

Minutes of Committee meeting 121
Small hall, Institute
Monday 20 April 2026

Action

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), June Bouaoun, David Graham, Susan Hunter, Ruth Murray, Liz Sutherland.

Apologies

Ingried Boussaroque, Dot Clark, Rebecca Davies, Frank Glynn, Diana Maxwell.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (9 March 2026) were approved.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,966 in the bank account. Changes since the last meeting relate to income of £164 in donations at Hamish Brown's talk, £5 for a *Rambles* book sale that night and £4 for a *Rambles* book sale via Amazon. Expenditure was £275 for Institute hire for the past year, £30 donation to Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland for Hamish Brown (he abseiled off the Forth Rail Bridge, age 90, for CHSS <https://www.theforthbridges.org/news-and-blogs-from-the-forth-bridges/abseil-the-bridge/>), and £15 for a voucher for John Burrell for his help at Hamish Brown's talk.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

• *Primary School poetry*

The launch of this year's competition took place at the primary school this morning, over two assemblies with June Bouaoun in attendance. This year's theme is the Commonwealth Games (the "friendly" games), in line with the Aberdour Festival theme. We are happy, though, for the children to write about anything connected with sport. June provided examples of a haiku, a limerick and rhyming couplets to give the children some ideas. Deadline for submission is Friday 12 June and the awards assembly is taking place on Friday 19 June. A poetry reading group is meeting in the evening of Tuesday 16 June to do the judging. If anyone would like to be involved, please get in touch with Alison.

• *Poetry trail*

This item remains unchanged, the focus having been on other Agenda items. The updates to and reinstallation of some of the plaques are outstanding - once this work has been done, we will consider printing a new trail leaflet.

• *Aberdour interpretation boards*

Simon Taylor has contacted both the Community Council and the Community Action Plan group regarding overhaul of the interpretation boards. The Community Council replied that it would be more appropriate for the overhaul to be progressed through

CAP given that the CAP process has been allocated a significant level of funding to support community-led initiatives. The CAP group is to discuss this at its next meeting, but has indicated it likes the idea of a joint approach, which could be beneficial for funding and delivery. Alison commented that, as CAP is not a constituted group, it is likely that CAP would provide some or all of the funding for ACA to take on the project. We would be looking at the two boards near the station. The question was asked about who originally funded the boards. The one opposite the station and car-park entrance was funded by Dunfermline District and Fife Regional Councils with grant-aid from the European Regional Development Fund. As Regional and District Councils were disbanded in 1996, this gives an idea of just how out of date it is! The other at the station entrance was funded by the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust on behalf of Fife Council. Once Simon has heard back from CAP following its meeting next week, we might look at the cost of design and possible re-siting.

ST

- *ACA website*

David Graham has included on the ACA website a link to the CAP website.

- *Church Hall war memorial – missing names*

Alison reported that there is no further news on this. If nothing is heard in the next few weeks, she will chase it up.

AC

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

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

- *HMS Tarlair*

Alison reported that the latest version of the third edition of *Listen Up!* is still with Liz Short.

Since our last meeting, there has been one sale of *Listen Up!* via Amazon.

Alison has left a stack of Hawkcraig Trail leaflets at Sands Café. We will need to keep an eye on them in case the supply needs to be refreshed.

- *Aberdour Miscellany*

This is still with Alison, gradually inching forward ...

- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*

Simon and David have been looking at this and just need to decide on formatting and add three captions. The plan is to make available on our website a pdf for each chapter (which may lead to amendments from readers' comments) and then combine all the pdfs into one document that may be published via Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing. We would accompany that with a launch night.

ST/DG

- *Rambles around Aberdour*

Simon is going to write a piece about the book, for submission to the Scottish Local History Forum for their next newsletter.

ST

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

Alison is going to re-circulate a copy of this quirky 1869 guidebook (digitised by David) with the minutes of the meeting, for comments as well as thoughts about what illustrations might be used. Alison is going to look for suitable images, too. Once any comments have been received, we will look at whether we think it is worth republishing, via Kindle Direct Publishing.

AC

- Simon suggested that Alison brings along to the next meeting the suitcase containing photographs that were used in two fairly recent local history exhibitions. **AC**
- *Talk by Hamish Brown*
Hamish Brown's talk took place on Friday 10 April and went down very well. It is hoped that he might come back to talk to us about walking in the Atlas mountains. The suggested date for this is Friday 25 September – Simon will contact Hamish to see if he is available then. **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 advertised this via our own FB page, as well as the Aberdour Noticeboard and Dalgety Bay and Burntisland FB Noticeboards, posters up around the village, and via our email mailing list. Scott is going to let her know if any equipment is required.
 - *Music and poetry evening*
Alison has booked the boat club for the next event on Saturday 29 August. We need to ensure that George Machray and Diana Maxwell are available for this. **DM**
 - *Herman Melville / Whales*
Alison reported that Kenny Munro, Tom Hubbard and Ronnie Mackie are meeting on Tuesday 21 April with Roy Devon and Helen Pearson from the Festival committee to look at what that might do during the Festival. Alison is not going to volunteer ACA's involvement!
 - *Robin Arnott / Aberdour graves*
Simon reported that Robin Arnott is going to fund the book himself rather than applying to CALA. ACA will help advertise the book once it is published and will host a launch event. Simon, Alison and Robin have been liaising about a suitable date – end September had been suggested, but Simon is now going to suggest to Robin that we go for either Friday 16 or Friday 23 October. **ST**
 - *Beverley Bryant – storytelling*
We would like to arrange another evening with Beverley Bryant, perhaps in November. June is to contact Beverley to find a suitable Friday evening. It was noted that we will need to check that it does not clash with the village shopping/art festival event. **JB/AC**
 - *Mark Bridgeman – Trial by Jury*
Alison explained that this takes the form of Mark Bridgeman reading the prosecution and defence words from a real-life trial, then inviting attendees to discuss the case and come up with a verdict. She has been in touch with Mark and he is keen to do this in Aberdour. She thinks that his fee is £200, but can confirm nearer the time. Alison will contact Mark to see whether a Friday night in January might be suitable. **AC**
 - *Laura Hynd – photography / talk*
Alison had met with Pat Lynn recently who spoke about a talk her daughter, Laura Hynd, had given at a recent photography conference. The talk was to do with "second sleep" (the idea that many years ago people didn't sleep for the whole night, but had two sleeps and were awake and active in-between) and Laura has been taking photos when she is awake in the night, without artificial light. Pat wondered whether ACA might be interested in hosting a talk or some sort of presentation from Laura. It was agreed that this may be of interest, but that we need more information about it, for example who the target audience might be and what form the event might take. Alison will contact Laura direct. **AC**

So, a diary of events would look something like:

Friday 8 May – ballads, storytelling and music with Scott, Erin and Paul

Saturday 29 August – words and music at the boat club

Friday 25 September – Hamish Brown talk

Friday 16 or 23 October – Robin Arnott talk and book launch

Friday 6 or 13 or 20 or 27 November – Beverley Bryant storytelling

Friday 15 or 22 or 29 January – Mark Bridgeman Trial by Jury

- *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*

Simon has been in touch with Bill Rennie, who has responded that he is still waiting to see whether Annie Brown might be able to get the touch table working again. Our understanding is that John Burrell has all the images on a hard drive and that we just need permission to include some or all of them on our website. Simon will pursue this with Bill.

ST

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan (CAP)*

For possible collaboration between ACA and CAP, see under *Aberdour interpretation boards* above.

CAP is also going to look at the possibility of an online village calendar, which would be very welcome.

- *Blackie House Library and Museum visit*

Simon is going to get back in touch with Bill Zachs, the owner, regarding an ACA visit.

ST

- *Films / community cinema*

Alison suggested to Ingried that it would make sense for CAP to run the project itself. Ingried responded that CAP is not an official entity, so projects that emerge from consultations need to be taken on board by existing committees, with CAP helping and where possible providing funding. Alison responded that ACA does not have the capacity to take on this project. This item can be deleted from the Agenda.

- *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 confirmed that our ideas have been put forward.

Simon contacted Iain Fleming regarding having Community Council meeting minutes available online rather than just in the noticeboard outside the library. This is going to be discussed at the next ACA meeting, which Simon hopes to attend.

ST

- *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.

June wondered whether Fife Council might have specialist equipment that would make the digitising task easier. She is going to have a chat with Frank.

JB/FG

Any Other Business

- *Dougal Barrie*

Dougal Barrie, who died recently, was a keen photographer and it was suggested that we ask his daughter, Wendy, whether we might be allowed to stage an exhibition of his work. Perhaps Diana might contact Wendy on ACA's behalf?

DM

It was also suggested that we try to establish whether there are any spare copies of the book that Dougal produced a few years ago with pictures of local businesses current at that time. Again, maybe Diana might ask Wendy?

DM

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 1 June 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.