



**Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee  
held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 31 January 2024**

**Present:**

Paul Barlow, Peter Davies, David Gass, Derek Jardine, Karen Lamb (Minutes), Katy Miller (Treasurer), Sarah Sinclair (Chair)

**1. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Bob Hunter, Andrew Clark, Hannah Crowe, Francesca Stuart, Julie Devine.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 22 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Agreed to be an accurate record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Since the last meeting the Skirling Rocks event, Christmas eve event and Hogmanay ceilidh had all taken place.

The hall has been fairly busy including a toddler parent/guardian group.

Thanks to Peter Davies for the small hall carpet cleaning. Thanks also to Sue Davies for the running repairs on the curtains.

It was agreed Sarah & Peter would investigate the cost of blinds for the windows.

**5. FINANCE**

Katy Miller reported that the village hall had £26,600 in the bank account. This was up from £26,300 at the beginning of January. Members were reminded that £12,600 of this was from the playpark and £150.00 belonging to lunch club.

There has been an approach for hall use for 1:1 work with children and also for a person wishing to hire the hall for their guitar practice. This has been agreed at £18.00 for 3 hours on Saturday. Sarah would open up.

Outgoings relate to broadband, cleaning and a couple of minor things.

Sarah has given readings to the electricity supplier which are still below the threshold for 20% VAT.

Sarah has also been in touch with Business Stream about the water rates exemption.

Sarah had also completed the OSCR annual return (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator).

A form relating to the use of the hall for elections has also been returned to Scottish Borders Council.

## **6. BOOKING FORM CHANGES**

The Committee agreed that the booking form should be updated to reflect a request from a regular user wishing to keep the heating on overnight. This would be one overnight only during the colder months to avoid issues with the cold affecting sewing machines. The insurance company has cover would not be affected as long as *reasonable precautions* have been taken. The group are to be given specific parameters. This includes:

- keeping any equipment or material a safe distance from the heat source
- keeping overnight heating on at low e.g. 12 degrees)
- all electrical equipment is switched off

The form and t&c would be changed to include this.

Sarah confirmed to members that the IEEE (fixed wiring) has been tested.

## **7. MAINTENANCE**

**Main hall doors** - due to ability of toddlers to exit the main hall a parent (who is a carpenter) will fit an appropriate child lock on the door. This will be operable from both sides of the door. He will also look at completing the porch skirting.

It was agreed to look at any paint jobs in the spring when the weather improves.

**Maintenance day** - March 10 or 17 to be suggested for maintenance morning. KL to circulate dates.

## **8. SOCIAL EVENTS**

Members were asked to consider any future village events. Suggestions included:

Skirling Rocks #3 - Mighty Joes, Jim Duncan and another.

Cocktail evening - Derek/Katy/Francesca to discuss.

All other suggestions are welcome.

## **9. AOCB**

Katy asked anyone with suggestions for The Tweeddale Community News (in relation to Skirling) to let her know. The publication came out quarterly and it was felt that the village should have a presence. Sarah agreed to write something.



Member contact preferences: members agreed that a combination of WhatsApp and email was the best option for all.

Peter reported that £150.00 had been raised from the ceilidh for cancer research as well as a hall donation. Thanks to all involved in putting on the event and those who came.

Federation of Village Halls - following on from the last meeting Paul reported that it had been decided to appoint a Development Officer who will be tasked with setting up a website which will service all the halls in the Scottish Borders area and will include useful information in relation to running halls (policies etc).