and we have now deleted 'under construction' from the new site (www.aberdourcultural.org.uk).

Simon suggested that we add the ebook that includes a section written by him about Inchcolm – Taylor, Simon, 2025, "The Iona of the East": Inchcolm, Dunkeld and the cult of Columba in eastern Scotland', in *Ì Chaluim Chille: Interdisciplinary studies on Iona and Columba on the 1500th anniversary of the birth of the saint*, ed. Sofia Evemalm-Graham, with Thomas Owen Clancy, Katherine Forsyth and Gilbert Márkus, 383-415 (e-book publication by CLOG, University of Glasgow at [Publications – Iona's Namescape](#)).

AC/DG

- *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, or from Alistair Mutch (Fife Council), who Jose was in touch with last year. She will try to find an alternative contact. We will also raise it with the Local Action Plan group.

AC/ST

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

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

- *HMS Tarlair*

Diana Maxwell and Alison reported that we have 50 copies of the second edition of *Listen Up!* that have been re-printed. Liz Short now has the text and separate images for the third edition and is looking at resetting the book. Diana suggested that we put some copies around the village for sale, e.g. in the Purple Shop and Heritage Centre.

DM/AC

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

This is moving forwards. Diana and Alison have had a meeting and inserted more images. Since then, Diana has been through the document again and has some suggestions regarding images to be moved or added. Diana and Alison are to meet again at the end of the month.

DM/AC

- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*

Simon is going to circulate this to everyone and asked for comments back to him as soon as possible. It was agreed that we would look towards publishing this soon, probably in hard copy form first and then as a digital file.

ST/ALL

June is going to re-send to Simon details of the song she sang with an acapella group at the Newhaven Oyster Festival in April that mentions Aberdour. Alison

JB

wondered if we could organise a night of sea shanties! June mentioned the ‘She Shanties’ and Alison mentioned ‘Tripple’, both female groups of shanty singers.

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

David has got the file into a format that Amazon will accept. He and Alison submitted it and we now have a draft copy, which looks very good. David has noticed a few errors, though, and, also, the text is very close to the spine of the book on the left-hand pages. Simon is going to read through it to see if he can spot anything else, and others are welcome to have a look, too.

ST

- *Music and poetry evening*

There was general agreement that the event at the end of May went really well, with a lot of new people coming along and some new, young performers. At our next meeting, we will look at setting a date for the next one.

- *Local walks leaflets*

David is going to have a go at putting together a draft leaflet based on Andy Carnduff’s walks information, once he has spoken to Andy. If this looks ok, we might be able to put together leaflets for all the walks, accessible via our website.

DG

- *Names of places in the village*

Simon is to put together 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 not until later in the year.

ST

- *ACA constitution*

The new constitution was reviewed, adopted and approved at an EGM just prior to this meeting.

It had been suggested at a previous meeting that Frank and Alison investigate the SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) set-up, which is a form of charity for smaller groups, with less onerous reporting to OSCR (the Scottish Charity Regulator), to assess whether it might be suitable for the Cultural Association.

FG/AC

- *George Thomson’s fiddle – Frank Glynn*

Frank’s talk on George Thomson’s fiddle went very well, with a good number of attendees and a substantial amount raised in donations. Alison reported that Frank is repeating the talk at Fire Station Creative in Dunfermline and, also, that the owner of the Blackie House Museum in Edinburgh (<https://blackiehouse.org/about/>) is interested in the story.

- *Storytelling*

June reported that Beverley Bryant, the story teller, has been unwell, so this item is temporarily on hold.

JB/AC

- *Heritage Centre touch table*

Alison had contacted John Burrell and Arthur Lloyd about whether the Heritage Centre’s files and photographs might be made available online. It seems that this might be a little problematic: John reported that the person who set up the table is no longer around, also that the data is held in Dropbox, which may make it more readily available or may make it trickier to access, he’s not sure. Another question is whether Bill Rennie, Chair of the Heritage Centre group, would be happy for third parties to have access to the Centre’s data, and, if he is, whether there would be a cost involved in sharing that data. Also, Microsoft intends to end support for

Windows 10 this autumn and it is not clear whether the touch table can be updated to Windows 11. Simon is going to get in touch with Bill Rennie to discuss further.

ST

- *Arthur Lloyd – new book on street names*

Alison reported that ACA has been supporting Arthur in crowdfunding to raise money to publish his fourth book. We are looking for just under £4,000 and to date we have received £235 direct to the ACA bank account and £680 via the JustGiving page. Also, the Drinks Cabinet is going to donate some money from sales of their latest batch of Aberdour Gin. We don't know yet when this will be or how much it will be, but we are very grateful to them for their support.

Printing of the book is already underway (Arthur will be covering any shortfall in funding, as he did with previous books) and it should be ready for Arthur's talk during the Aberdour Festival (on the Wednesday night).

Any Other Business

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*

It was agreed to put this item back on the Agenda. The group is going from strength to strength and is to receive £17,000 of funding through Fife Council (<https://www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/25238401.aberdour-residents-receive-17-000-community-plan/>). The group will be putting a questionnaire around the village asking for residents' input on the way ahead. It was agreed that we will make sure the war memorial missing names and interpretation boards are highlighted to the group. It was also suggested that we put to the Action Plan team the idea of an overhaul of the interpretation boards around the village (see earlier point – Simon has started putting together a report on them).

ST/AC

- *Ronnie Kerr interview with Orkney woman*

June mentioned that, whilst judging the poetry competition, Ronnie Kerr had talked about an Orkney woman and an evening he spent interviewing her, and that he would be keen to do it again. Alison will contact Ronnie for further information. It may be that this is something ACA could host, perhaps in St Fillan's.

AC/JB

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 1 September 2025, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

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