

Minutes of Committee meeting 118
Small hall, Institute
Monday 24 November 2025, 7.30pm

Action

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, June Bouaoun, Andy Carnduff, Rebecca Davies, David Graham, Helen Jamieson, Ruth Murray

Apologies

Dot Clark, Susan Hunter, Liz Sutherland.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (6 October 2025) were approved.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,730 in the bank account. Changes since the last meeting are £470 in donations at the Ronnie Kerr event, £100 for *Rambles* book sales, a £5 donation, £6 from a *Listen Up!* book sale via Amazon, and expenditure was £106 for HMS Tarlair trail leaflets, £104 for 50 copies of *Rambles*, £101 for annual public liability insurance, and £160 for Alasdair Dow and Garry Downie for Ronnie's event.

Alison has passed our FY2024-25 accounts to Fiona McElhinney for examination.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

- *Ronnie Kerr interview with Christine Muir*
This event, with Ronnie Kerr, Christine Muir and Alasdair Dow was a great night, and Liz Short/Birlinn sold 60 copies of Christine's *Orkney Days*. Thanks were extended to Ronnie, and also to Garry Downie for handling the sound. We hope to work together with Ronnie on future projects and events.
- *Primary School poetry*
This item is kept on the Agenda for next year.
- *Poetry trail and Aberdour interpretation boards*
This item remains unchanged, the focus having been on other Agenda items: The updates to and reinstallation of some of the plaques is 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 has suggested 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it would be good to add to its agenda an overhaul of the interpretation boards around the village, which are seriously out of date. He has not heard from Fife Coast and Countryside Trust regarding the inappropriate siting of the information board at Black Sands.

- *ACA website*

As noted at the last meeting, we are keeping 'ACA website' on the Agenda for future updates. David Graham has added the new *Rambles* book to the site and Alison has added an Events page.

- *Church Hall war memorial – missing names*

Alison has put together a timeline of progress, which Jose Eglinton and Simon have both reviewed. Jose has suggested that as it is an addendum plaque that is being considered, it does not have to be approved by Fife Council (which owns the existing plaque), but by St Fillan's church (which owns the church hall building). He has also suggested that we contact the Community Council to see whether it is in favour of adding a plaque with the 32 missing names. Alison reported that she has already been in touch with Iain Fleming, Chair of the Community Council, who said that the Council continues to pursue this matter. She will now contact Iain as suggested above and ask who might fund installation, if both ACC and St Fillan's approve it.

AC

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

This is on hold until Simon can dedicate more time to it. Aileen Queenan, daughter of Rev. John Scott, posted on the Aberdour Noticeboard Facebook page that she had come across a copy of the original document in her mother's papers, which John Burrell passed on to Simon tonight.

ST

- *HMS Tarlair*

Alison reported that Liz Short now has the latest version of the third edition of *Listen Up!* that includes some new photos.

Diana Maxwell suggested that we sell the remaining second edition copies at the primary school fair on 6 December (see *Rambles*).

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

Alison will work through this, focusing on formatting, but has not had time to look at it since the last meeting.

AC

- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*

Simon is preparing a final version.

ST

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

David Graham amended the cover into a format acceptable to Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing and the book is now available online at £10 per copy. We have purchased "author's copies" from Amazon, at a cost of £104 for 50 copies. We advertised via email, Facebook and posters in the village that we have a number to sell at a special price of £5 each and we have sold 21 so far. We donated one to the Heritage Centre (they bought another two) and Alison has sent one to the British Library, a requirement for all newly published books.

We agreed on Friday 20 February as the date for a launch night, in the Institute, with a talk by Simon. Alison will book the venue for a BYOB event. We might bring along some of the old maps we used for an exhibition years ago, and perhaps Frank Glynn might play something. It would be good to put something in the *Village News* (a small piece is going into the edition due out shortly), in *Clish Clash* (the Scottish Local History Forum's emagazine) and in the local press.

ST
AC

Alison reported that Arthur Lloyd had been in touch to say that he has a table booked at the Aberdour primary school fair on Saturday 6 December, 2-4pm, to sell copies of his latest book, and wondered whether we would like to join him to sell *Rambles*. Diana

volunteered to accompany Arthur and suggested that she takes along copies of the second edition of *Listen Up!* as well as *Rambles*. Alison will let Arthur know.

AC

- *Music and poetry evening*
This is taking place in the boat club on Saturday evening, 29 November. June will be there at 6.45pm to let us in.
- *Local walks leaflets*
David shared the following after the last meeting, and has put them on our website:

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

- *Names of places in the village*
On hold for now: 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).
- *Storytelling*
Following discussions after the last meeting, and the success of Ronnie Kerr's event, it was decided to hold the storytelling event – on Friday 16 January 2026 – in the Institute. Alison has applied for BYOB for the event and has an interview on Friday with Andrew McWilliams from Fife Council.

ST

Alison now has the following wording from Beverley:

Stories for the Darkling Days : As January wraps the world in its long, quiet dark, join storyteller Beverley Bryant for an evening of warmth, wonder, and community. We'll gather to hear stories shaped by winter's hush—tales of kindness in cold seasons, sparks of hope in the deep night, and the old magic that once guided people through Scotland's bleak midwinter days. Expect folklore, myth and legends woven together with humour and heart. This is a night for neighbours, friends, and anyone in need of a lift as we journey toward the returning light. Suitable for adults and older children.

It was agreed that this would start at 7.30pm. June Bouaoun confirmed that Beverley does not usually use a mic, but, if required, would prefer a lapel mic. It was suggested that we might think about buying one, so that we can use it for future events. Alison is to ask Garry Downie for advice on this.

AC

- *Heritage Centre touch table*
It is understood that the touch table is still awaiting repair.
- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*
The survey results are to be presented to the village soon.
- *Blackie House Library and Museum visit*
Simon reported that Bill Zachs, the owner, is to contact Simon in the new year to arrange an ACA visit.
- *Ceilidh Club*
Under Ingrid Boussaroque's leadership, a ceilidh was held in the Foresters Arms, on Tuesday 4 November, and Simon reported that there was medieval, Breton and Scottish dancing.

ST

- *Public liability insurance*

Alison reported that we now have an annual policy, which runs from 1 November 2025.

- *Dates for AGM and New Year lunch*

We agreed that the AGM will be held on Monday 26 January, followed by a “normal” meeting. Alison will book the Institute small hall for this. AC

We agreed that the New Year lunch will take place on Thursday 15 January, 12.30pm in the Aberdour Hotel. Alison will check numbers and book a table. AC

- *Herman Melville presentation*

Alison reported that she had planned to raise Kenny Munro’s proposal at a meeting with Helen Pearson and Roy Devon from the Festival committee, but the meeting has, unfortunately, not yet taken place. She has, however, met with Kenny to discuss it further and feels it is too big a project for us to take on, being much more suitable for the Aberdour Festival. We might, however, be able to host a talk about the project. Alison will contact the Festival team and Kenny Munro to move this on. AC

- *Robin Arnott – book on gravestones and people in the graves, Aberdour*

Simon reported that both he and David have provided feedback to Robin.

- *Charitable status*

Alison reported that the meeting with Roy Devon has not yet taken place, but that, having given it some consideration, she does not have time to take on applying for charitable status, and wondered if anyone else would like to volunteer. After some discussion, it was agreed that it is not a path we wish to go down right now, so this item will be deleted from the Agenda.

Any Other Business

- *Talk by Hamish Brown*

Simon reported that Hamish Brown had approached him at Ronnie Kerr’s event to ask if we might host a talk by him based on a book he published a few years ago, *East of West, West of East*, about the Japanese war. He describes it as ‘A family saga of life in Japan and Malaya leading up to the Fall of Singapore. From his mother’s letters home, his father’s report on his escape when his ship was bombed and sunk, and Hamish’s own memories, a story is told of heroism and bungling, too long with much ‘swept under the carpet.’ Forgotten war? It was never known.’

It was agreed that we would be happy to host this and the date suggested is Friday 24 April or, failing that, Friday 17 April. Simon will contact Hamish. ST

- *Hillside art project*

Alison read out an email that Iain Fleming, Community Council Chair, had sent recently to both her and Bill Rennie, Aberdour Heritage Centre:

As you may know, an art project is planned for installation within the Hillside development. It will take the form of a series of benches placed along the cross-site path running from the Mill Farm Road entrance to the Main Street entrance by the Glebe. Much of this was agreed as part of the planning process, and the planning portal contains the relevant details.

One of the conditions for the site is that the art project must be developed in consultation with the community. However, the initial designs submitted to the council were produced without that engagement. When we received the outline, we have

objected on the basis that they appeared to have been created by external people, drawing on Aberdour's tourist image rather than its deeper historical character.

I have since had several discussions with the Cala team, particularly Ross McNee, the planning and design manager overseeing these installations. They have agreed to work with the community council and following my input, with local heritage and cultural groups as part of that engagement—hence my email to you both.

It became clear in these conversations that much of the work needed to identify Aberdour's historical "fabric" already exists, such as the church tapestries and other projects from that period. It may therefore be helpful to review these materials from your perspectives to suggest and agree what elements should be carried forward into the new artwork.

The plan is for four benches across the site, each potentially reflecting a distinct theme. The work will be delivered by Ratho Forge, which produces outdoor sculptural pieces for Cala and other artists across Scotland. They also created the sculpture at the entrance to Inchcolm Green, which, while technically impressive, had no real connection to the community—likely the reason consultation requirements were added for this development.

I will be raising the art project at the next community council meeting on Wednesday, 3 December, and would appreciate the chance to speak with you both beforehand or during the meeting about how best to proceed.

Attached to the email were some words about the village and some images of the benches, all of which focus on the tourism aspect of the village, yet we know there is much more to Aberdour than that!

Simon is going to attend the Community Council meeting on behalf of ACA – Alison will let Iain know – and asked for suggestions for images for the four benches. Suggestions included: Inchcolm, St Fillan's, a paddle steamer (this is one of the images suggested already by the designers), the castle, the beach, sport (particularly shinty, as the club is the biggest and most successful in Scotland), HMS Tarlair, the Aberdour Festival logo, quarrymen's tools. The most popular at the meeting were: Inchcolm, a paddle steamer, shinty and HMS Tarlair. It was commented that there is a sign at the entrances to the village from Dalgety Bay and Burntisland that contains an image of both St Fillan's and the castle; David is going send this to Simon, together with the logo for Inchcolm that is used on the St Fillan's website, and Diana will send Simon an image for HMS Tarlair.

ST/AC

**DG
DM**

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 26 January 2026, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute – after the AGM.

Minutes copied to:

Steven Blench, June Bouaoun, Ingried 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.