

Minutes of Committee meeting 122  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 1 June 2026

**Action**

**PRESENT:**

Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Dot Clark, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Helen Jamieson, Diana Maxwell, Ruth Murray.

In Simon Taylor's absence, Alison Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies**

June Bouaoun, Susan Hunter, Liz Sutherland, Simon Taylor.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (20 April 2026) were approved.

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,898 in the bank account. Changes since the last meeting relate to income of £150 in donations at the storytelling and music night at the beginning of May and £5.86 for a *Rambles* book sale via Amazon. Expenditure was £200 for the storytelling and music night (£180 for Scott Gardiner and Erin Farley, and a £20 Drinks Cabinet voucher for Paul Murray) and £29 for our website domain name renewal.

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

- *Primary School poetry*

The deadline for submission of poems is Friday 12 June and the Awards Assembly is on Friday 19 June. Alison is collecting the poems on Monday 15 and judging will take place the next evening, Tuesday 16 June. We are hoping that June Bouaoun is able to represent ACA at the Awards Assembly.

- *Poetry trail*

This item remains unchanged - once updates to and reinstallation of some of the plaques has been done, we will consider printing a new trail leaflet.

- *Aberdour interpretation boards*

Alison reported that Simon Taylor, before heading off on holiday, had heard nothing back from CAP (the Community Action Plan group) and that at the last Community Council meeting the boards had been mentioned only in passing in terms of being something for CAP. Simon is going to write to Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, cc local councillors, to seek their support.

**ST**

It was noted that there is a board at Silver Sands that is practically the same as the one by the station.

- *ACA website*

Alison reported that domain name renewal has happened.

- *Church Hall war memorial – missing names*  
Alison reported that she will now chase this up as there has been no response from St Fillan's, and Andrea Fraser, the minister, is now back at work. 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 now back with her and we just need to let Liz Short know how many copies we would like so that she can obtain quotes for printing. It was agreed that we would ask for quotes for different numbers of books. AC/DM
  
- Diana Maxwell gave Alison £5 for another *Listen Up!* sale.
  
- Diana reported that she had attended a talk by Nick Jellicoe, grandson of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe at the Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh, which was a 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary talk about the Battle of Jutland. Nick is a naval historian and his grandfather was the commander of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet in WWI. Nick said that *Listen Up!* had inspired him to write his book, *Jellicoe's War: The U-Boat Threat in World War I and the Question of Convoy*. Diana had spotted that throughout his book he referred to Hawkraig as Hawksraig, but he didn't mind her pointing it out! Admiral Jellicoe commanded the Grand Fleet and Admiral Beatty, who lived at Aberdour House, commanded the Battle Cruiser Fleet from Rosyth. To commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Jutland the grandsons of Admirals Jellicoe and Beatty together played an active part in honouring those who fought and fell at the Battle of Jutland. They also contacted and met up with the grandson of the commander of the American fleet and made contact with the grandsons of the German Fleet at Jutland in the hope that they could all meet together.
  
- *Aberdour Miscellany*  
This is still with Alison ... AC
  
- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume*  
Alison reported that Simon is still waiting for full information about the two paintings in the Introduction and that once he has these we will be ready to go. ST/DG
  
- *Rambles around Aberdour*  
Alison reported that Simon is in the process of writing a piece on *Rambles* for the Scottish Local History Forum magazine. ST
  
- *Beauties and Antiquities of Aberdour and Neighbourhood* by Mary White AC  
Alison is still to look for suitable images.
  
- Alison will bring along to the next meeting the suitcase containing photographs that were used in two fairly recent local history exhibitions. AC
  
- *An evening of ballads and more*  
Alison reported that the evening with Scott Gardiner, balladeer, Erin Farley, storyteller, and Paul Murray, local musician, on 8 May went very well and they would be keen to come back for a repeat performance.
  
- *Events coming up*  
Alison reported that events now in the diary are:
  
- Saturday 29 August – words and music at the boat club*

Diana confirmed she and George are both available for this.

*Friday 25 September – Hamish Brown talk on walking in the Atlas mountains*

*Friday 23 October – Robin Arnott talk and book launch, Aberdour graves*

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

To be confirmed.

**JB**

*Friday 22 January 2027 – Mark Bridgeman, Trial by Jury*

- *Moby-Dick returns to Fife*

Alison reported that Ronnie Mackie, citizen scientist, Dr Tom Hubbard, cultural historian and author, Kenny Munro, sculptor, and Dr Ainsley McIntosh, an expert on Herman Melville and Robert Louis Stevenson, will be taking part in an event during the Aberdour Festival (Monday 3 August), which will be an evening of whale talk, music and discussion – where past, present and future whale-related activities link arts and sciences across Fife. Alison is going to introduce the speakers on behalf of ACA and will help promote the event, but the Festival team will take responsibility for producing posters, etc.

**AC**

- *Laura Hynd – photography / talk*

Alison has been in touch with Laura Hynd to find out more information and this is part of Laura's response:

The work takes the form of photographs made in a domestic setting in the dead of night. Long exposures... 30mins, 40 mins, sitting with the darkness and the ambient street and moonlight seeping through the windows. The camera opens up the darkness to allow the eyes to see the beauty and detail. The work is inspired by 'the watch' time of night pre-industrialisation, when many in Britain had two sleeps each night, waking in the dead of night was a normal part of life.

I recently wrote an academic research piece for a conference on darkness in photography, which takes the form of a 20 min presentation of the work (on projector or screen) while I explain my motives, research, personal investment in the subjects and the photographs themselves.

My mum mentioned sharing locally, rather than simply the photography world and thought maybe your group might be interested.

I do not have a target audience as such. As with a most art and personal work, some will be interested and some will not, which is a good thing 😊.

Apologies if this is vague. I am happy to present the work and take questions about my project and practice.

It is not directly linked to Aberdour, of course and understand if this is not something you would like to pursue at this time.

It was agreed that this is something that may be of interest, but that a 20 minute presentation would not be enough for a full evening. We wondered if we might perhaps

be able to have an exhibition of Laura's work as well as her presentation, or perhaps we could have some music to run alongside the exhibition/presentation. Alison will contact Laura to see what she thinks and, also, send links to her Facebook and Instagram pages to other members of the group.

AC

- *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).

ST

- *Heritage Centre touch table*

Alison reported that Simon spoke to Bill Rennie briefly after the last Community Council meeting. The touch table is working again and Bill said that he would be open to the idea of us including some of the touch table information and images on our website. We think it would be a good way to signpost website visitors to the Heritage Centre. Simon suggested that he sets up a meeting with Bill, David Graham and Alison to discuss this further.

ST

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan (CAP)*

CAP is, apparently, to look at the possibility of an online village calendar, but no more has been heard about that.

- *Blackie House Library and Museum visit*

Bill Zachs, the owner of the Library and Museum, has suggested early afternoon on Wednesday 10 June for an ACA visit. Unfortunately, six people have already indicated they are unable to make that date. Alison is to get back in touch with Bill Zachs to see whether we might visit later in the year, after the Edinburgh Festival, perhaps in September or October.

AC

- *Hillside art project & ACC minutes*

No more has been heard about the new benches/artwork in the Cala Hillside development.

Simon spoke to Iain Fleming after the most recent Community Council meeting regarding ACC minutes being available online rather than just in the noticeboard outside the library. Iain said that minutes have not been put online so far as there may be data protection issues, but that he will follow this up.

- *Billy McNeil's music*

Frank Glynn reported that he has digitised seven of Billy's pieces of music and has one more to go. It is a very time-consuming process and Frank is not able to take on digitising more than the eight pieces. He will speak to June, though, to see whether she knows of anyone, perhaps Fife Council, who might have specialist equipment available that could be used.

Once the eight pieces of music are complete, we would like to make them available as a pdf file on our website, together with a few words or personal stories associated with each tune. We would like to have a launch night, too, and wonder whether it would be possible to record the tunes on the night, to be available on our website, too. Frank is going to speak to Billy about all of this.

FG

It was suggested that people who may be able to play on the night or to provide stories to accompany the tunes are Roger McAndrew, Paul Murray, Frank, and obviously Billy himself. Diana mentioned a tune called Dougal's Road, which Billy played at Dougal Barrie's funeral, and wondered whether that might be included.

- *Dougal Barrie*

Wendy Barrie, Dougal's daughter, has written a piece about Dougal for the *Village News*, which Alison will forward to the editors.

Diana has spoken to Wendy and she is keen on the idea of staging an exhibition of Dougal's work. Diana has also discovered that there is a copy of Dougal's photography book in the library. It was suggested that we have a look at the book to see if there is any indication of how it was published (maybe via Blurb or a similar self-publishing site?) and that, with Wendy's approval, we might look at producing more copies, perhaps via Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing.

AC/DM

### **Any Other Business**

- *Changes at St Fillan's*

It was noted that there is a proposal for changes to the use of the church, with services to be held in the Church Hall and the church itself being used for services only at special times such as Christmas, as well as for weddings, funerals, etc. The church would remain open every day to visitors. This proposal does not appear to have been widely shared, it will be interesting to see whether there is anything about it in the upcoming *Village News*.

- *St Fillan's anniversary*

Alison noted that a Service of Thanksgiving is to be held in St Fillan's on Sunday 2nd August at 3pm to mark 100 years since the re-opening of the church and that Andrea, the minister, is looking for photographs, stories, memories, orders of service from special moments over the years. It is a shame that the Service is being held at the same time as one of the busiest days of the Aberdour Festival, when the Donkey Brae run and Village Market will be taking place.

- *Frank Tollick*

It was noted that Frank died recently. He was a supporter of ACA, a keen proponent of medieval singing, and an Aberdour character who will be missed.

- *Data centre at Auchtertool*

It was noted that planning permission in principle for a data centre campus has been submitted. This is a huge structure comprising data buildings, electricity substations, etc., dwarfing the small village of Auchtertool. More information here - [Auchtertool Data Centre](#)

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

Assuming Simon is available, our next meeting will be held on:  
Monday 10 August 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.