

Minutes of Committee meeting 117  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 6 October 2025, 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Andy Carnduff, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Ronnie Kerr (part time).

**Action**

**Apologies**

June Bouaoun, Dot Clark, Susan Hunter, Helen Jamieson, Diana Maxwell, Ruth Murray, Liz Sutherland.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (1 September 2025) were approved.

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,737 in the bank account. The only changes since the last meeting are the transfer to Arthur Lloyd of £290 donated for publication of his new book and £5.86 income from a *Listen Up!* book sale via Amazon.

Alison noted that our financial year end was 30 September, so she will now prepare the accounts and contact Fiona McElhinney regarding independent examination.

**AC**

Noted after the meeting: Alison has purchased a SumUp card reader for ACA, so that we can take card donations as well as cash in future. It will be linked direct to our RBS account.

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

• *Ronnie Kerr interview with Christine Muir*

Ronnie confirmed that Alasdair Dow is going to play on the night, between readings of Christine's pieces and after the interval. Garry Downie is going to handle the audio side of things, including providing two mics.

**RK/AC**

Alison has booked the Institute, both halls, from 5.30pm until 10.30pm, for a BYOB event. Ronnie is putting together a poster to advertise this. The start time will be 7.00pm, and Birlinn will provide books for sale – the republished *Orkney Days* by Christine Muir.

• *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.

Simon Taylor is suggesting to the new Community Action Plan group that it would be good to add to its agenda an overhaul of the interpretation boards around the village, which are seriously out of date.

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

**ST**

David Graham commented that there is a very informative new board by the old station in Burntisland and it was agreed that it would be worth finding out who installed it and who sponsored it.

**AC**

- *ACA website*

As noted at the last meeting, we are keeping 'ACA website' on the Agenda for future updates.

Alison reported that Digital Fife had been in touch to ask whether we would like our two Digital Fife-hosted websites to be retained. She had responded that, as we have been unable to access it for months, we do not require the ACA site, but we would like Digital Fife to continue to host the HMS Tarlair site (<https://www.hmstarlairfife.org.uk/>).

- *Church Hall war memorial*

Alison has twice emailed David Barratt, local SNP councillor, to see whether he might be able to help or suggest someone else who can move forward the issue of names missing from the war memorial, but has had no response. She has now messaged him via WhatsApp. Update – Alison has now heard back from David Barratt and he's looking into it ...

**AC**

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

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

- *HMS Tarlair*

Diana Maxwell has provided some new photographs that have been forwarded to Liz Short for possible use to fill a couple of pages in the new, third edition that are largely blank.

Alison has been into Minuteman Press in Dunfermline and has quotes for printing more copies of the Hawkraig Trail leaflet: £62 for 100, £106 for 250 and £134 for 500. It was agreed that we will order 250 copies. We need to decide where we are going to put them.

**AC**

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

Alison is working through this, focusing on formatting, when she has a spare moment.

**AC**

- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*

Simon is preparing a final version following on various comments he has received.

**ST**

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

David Graham and Alison submitted the finished document to Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing, but the cover has been rejected because some text is obscured – this is the text from the old book cover, which does not need to be legible. Alison has been in contact with Amazon about this and is waiting for a response from the technical team. David has put together a revised cover that might be acceptable if Amazon rejects the original one.

**AC/DG**

It was agreed that we would list *Rambles* at £10 per copy, from which we will receive approx. £4. Initially, though, we will price it at a minimum amount and then order a stock of 50 to be sold direct locally. Frank Glynn advised that books published through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing can be altered once they have been submitted, so we can amend the price once we have our own supply, and make any other changes, too.

AC

It was agreed that we would have a launch night for the book and Simon volunteered to do a short talk on the history of the local area. We might also bring along some of the old maps we used for an exhibition years ago. We will ensure there is something in the Village News, in 'Clisn Clash' (the Scottish Local History Forum's emagazine) and in the local press.

ST/AC

- *Music and poetry evening*

Alison has booked the boat club for Saturday 29 November and will put together a poster soon to start advertising it. After the meeting, Alison received confirmation that the booking fee is now £40.

AC

- *Local walks leaflets*

David shared the following links just after the last meeting, which Alison had circulated. He feels sure he could find more:

[Cullaloe Hills and The Old North Road – Fife Walking](#)

[Dalgety Bay Aberdour Circuit – Fife Walking](#)

[Aberdour Burntisland Circular – Fife Walking](#)

[Aberdour Coast and Woods – Fife Walking](#)

[Braefoot Woods, St Bridget's Kirk and Monks Cave – Fife Walking](#)

David reported that Steve Newsom had suggested meeting up to review the walks. David feels that rather than duplicating what is already out there, and available via the links above, we might include the links on a new page on our website. He is going to put something together to share for feedback. We might think about a 'launch walk' once we have something in place.

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.

- *Storytelling*

June had confirmed that Beverley Bryant is available for a Winter Tales storytelling event on Friday 16 January 2026. David contacted Andrea Fraser, Forthview Parish Church St Fillan's minister, and she is happy for us to hold the event in the church. Alison now has the booking forms. The cost will be £30, and we need to confirm time required. We also have to provide evidence of public liability insurance and a risk assessment form.

JB/AC

Earlier in the year, Beverley had confirmed fees:

1 hour: £120 plus travel / Half day (2hours): £165

We assume the two hour fee is plus travel time and expenses, but can confirm that later. This would be for one storyteller, it would be more if we have two (though not necessarily double).

We'll need to think about whether to sell tickets or invite donations.

- *Heritage Centre touch table*  
Simon has heard nothing more about the touch table. Andy Carnduff reported that he understands from Arthur Lloyd that it is still undergoing maintenance.
- *Arthur Lloyd book on street names*  
All donations towards publishing costs have now been transferred to Arthur (£290 paid direct to the ACA bank account, plus £1,031.26 (£1,070 less JustGiving fees)).

The Aberdour Festival team is keen to host a repeat of Arthur's Festival talk as a fundraiser for the Festival, and is looking at early next year. Alison is liaising with Roy Devon and Arthur about this.

It was agreed that this is no longer an ACA action, so will now be deleted from the Agenda.

AC

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*  
The group had put a questionnaire around the village asking for residents' input on the way ahead, and Simon will email on behalf of the Cultural Association asking for upgrade of interpretation boards to be added to the new group's list of items to action.

ST

After our last meeting, Alison circulated information from the LCAP Facebook page, as follows:

“COMMUNITY LOCAL ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP  
What's your Aberdour story?

.... We're going beyond the survey, and Future Aberdour needs YOU! 📣

Your responses on the recent Community Action Plan survey are a brilliant start, but we reckon it's more fun if we dig a bit deeper together.

So join us for an engaging, story-led workshop where we'll share our stories and ideas and turn them into action. You can also hear more about the story of the Community Action Plan so far.

We're holding the first workshop at the Forries (refreshments will be provided!).  
The workshops are free, but spaces are limited, so book your spot now!  
Date: Saturday 20th September, 2025  
Time: 11am - 1pm  
Location: The Foresters Arms“

No-one at tonight's meeting had been to the workshop and no-one has heard any feedback from it.

- *Blackie House Library and Museum visit*  
Simon has been in touch with Bill Zachs, the owner, and Bill is due to call Simon later in the week. (More information here - <https://blackiehouse.org/about/>)

ST

### **Any Other Business**

- *Ceilidh Club*  
Under Ingrid Boussaroque's leadership, this is starting up again at the Foresters Arms, on Tuesday 4 November, 7.30-9.00pm.
- *Public liability insurance*  
To use any church buildings, we must now have in place our own public liability insurance, so Alison has been looking into how much it would cost, which is around

£100 per annum. She also looked at Fife Council's website to see what the position is with regard to hiring the Institute, and discovered the following:

"User groups/hirers making use of our premises must accept full responsibility for any accidents, injury, or damage to any person as a result of the activity by them or which may occur as a result of their use of the premises. All user groups/hirers must have at least £5,000,000 public liability insurance cover in place to meet this responsibility and shall produce relevant insurance certificate to the Council on request."

Following the meeting, Alison took out a policy on behalf of ACA, to run for a year from 1 November 2025.

- *AGM*  
Our AGM is usually held in January; we will decide on a date for that at our next meeting.
- *Christmas/New Year lunch*  
Our last lunch was on Wednesday 15 January. It was agreed that we would book for a date in January again, then we are not tied to a set menu and people may have more time available. We'll decide on a date at our next meeting.
- *Aberdour Medieval Singers*  
Simon reported that the Medieval Singers are meeting again, after a break for the summer, on the second Tuesday of each month. The next one is on Tuesday 14 October. Alison will advertise this. AC
- *Herman Melville presentation*  
Alison reported that Kenny Munro has been in touch regarding the author of *Moby Dick* and his ancestral links to Leven in Fife. Kenny, along with Tom Hubbard, has been researching this and Melville's visit to Scotland in 1856. Kenny and Tom would be interested in presenting the project for Aberdour in 2026.

Following the meeting, Alison responded to Kenny to say that we would be interested in this and he has replied suggesting it could take place during next year's Aberdour Festival. This might be a better option, as the Festival team will have all the necessary equipment in place, etc. Alison will investigate. AC

- *Robin Arnott*  
Simon reported that Robin Arnott, ex Chair of Abbot House trustees, has brought out a new book on St Bridget's Kirk, Dalgety Bay – looking at the stories behind some of the gravestones and the people in the graves – and has now produced a draft of a similar book on Aberdour. Simon passed this on to David for comments.
- *Aberdour Beauties & Antiquities by Mary S L White*  
Simon brought along an old book that had been passed on to him from Gordon Maxwell's estate, with the comment that it would be very suitable for inclusion in the *Aberdour Miscellany* Companion Volume, though it is far too long. He passed it on to Frank.

NOT COVERED AT THE MEETING:

- *Charitable status*  
A while ago, it had been suggested that Frank Glynn 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. Alison AC

understands that the Aberdour Festival had considered becoming a SCIO and is meeting with Roy Devon, the Festival Treasurer, to discuss the pros and cons.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 24 November 2025, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

Steven Blench, June Bouaoun, Ingrid Boussaroque, Andy Carnduff, 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.