

Minutes of Committee meeting 124
Small hall, Institute
Monday 21 September 2026

Action

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Wilson Hamilton, Ruth Murray.

Simon Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Wilson Hamilton as it's the first time he's joined us.

Apologies

Ingried Boussaroque, Dot Clark, Rebecca Davies, Susan Hunter.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (10 August 2026) were approved, with a note that Wilson is David Hamilton's nephew, not his son.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,823 in the bank account. Changes since the last meeting relate to income of £35 in donations at the boat club event, and expenditure of £25 for booking the boat club and £35 annual renewal of our Scottish Local History Forum membership.

Diana Maxwell suggested that ACA might apply to the Community Council for funding for future projects, such as re-printing *Listen Up!* or publication of the *Miscellany*.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

- *David Hamilton's Aberdour memorabilia*

David Hamilton's nephew, Wilson, talked about the vast collection of Aberdour memorabilia that David had accumulated over the years, including many hundreds of postcards. David died earlier in the year and Wilson is currently going through the items in his collection with a view to cataloguing them. Simon suggested we might look at a joint exhibition, sometime next year perhaps, including maps and photographs that ACA has alongside some of David's collection. It was also suggested that the exhibition might cover different venues and subjects, e.g. the Golf Club, the Boat Club, the Curling Club. It was also commented that it would be fantastic if there could be a museum in the village to house David's collection, but that is probably unlikely to be anything other than a dream right now!

It was agreed that once Wilson has had a chance to get a better idea of what is actually there, we will meet again to discuss the way forward.

- *Primary School poetry*

On hold now until next year.

- *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. We need to liaise with Historic Scotland about darkening the lettering on the stone in the walled garden.
- *Aberdour interpretation boards*
Simon reported that he is in touch with Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) about this, and that FCCT is re-thinking information boards in general, with a proposal to hand them over to the local community to include what it feels is appropriate. Simon has asked FCCT for clarification. ST
- *ACA website*
David Graham has added the link to Arthur Lloyd's film of his walk and talk around the village. Simon commented that people have to sign up for Vimeo to watch it, but others thought that was not the case. Alison will investigate. AC

David has also added the complete *Aberdour* Miscellany Volume 1 as one document, which sits alongside the individual chapters.
- *Church Hall war memorial – missing names*
Alison has sent another email to Andrea Fraser, minister of St Fillan's, to ascertain whether the church is in agreement with installation of a new plaque on the church hall. She received an 'out of office' response, as the minister is on holiday, but hopefully we will get a response soon. AC
- *Publication of Rev. Johnstone's history of Aberdour*
This is on hold until Simon can dedicate more time to it.
- *HMS Tarlair*
We are still waiting for printing quotes for the third edition of *Listen Up!* AC

Alison has today advertised on the ACA and Aberdour Noticeboard FB pages that we still have a number of copies of the second edition available at the special price of £5 and that we can deliver if local.
- *Aberdour Miscellany Volume 2*
This is still with Alison ... gradually inching forward. AC
- *Aberdour Miscellany Companion Volume (Volume 1)*
As reported earlier, we now have a link on the Books page of our website to a pdf containing all the chapters, as well as pdfs of the individual chapters. We may consider selling the complete version via Amazon, as with *Rambles*, and Alison suggested that we might perhaps look at getting a printed copy via a local printer – she will investigate. AC

Simon has offered to give a talk on this next year. ST
- *Rambles around Aberdour*
Simon is writing a piece on *Rambles* for the Scottish Local History Forum magazine. ST

Alison reported that it is not easy on the Amazon website to ascertain how many sales there have been via Amazon/Kindle Direct Publishing. She will investigate, as well as checking how many physical copies we had printed and how many we have left. AC

[There were six sales via Amazon between January and April this year. We had 80 copies printed and have 11 left.]

- *Beauties and Antiquities of Aberdour and Neighbourhood* by Mary White
Alison has found a number of images from our own collection that may be suitable and she and David will look online for pictures of areas mentioned that are not in Aberdour.

AC/DG

There was a question regarding copyright for both the text and photographs. Simon confirmed that once a book is over 100 years old there are no copyright issues, and unlikely to be any issues with the old photographs, but we will ensure we credit sources wherever possible.

- *Events*
Alison reported that, unfortunately, Hamish Brown is not well enough to give the planned talk on Friday 25 September, but hopes to reschedule for next year. We had not put out a poster for this event, but it had been mentioned in an email, so we need to make sure people don't turn up on the night – Alison will send an update via our mailing list.

AC

Events now in the diary are:

Friday 23 October – Robin Arnott talk and book launch, Aberdour graves
Robin's daughter is going to present the talk.

Friday 20 November – An evening with Barbara Dickson (Ronnie Kerr)
Alison reported that this event is going ahead, on Friday 20 November (the week before the Beverley Bryant event). She has submitted forms for BYOB and hall booking and is meeting with the relevant Fife Council manager next week to sign it all off.

AC

The evening will run as follows:

Part One. Five Fife-themed poems from the multi-media show Positively Forth Street interspersed with five songs from Alasdair Dow, who sang at the Christine Muir event (40 mins).

Part Two. Graham Spiers in conversation with Barbara, and she will sing two songs – one at the beginning and one at the end of the interview (50 mins).

All of the poems and songs in Part One chime with each other, and Ronnie Kerr has also tried to ensure there's a continuing thread between Parts One and Two, so that the whole evening works as one.

It is not going to be a cheap evening to host, but Ronnie has assured us there will be no financial loss to ACA.

Alison will set up an Eventbrite link for selling the tickets. A price of £15 had been suggested, but it will be tight to cover all costs at that price. After some discussion, it was suggested that £20 would be better, and that people would be happy to pay that. We will allocate 80 tickets (though the hall will hold 90 people at a push) and advertise them locally initially – via Facebook and our email mailing list.

AC

We will need to wait for Ronnie to return from holiday for a poster and more information to advertise the event, but Alison will put out a “save the date” message before then.

AC

Friday 27 November – Beverley Bryant storytelling, with Celtic Spirit

Friday 22 January 2027 – Mark Bridgeman, Trial by Jury

Laura Hynd – photography / talk

After the last meeting, Alison contacted Laura again and Laura is going to come up with suggestions for the format of the evening, for sometime next year.

John Burrell – film/slide show

We hope to organise something for next 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, Sailors Well, the Ballast Bank).

- *Heritage Centre touch table*

Bill Rennie has stated that the Heritage Centre group is not keen for us to display the touch table information on our website, suggesting that there are not hordes of people wanting to look at old photos online and that they would prefer to visit in person. This item can now be deleted from the Agenda.

AC

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan (CAP)*

No news on the possibility of an online village calendar.

Copies of the CAP plan are available in the Institute and library.

- *Blackie House Library and Museum visit*

A number of us visited the Blackie House Library and Museum on Thursday 10 September, and it was a great event – Bill Zachs was a generous host and has a truly fascinating collection of books, maps and other items. It is definitely worth a visit, but note that visits are by appointment only.

We hope to organise another ACA outing. Simon is going to contact Andrew Dowsey at the Fife Archive, and Ruth is going to look into accessibility at Little Sparta.

ST/RM

- *Billy McNeil’s music*

Frank reported that Billy has chosen seven of the digitised pieces of music that he would like to publish, and has someone lined up to digitise another three, so there will be ten pieces of music in total. It was suggested that Frank, Simon, Alison and Diana meet with Billy to ask for a few thoughts on each piece and, also, whether he can suggest anyone else to add a few words. It was also suggested that we might have a photo of him for the cover of the printed document. Frank is going to suggest a date for meeting.

FG

Once the pdf has been produced, it would be good to have a launch night, with local people playing the pieces.

- *Dougal Barrie*

Diana has spoken to Wendy who is keen on the idea of staging an exhibition of Dougal’s work, and also about the possibility of producing more copies of Dougal’s book on Aberdour businesses and characters (from 2016 – there is a copy in the library), but

Wendy has been away so there has not been the possibility to discuss it further. If we could access digital images from Dougal's book, and other images by him, we could put on an exhibition, perhaps with a talk by Wendy about Dougal.

DM

Any Other Business

- *Aberdour paths and signs*

Steve Newsom has been in touch on behalf of the Aberdour Trailblazers, who come under the banner of the Aberdour Climate Action Network and are one of the recipients of Community Action Plan group funding, with a view to meeting to exchange notes on activities around path maintenance, improved signs to footpath routes, and centralised publication of walk information and guidance. Simon is going to meet with them on behalf of ACA.

ST

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 2 November 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.