

Minutes of Committee meeting 116  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 1 September 2025, 7.30pm

**PRESENT:**

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, June Bouaoun, Dot Clark, David Graham, Susan Hunter, Ronnie Kerr, Helen Jamieson, Liz Sutherland.

**Action**

**Apologies**

Ingrid Boussaroque, Andy Carnduff, Rebecca Davies, Frank Glynn, Ruth Murray.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (30 June 2025) were approved.

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £2,056.61 in the bank account, which includes £290 donated for publication of Arthur Lloyd's new book, which was transferred to him today. We have also received £1,070 for Arthur's book, via JustGiving, which will be transferred to him soon.

Income since the last meeting was £35.86 – £30 towards Arthur's book and £5.86 for a *Listen Up!* book sale. Expenditure was £4.62 for a second draft print of *Rambles Around Aberdour*.

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

- *Primary School poetry*  
This item is kept on the Agenda for next year.
- *Poetry trail and Aberdour interpretation boards*  
The updates to and reinstallation of some of the plaques is still outstanding - 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 the vegetation clearing around it, and the plaque by the former Forthview Hotel needs cleaning. Once this work has been done, we will look at printing a new trail leaflet.

**ST/AC/JB**

It was agreed that we would put to the new Local Community Action Plan team the idea of an overhaul of the interpretation boards around the village, which are seriously out of date.

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

- *ACA website*  
David Graham has added to our website the ebook that includes a section written by Simon Taylor 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.*

It was agreed that we would keep 'ACA website' on the Agenda for future updates or additions.

- *Church Hall war memorial*  
 Alison reported that she had heard from Jose today suggesting that this item could be removed from the Agenda as there appears to be waning interest, but Alison raised this with the Local Community Action Plan group recently – they don't feel it is something for them just at the moment, so she has contacted local councillor David Barratt to see whether he might be able to help or suggest someone who can. **AC**
- *Publication of Rev. Johnstone's history of Aberdour*  
 This is on hold until Simon can dedicate more time to it. **ST**
- *HMS Tarlair*  
 Liz Short has put together a draft of the third edition of *Listen Up!*, which is currently under review by Diana Maxwell and Alison, with the plan being to add a couple of new photos on pages that are largely blank. **DM/AC**

Alison had brought along a copy of the Hawkraig Trail leaflet and suggested we get some more printed as we have very few left. She will find out how much that will cost. **AC**
- *Aberdour Miscellany*  
 Simon, Diana and Alison met to go through this and it is now back with Alison, who has started to look at formatting, etc. It is likely to take quite a while! **AC**
- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*  
 Simon circulated this following the last meeting, with a request for comments. June Bouaoun and Alison's comments have not arrived in Simon's inbox, so will need to be re-sent. **JB/AC**
- *Rambles around Aberdour*  
 David Graham has made some changes to the file. He and Alison re-submitted it and brought along a second draft copy for review, which was passed to Simon. Simon will forward to David his thoughts regarding possible changes. It was suggested that we re-word the introduction to "re-issued" rather than "re-printed". **ST/DG/AC**

There was some discussion regarding cost and how it would be sold. If we sell it via Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing, we receive a very small fraction of the sale price, but Amazon ships everything. Alternatively, we could purchase a stock and sell it ourselves, both direct and through Amazon. It was suggested that £10 would be a reasonable price for it.
- *Music and poetry evening*  
 It was suggested that we hold the next words and music open mic night on Saturday 29 November. Alison will check availability of the Boat Club. **AC**
- *Local walks leaflets*  
 David met with Andy Carnduff, then John Burrell to gather together Andy's original walks information, with the view to compiling a series of leaflets, one page per walk. David and his daughter tried walking one of them and discovered that part of the path was not a core path, part was practically non-existent, and part went across a field. Helen Jamieson suggested that Grant Forsyth (who is on the Community

Council) might have more information or be able to help. It was noted that Mary Williams had published walks information in the *Village News* during lockdown.

David commented that there are a lot of links online to walks from Aberdour and we could simply be duplicating already-existing information. It was suggested that we might have a Walks page on the website linking to other pages. David is going to send Alison links he has found, for circulation to the rest of the group.

**DG/AC**

- *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**

- *Storytelling*

June Bouaoun reported that Beverley Bryant, the story teller, would be happy to host an event later in the year, perhaps in St Fillan's. We agreed that, as there are other events coming up before Christmas, we would look at hosting something early in the new year – the suggestion is Friday 16 January for a Winter Tales event in the church. June will check Beverley's availability and Alison will find out about booking the church.

**JB/AC**

- *Heritage Centre touch table*

Simon reported that he has been in touch with Bill Rennie, Chair of the Heritage Centre group, and he is happy for us to use the information on the touch table, however the table is currently experiencing problems with overheating and shutting down. An IT expert is looking at it, so everything is on hold for now.

**ST**

- *Arthur Lloyd – new book on street names*

As reported earlier, we have £290 paid by BACs and £1,070 via JustGiving to transfer to Arthur towards publication of his latest book. Arthur gave a talk on it during this year's Aberdour Festival and has already donated £1,500 to Alzheimer Scotland from book sales.

**AC**

Alison has been in contact with Aberdour Festival committee members regarding whether they might host a repeat of Arthur's Festival talk later in the year.

**AC**

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*

The group has put a questionnaire around the village asking for residents' input on the way ahead. It was agreed that Simon and Alison will send an email on behalf of the Cultural Association asking for the war memorial missing names and upgrade of interpretation boards to be added to the new group's list of items to action.

**ST/AC**

Liz Sutherland noted that the Action Plan group is hosting a workshop on Saturday 20 September between 11am and 1pm in the Foresters.

- *Ronnie Kerr interview with Christine Muir*

Christine Muir is from North Ronaldsay, Orkney and for many years wrote a column in the Scotsman. She was an inspiration to Ronnie in his journalism and writing. Ronnie wrote about her in the Scotsman last year:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/christine-muir-orkney-days-george-orwell-scotsman-columnist-4822496>

Christine Muir's book *Orkney Days* was republished this year. Ronnie interviewed her about it, at Summerhall, and would be keen to do so again, if ACA would like to host it. He suggested putting together an event involving Christine Muir, Norrie MacIver (from Skippinish), Caitlin (?), possibly Kris Drever. The only issue for ACA would be the costs involved in bringing these people together.

Another suggestion was to have an event involving Ronnie, Christine Muir and perhaps Frank Glynn, with someone from Waterstone's to sell Christine's book. It was suggested that Friday 7 November would be a good date and that the most accessible venue would be the Institute. Alison will check availability. If we make the event BYOB, we will need to apply for a licence at least six weeks in advance. We will also need a microphone – Alison will see if we can borrow Tony Pearce's again. We will not need a projector or laptop.

AC/RK

- *Blackie House Library and Museum, Edinburgh*  
Simon has contacted the Library and Museum to see whether we might arrange a group visit.

ST

David mentioned that the Fife Collections Centre in Glenrothes would be worth a visit. It will be open during the Fife Doors Open Days, on 13 September (guided tours only, bookable in advance). The Centre is home to more than 250,000 objects and documents from the Museums and Archive Collection.

### **Any Other Business**

- *Scottish Local History Forum*  
Alison commented that she had today received the latest magazine from SLHF, and that the organisation's annual conference – Popular Protest – is on Saturday 25 October at the Wynd Centre in Paisley. More information here: <https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-annual-conference-popular-protest>

### **Date and time of next meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 6 October 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, Helen Jamieson, Ronnie Kerr, Diana Maxwell, Ruth Murray, Gillian Piper, Liz Sutherland, Simon Taylor, ACA website.