

Minutes of Committee meeting 119  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 26 January 2026, following AGM at 7.30pm

**Action**

**PRESENT:**

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, June Bouaoun, Anna Canning, Dot Clark, David Graham, Helen Jamieson, Ruth Murray.

**Apologies**

Frank Glynn, Susan Hunter.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (24 November 2025) were approved.

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,842 in the bank account. Changes since the last meeting relate to income of £287 in donations at the storytelling event, £34 in donations at the words and music event, £35 for *Rambles* book sales and £12 for *Listen Up!* book sales. Expenditure was £200 for the storytelling event, £40 for the boat club booking for the words and music event, and £15 for a gift for Fiona McElhinney to thank her for independently examining our accounts for last financial year.

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

- *Primary School poetry*  
This item is kept on the Agenda ready for launch of the next competition.
- *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, the plaque by the former Forthview Hotel needs cleaning, and the lettering on the stone in the Castle garden needs looking at. Once this work has been done, we will consider printing a new trail leaflet.

Simon Taylor has suggested to the Local 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it would be good to add to its agenda an overhaul of the interpretation boards around the village, which are seriously out of date. Nothing has been heard from Fife Coast and Countryside Trust regarding the inappropriate siting of the information board at Black Sands.

- *ACA website*  
David Graham has added a new page with links to St Fillan's and other groups in the village, and to other local cultural organisations - <https://aberdourcultural.org.uk/links/>  
He asked that people have a look and flag up if they think there is anything missing.

**ALL**

Simon asked whether David might include a link to the St Fillan's Church website's information about names, and missing names, on the Church Hall war memorial.

**DG**

- *Church Hall war memorial – missing names*

At the end of November, Alison emailed Iain Fleming, Chair of the Aberdour Community Council, but has not heard back from him, so is now trying to progress this via Bill Henderson and the St Fillan's Kirk Session. Adding the missing names would be via a new plaque (not an addition to the existing one, which is owned by Fife Council), so it would be up to St Fillan's, which owns the building, to approve it.

AC

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

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

- *HMS Tarlair*

The latest version of the third edition of *Listen Up!* is still with Liz Short. Alison has been investigating selling the book (particularly the remaining copies of the second edition) via the Scottish Local History Forum website and discussed this with Fiona McElhinney. Looking at what we paid per book for the recent re-prints and the amount ACA receives after fees are deducted by SLHF (and Amazon for sales via that site), we need to think about increasing the price of the book. Alison is going to ask Liz whether the present price tag of £6.99 could be taken off the cover of the third edition.

AC

Diana Maxwell went along to the primary school fair on 6 December and sold four copies of the book there, but felt it was not really a suitable event at which to sell that sort of publication.

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

This is still with Alison.

AC

- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*

This is still with Simon to prepare a final version.

ST

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

David spotted a couple of errors in the book, which he corrected and then Alison resubmitted the manuscript to Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing – which rejected it on the basis that some of the words on the cover and page 1 were illegible. After an online chat and then a telephone call, Alison was told that the person she spoke to on the phone would recommend that the latest version was approved, but it has just been rejected again. It is particularly frustrating as these pages were approved in September and have not changed since. Alison will follow this up.

AC

The book is to be launched formally on Friday 20 February in the Institute, with a talk by Simon – *Rambles around Rambles*. Frank Glynn is going to play at the event, too. John Burrell has very kindly agreed that we can use his projector, and Alison will contact Tony Pearce to see whether we might borrow his mic and speaker. Alison will put together a poster to advertise the event.

AC/ST

- *Music and poetry evening*

This took place in the boat club on Saturday 29 November, and we were joined by the young people again. We were a little down on numbers and donations did not cover the cost of hire. Unfortunately, it was extremely cold in there (one person left early because of it), and Alison contacted the boat club about this afterwards. We hope to hold the next event on Saturday 9 May.

- *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*

We held the storytelling event with Beverley Bryant on Friday 16 January in the Institute. Beverley brought two musicians with her – Celtic Spirit – and the evening was a great success, with really positive feedback. We would be keen to host a similar event with Beverley again at some point.

- *Heritage Centre touch table*

June reported that the touch table has now been removed from the Heritage Centre, hopefully for repair. David volunteered to contact John Burrell to see if we might be able to include all the information from the touch table on our own website, as we believe there must be a separate copy of it all other than on the touch table.

DG

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*

The survey results were presented in the Foresters Arms in December. Simon is going to contact Alex Turner to see how we might access that information, and will also mention the interpretation boards.

ST

Simon is to circulate his list of and report on the village's interpretation boards.

ST

- *Blackie House Library and Museum visit*

Simon is still waiting to hear from Bill Zachs, the owner, regarding an ACA visit.

- *Herman Melville presentation*

Alison put the Festival team and Kenny Munro in touch with one another, but does not know whether anything has come of that.

Alison reported that Ronnie Mackie, who is behind the Kinghorn Whale Park project, had been in touch with her to say that he is in a band and they would be keen to come and play (they played in the boat club last year). We wondered if we might ask him to come to Aberdour to give his talk on Whales in the Forth, and perhaps play some music then. Alison will get in touch with him.

AC

- *Talk by Hamish Brown*

Hamish Brown's talk is to take place on Friday 24 April in the Institute and Alison has submitted a BYOB application for it. We wonder whether Hamish might know someone who could play some music on the night – words and music seem to be a winning combination! Simon will contact Hamish.

ST

- *Hillside art project*

Simon attended the Community Council meeting on 3 December with suggested images for the four benches to be installed in the new Cala Hillside development. He does not know where this has got to now and is going to contact Iain Fleming about it.

ST

Simon will also ask about having Community Council minutes available online, where they would be easily accessible, rather than just in the noticeboard outside the library (it was noted that the minutes on display currently are from the November meeting).

ST

### **Any Other Business**

- *Beauties and Antiquities of Aberdour and Neighbourhood*

Simon received from Gordon Maxwell's collection a book about Aberdour that was written in 1869 by Mary S.L. White, Dr White's daughter, which he passed on to David. David has now digitised it and we wondered whether we might be able to republish it in the same way as we have with *Rambles*. David is going to send it to Alison for circulation with the minutes and would welcome feedback.

DG/AC/  
ALL

Carried over from the earlier AGM:

- *An evening of ballads and more*

June suggested an evening with Scott Gardiner, balladeer, Erin Farley, storyteller, and Paul Murray, local musician. The date suggested for this had been Friday 20 March, but it turns out that the Institute was already booked that evening. [Following the meeting, the date agreed upon is Friday 8 May.]

- *Fife banner*

An update from last year's AGM is that Ruth Murray and the Friday Friends group now have their Life in Fife banner on display in the church hall, thanks to Willie and Karyn Crowe.

- *Films*

It had been suggested at last year's AGM that we might host films as well as talks. There is enthusiasm for this, but we have no idea what is involved time and expense-wise. David volunteered to ask the Limekilns group about their set-up.

DG

- *Ceilidh Club*

The next Ceilidh Club event is on Sunday 15 February in the Foresters Arms, 7-9pm, led by Ingried Bousarroque.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 9 March 2026, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

Steven Blench, June Bouaoun, Ingried Boussarroque, Anna Canning, Alison Chapman, Dot Clark, Rebecca Davies, Jose Eglinton, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Susan Hunter, Helen Jamieson, Ronnie Kerr, Diana Maxwell, Ruth Murray, Liz Sutherland, Simon Taylor, ACA website.