

Minutes of Committee meeting 120  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 9 March 2026

**Action**

**PRESENT:**

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

**Apologies**

Ingrid Boussaroque, Susan Hunter.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (26 January 2026) were approved.

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £2,114 in the bank account. Changes since the last meeting relate to income of £201 in donations at the *Rambles* launch night, £175 for *Rambles* book sales, and £5 in *Listen Up!* book sales. Expenditure was £63 for 30 author copies of *Rambles* and £45 in gifts for the launch night.

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

- *Primary School poetry*

This item is kept on the Agenda ready for launch of the next competition. Alison will contact the school in the next few weeks to start the ball rolling for this year.

**AC**

- *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 - once this work has been done, we will consider printing a new trail leaflet.

Prior to the meeting, Alison circulated a report on the two main visitor-information and interpretation boards, one at and one opposite the station and car-park entrance, put together by Simon Taylor. Simon had already 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it would be good to add to its agenda an overhaul of the interpretation boards around the village, which are seriously out of date, and it may be that this could be a joint project for the CAP group and the Community Council. It was suggested that perhaps some of the money being used for upgrade of the Silver Sands area might be put towards new boards. Simon will write to the CAP group again, as well as the Community Council and local councillor David Barratt.

**ST**

Jose Eglinton had contacted Alison before the meeting to note that in Linlithgow there are three large locked notice boards (the key holder is the Town Manager) where local news flyers can be put up. Jose suggested that something similar would be good for Aberdour, containing all the information visitors might need. It was noted that there are already two boards like this in the village, one at Silver Sands and one at Black Sands, but we are not sure who looks after them – possibly the Coast & Countryside Trust.

We discussed the issue of keeping the boards updated as businesses come and go (especially cafes, pubs and hotels). No immediate solution was offered but it is something to factor into the design. It is hoped that the notice-board bases and frames can be retained.

- *ACA website*

As reported at the last meeting, 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/> If anyone spots any omissions, please let David know.

David has included a link to the St Fillan's Church website's information about names, and missing names, on the Church Hall war memorial.

- *Church Hall war memorial – missing names*

Alison has been in touch with Bill Henderson, St Fillan's Kirk Session, regarding adding a new plaque to the Church Hall with the missing names. Bill has advised that this needs to wait for Andrea Fraser (the Minister) to return from sick leave.

- *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!* came back from Liz Short to Alison and Diana and is now back with Liz again. Alison has asked Liz to remove the price from the book cover.

Diana has noticed people looking at the plaque attached to her house and wondered whether it might be a good idea to include a sign telling visitors that they can buy a copy of *Listen Up!* from her if they walk round and knock on her door.

**DM**

Alison is going to ask the Sands Café whether they might have the Hawkraig Trail leaflets on display for people to take when they are visiting the café.

**AC**

Alison reported that *Listen Up!* is now listed for sale on the Scottish Local History Forum website.

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

This is still with Alison: she has now started working through it and will look at Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing and possible formats for it.

**AC**

- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*

Simon is going to send the final version to Alison, with a view to getting it published. It was suggested that we might post it online in pdf format – one document covering the whole volume as well as separate documents for the different sections. We will also look at whether we might publish this via Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing, as we did with *Rambles*. It was thought that people would prefer to read a paper copy rather than online, and, also, might not want to print a pdf file themselves.

**ST/AC**

We need to think about a cover for the book and, also, whether there are any suitable photographs that might be included.

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

The revised manuscript was resubmitted to Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing and 30 author copies were ordered, which were all sold at the launch night on 20 February. It was a great evening, really well attended, and we are grateful to Frank Glynn, John Burrell and Tony Pearce for their help.

Frank played music by Billy McNeil and we are now looking to digitise and publish Billy's music (see AOB).

Simon volunteered to write a piece about the book, for submission to the Scottish Local History Forum for their next newsletter. We might also think about selling it via the SLHF website.

**ST**

- *Beauties and Antiquities of Aberdour and Neighbourhood* by Mary White

Alison circulated a copy of this quirky 1869 guidebook (digitised by David Graham) with the minutes of the last meeting. It was suggested that we might look at publishing it via Kindle Direct Publishing. It would be good if we had some illustrations to go with it.

**AC/ST/  
DG**

- *Talk by Hamish Brown*

Hamish Brown's talk is now to take place on Friday 10 April in the Institute (date changed as Arthur Lloyd is repeating his Festival talk on the street names of Aberdour on Friday 24 April). This will be just a talk, with no music. Simon is going to speak to him to establish what equipment he might need and also whether he wants to sell copies of his book *East of West, West of East*, which his talk is based on. It was suggested that we buy a voucher for Hamish as a thank you.

**ST**

- *An evening of ballads and more*

An evening with Scott Gardiner, balladeer, Erin Farley, storyteller, and Paul Murray, local musician will take place on Friday 8 May. Alison has booked the Institute, with BYOB licence, for this. It was agreed that we would pay Scott £180 for the night (to be shared with Erin) and buy a Drinks Cabinet voucher for £20 for Paul Murray. Alison will get in touch with them again nearer the time for information and images for a poster to advertise the event.

**AC**

- *Music and poetry evening*

We had hoped to hold the next event in the boat club on Saturday 9 May, but as the evening of ballads and music is on Friday 8 May, we will postpone the boat club event until later in the year. The date suggested is Saturday 29 August. Diana will check with George, and Alison will check availability of the boat club.

**DM/AC**

- *Ronnie Mackie / Whales*

Alison has been in touch with Ronnie Mackie, who is behind the Kinghorn Whale Park project, to ask whether he might come to Aberdour to give his talk on Whales in the Forth, and perhaps play some music, too. He is keen to do this and will be back in touch when he returns from Sri Lanka.

- *Storytelling*

We would like to arrange another evening with Beverley Bryant – to be looked at again later in the year.

- *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).

- *Heritage Centre touch table*

David contacted John Burrell and established that he has a copy of all the information on the touch table. Alison asked Bill Rennie whether we might include some of it on the ACA website and he responded to say that the group would be meeting with Annie Brown at the beginning of March – to consider the future for the touch table as well as to think about how information might be presented in the event of the table being unavailable in the future – and would get back to Alison after that. Alison will forward Bill's email to Simon. We are keen for the information to be as accessible as possible.

AC

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*

As reported earlier, Simon has suggested to the CAP group that update of the interpretation boards would be a good project for them to undertake, and will contact them again.

ST

It was suggested that another project for them might be to set up an online village calendar, so that all groups can see what other groups are doing, and thus avoid four events happening on one night! Simon will mention this when he emails the group about the boards.

ST

Alison reported that Ingried Boussaroque has advised that there will now be regular meetings of the CAP group, on the last Tuesday of each month in the Foresters.

Liz is going to send Alison a link to the CAP website, which Alison will send out with the minutes of this meeting.

LS/AC

- *Blackie House Library and Museum visit*

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

- *Films / community cinema*

David Graham visited the Limekilns group to find out about their set-up (report circulated with the Agenda for this meeting), but does not think it would be viable for us. Alison reported that Ingried had been in touch to say that the CAP survey showed a thirst in the village for more activities to bring everybody together outside the Festival, and movie nights were one idea that was brought forward. She said that if ACA plans to organise some movie nights, it would fill a need, and that some of the CAP funding could help if necessary, perhaps, for example, investing in a projector if the ACA planned to host regular events. She cautioned that we would need to check whether it is legal to show a film in public without paying any copyright fees, even if the projection is free.

After some discussion, it was suggested that if the CAP group is willing to put funding towards a community cinema project, it would make sense for them to run the project themselves. Obviously, ACA would be happy to promote any events, but we don't feel it is something we have the capacity to take on. Alison will suggest this to Ingried.

AC

- *Hillside art project & ACC minutes*

In December, Simon attended a Community Council meeting with suggested images for the four benches to be installed in the new Cala Hillside development. He has followed it up with Iain Fleming, Community Council Chair, who has responded that he spoke with Cala last week and they are in the process of coming up with some production ideas shortly. The project manager was due to phone him back the following day. Iain added that all the feedback we provided was submitted and he believes the artist is working on incorporating that, still in four main themes. The aim is to have one bench in place alongside the first show home, but there is no timing for that yet.

Simon had contacted Iain Fleming regarding having Community Council meeting minutes available online rather than just in the noticeboard outside the library. He is going to chase this up.

ST

### **Any Other Business**

- *Billy McNeil's music*

Frank Glynn is working on getting Billy's music into a digital format. Once that is complete, we can think about whether to have it printed or simply available online as a downloadable document. We would like to have a formal launch night, too.

FG

- *Robin Arnott / Aberdour graves*

Robin Arnott recently published a book about various gravestones in Dalgety and is about to publish a similar book about pre-1855 gravestones in Aberdour (old and new cemeteries). He has spoken to Simon and asked whether ACA might help subsidise publication – the cost for 300 copies is £2,130. After some discussion, it was agreed that we are not in a position financially to help with this project, but it was suggested that we approach CALA on Robin's behalf to see if they might fund it. Simon will speak to Robin.

ST

(Further information follows. Robin's book may not fit the criteria, but it is probably worth applying anyway - <https://www.cala.co.uk/sustainability/building-communities/community-pledge/east-community-pledge/>. Application deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> March.)

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

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 20 April 2026, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

Steven Blench, June Bouaoun, Ingried Boussaroque, 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.