

**Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee  
held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25 September 2024**

**Present:**

Paul Barlow, Andrew Clark, Hannah Crowe, Peter Davies, Bob Hunter, Derek Jardine, Karen Lamb (Minutes), Katy Miller (Treasurer), Sarah Sinclair (Chair), Francesca Stuart

**In attendance:**

John Fawcitt, Sairah Fawcitt

**1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting including John and Sariah Fawcitt who were interested in joining the committee at the forthcoming AGM.

Apologies received from Dave Gass.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – HELD 26 JUNE 2024**

Agreed to be an accurate record – figures to be updated from KM. KL would then send an updated minute out to all members.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**4. COMMUNITY TARTAN**

Scottish Borders Council had issued each village hall with a framed square of a specially designed tartan to commemorate those affected by Covid. Members were invited to view this at the end of the meeting and agree the proposed site for hanging.

**5. FINANCES**

Opening balance of £15,868, closing balance £14,389. This is a deficit of nearly £1,500 and unsustainable, hence the need to increase hall fees. Members should note, £12,000 is also in the account held in reserve for a village play park and which will hopefully be transferred to the new Community Trust in the 2024-2025 financial year.

**6. FUTURE HIRE CHARGES**

It is proposed that hall charges rise to offset the costs. There has been no increase for 9 years and given rising energy costs it is appropriate to look at increasing these now. Proposals will be put forward for acceptance at the AGM. Members agreed.

Current costs:

- Small hall session: £12.00 for small hall (3 hours).
- Kitchen: £5.00
- Main hall: £18.00 per session (3 hrs)

Soup and sew – proposal for a flat rate for overnight heating (low of 12-13 degrees). SS to consider based on energy and will present suggestion at AGM.

Monthly outgoings are cleaning, broadband charges and electricity, the latter amounting to £360/month. There was a refund of £700 due to the amount of direct debit being higher than the actual usage from 1.7.2023 and 30.6.2024.

SS had agreed a 3 year fixed cost for energy with E -on. Based on usage the average spend is likely to be £240.00/month.

Hall costs are £5,033 in the year, with income £5,461. The hall is just covering costs. Increasing hall use and reducing energy costs will help improve this. Final figures will be presented at the AGM.

SS/KM confirmed reserves are currently £10K. A n updated reserves policy will be finalised at the AGM. Peeblesshire Federation of Village Halls can help with this.

## **7. FUTURE EVENTS**

Potential future events include:

- A further band night/live music – the Committee can apply for funding to pay for the band. Suggested this take place mid November. FS will speak to Robert Armour about this. FS/DJ will organise.
- Christmas tree decorating – first Sunday in December
- Wreath making
- Pottery – for up to 20 people. Availability to be checked. If not feasible before Christmas, possibly something for the spring.
- Advent windows – FS/KM to lead on this. Noted that Jim Duncan has offered to decorate the hall windows in a frieze. FS to investigate cost/what this involves.
- Christmas eve event for the village had been a success last year and it was hoped it could be repeated. Suggested a pot luck arrangement to help with catering.
- Ceilidh (noted Municipal are having a ceilidh 15 November). Suggested that Jonny/Helen can assist. Also noted that Robert Armour and Kieron O'Neill can provide ceilidh music
- Possible events during the day e.g. day time dances

## **8. SKIRLING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

OSCR have responded looking for further information on the application to become a SCIO and Dave Gass has replied to them. It is to be noted that Dave is putting a lot of work into this, that it is looking positive, and that we should know what is happening by the AGM in November.

## **9. HALL LEGAL STATUS**

As a result of the proposed formation of the Community Development Trust the Hall Committee as discussed at the last meeting has an option to become a sub-committee of the Trust. SS had spoken to Borders Community Action. Lorna McCullough (Development Team Manager) had said that the hall as an asset of the Development Trust would not have to be subsumed into any debts, as the hall assets can only be used to meet its stated purpose under charity rules. Some members queried whether this meant that the hall would become part of the CDT assets. SS agreed to check again with Lorna.

At the last meeting the Scottish Government legislation (Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land) was discussed and which states that bodies or trustees of these bodies, owning land or having a controlling interest should be registered. This requires everyone on the committee to register and update the list when they leave. If the hall became a SCIO then it is not required to register. The options for the committee are:

- stay as a trust and register as above re controlling interest.
- become a sub - committee of the Development Trust and as it will be a SCIO, the hall members do not need to register.
- or the hall applies to be a SCIO in its own right.

SS agreed to circulate the information on the Scottish Government legislation. Further discussion to take place on the options when members have viewed the guidance and SS has spoken again with Lorna.

## **10. MAINTENANCE**

Discussed as undernoted.

## **11. OUTER LOBBY UPDATE**

The outer lobby is dry and painted. Thanks given to PD for the work on this.

## **12. KITCHEN WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT UPDATE**

The water heater in the kitchen has been replaced as the heater had rusted. It is suggested that this be turned up only when people are in the hall and turned down to ECO setting afterwards. Information to be shared with hall users.

## **13. GUTTERING AT REAR**

PB reported it was now clean/clear but cracked. SS will speak to Bob Small to discuss the obtaining and fitting of a wider gutter. We will need to arrange for shrub clearing at the rear of the hall also.

Some damp has been noticed in the corner of the large hall. BH and PD will monitor as it is anticipated this just be condensation. Table tennis tables will be moved in the short term to see if that works.

#### **14. FANS/SMOKE ALARMS**

SS had spoken to David Murray who will send information on fans.

SS to investigate smoke alarms/siting of same. BH suggested Border Safeguard.

#### **15. INSULATION MAIN HALL FLOOR**

Jack Sinclair had tried to see if firms would come in and look under the floor. No success with this to date. Only other suggestion was for a joiner to come and cut a hole in floor for access. SS to explore further.

#### **16. TOILET DOOR**

Cubicle door sticking in men's toilet. JF volunteered to plane the door.

#### **17. AOCB**

- AGM – date agreed for 20 November at 7.30pm. Format would be cheese and wine and a cake.
- Peeblesshire Federation of Village Halls. Noted that Jude McCormack has been appointed as Development Officer and started in post. Suggested that she be contacted regarding the land issue discussed earlier.
- Burns Supper – AC would look at speaker availability for 2025. It is suggested that we also investigate external catering – Caroline/Janet.

KL to ensure Minutes to up on village website