



Skirling Village Hall

Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee AGM held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20 November 2024

Present:

Paul Barlow, Andrew Clark, Peter Davies, Julie Devine, John Fawcitt, Dave Gass, Derek Jardine, Karen Lamb (Minutes), Katy Miller (Treasurer), Sarah Sinclair (Chair), Francesca Stuart

Apologies Andrew Clark and Bob Hunter

In attendance: Mike Thompson, Sue, Hannah, Jamie Gray, Dorota Donigiewicz

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF LAST AGM 15 NOVEMBER 2023

Agreed to be an accurate record.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chair read out the report for the period 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

Charity Number: SC011580 (awarded charitable status 25 November 1975)

Skirling Village Hall, Skirling, Biggar, ML12 6HD

Chair – Sarah Sinclair

Vice Chair – Francesca Bell

Secretary – Karen Lamb,

Treasurer and Booking Secretary– Katy Miller

Committee members – Paul Barlow, Andrew Clark, Hannah Crow, Peter Davies, Julie Devine, Dave Gass, Bob Hunter and Derek Jardine.

The purpose of the charity is to afford to residents in the neighbourhood of Skirling the facilities for social intercourse, instruction and recreation. The charity is administered by its constitution amended in 1999. All elections to the Management Committee are at the Annual General Meeting. In the event of a vacancy, the Management Committee has power to make an interim appointment. Present and past residents of the Parish of Skirling and the area within a mile of the parish boundary may be members. The minimum membership of the Management Committee is eleven.

The hall is well used by table tennis, Pilates, soup and sew, monthly lunch club, the toddlers' group, Community Council meetings, a weekly private booking and monthly 1st Responders' meetings (who also store their equipment). One-off bookings for parties/ meetings and fund raising events for charities also take place. Peebles Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach monthly appointment session continues to be welcome. The annual Christmas Tree decoration and craft for families is fun in December with thanks to Julie Devine, Francesca



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Bell and Katy Miller. The hall can be hired for badminton, pool and table tennis. We have wi-fi, a projector and screen.

Thank you to Peter and Sue Davies for organising the Ceilidh at Hogmanay 2023 and for carpet cleaning, outer lobby painting and curtain repairs. Thank you to Francesca Bell and Derek Jardine for organising the "Skirling Rocks" music event in November 2023 and, in advance, for a repeat event in 2025.

In 2023 the new contract for electricity doubled in cost. While we have a new contract from July 2024 with a small unit cost reduction, we are faced with having to increase our hire charges at this year's AGM. We have not increased our hall hire since the AGM in 2015.

Thank you to Paul Barlow for being the vice chairperson of the Peeblesshire Federation of Village Halls. Small grants are available from the annual grant received from Scottish Borders Council, which is provided to the four hall federations in Scottish Borders covering 96 halls.

Katy Miller, the Treasurer, will present the accounts. And a very special thank you to Katy for her valuable work as Treasurer since November 2021. It is a very important role which helps to keep the hall a viable institution. In anticipation of the election of members and office bearers to the Committee, we will welcome a very able replacement. We are fortunate that Katy will continue as hall booking secretary given her knowledge and diplomacy.

Thank you also to Karen Lamb for very ably carrying out the role of Minute Secretary.

Thank you to the Committee for their support helping to keep a community hub in the village. Thank you to Ian Whitefield who regularly mows the grass and cuts the hedge. Thank you to the people of Skirling and beyond, who book the hall also enabling it to continue.

Thanks were then given to Sarah Sinclair for all her hard work as Chair.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

KM went through the financial report and confirmed that the Hall funds are £14,188.23. Members and guests were informed that there were also monies in the account belonging to the playpark.

Insurance had revalued the hall last year.

BT costs for broadband are likely to increase. Alternatives will be investigated.

Thanks were given to Mike Thompson for auditing the figures.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Gass would be standing down. All other members would remain on the Committee.



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Anyone in attendance wishing to join should let the Chair know – either tonight or later. There are 4-5 meetings per year. Members are Trustees and therefore have some liability but due to regular overview of the work and finances of the hall it is managed efficiently. The Hall Committee are currently looking to change status to a Scottish Charitable incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to reduce this liability. The topic of governance is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Thanks were given to Dave Gass for his contribution to the work of the committee.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Treasurer - It was proposed that John Fawcitt take on the role of Treasurer – agreed.

Vice Chair – Francesca Stuart agreed to remain as Vice Chair

Chair – Sarah Sinclair agreed to remain as Chair

Minute Secretary – Karen Lamb agreed to remain as Minute Secretary

Booking Secretary- Katy Miller

SS thanked the officers for continuing and welcomed John Fawcitt as Treasurer, who will also be a bank account signatory.

7. FUTURE HALL HIRE CHARGES TO BE AGREED

As stated at the last general meeting the electricity charges had not increased since 2015 and with the significant increase 3 years ago in the cost of electricity the following new rates proposed were:

£21.00 per session for the main hall (session = 3 hrs)

£14.00 per session for the small hall

£7.50 per session for the kitchen

It was noted that one off bookings in the winter may have to be a slightly higher rate. Rates are higher for those outwith the village and for businesses. For groups using the hall for a weekend where background heating is required overnight there would be an additional charge for heating. This would be for the winter only when it was colder.

Proposed rates were agreed. Current users have been informed already about the rate increasing from November.

8. RESERVES POLICY UPDATED TO BE AGREED

A copy of the proposed reserves policy had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The proposals/draft was agreed with reserves held at £10,000 .

9. AOCB

Nil.



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10. BRIEF POST AGM MEETING TO INCLUDE:

Events

December

FS/KM had organised the advent windows for the village.

Hall decoration would take place **1 December** – putting up the tree/decoration of tree. Children welcome. Time proposed - 3 pm

4 December – wreath making (bring own foliage). £5.00 donation.

19 December- carol singing 7pm-9pm in the hall.

24 December – Christmas Eve social in the hall. 6pm-8pm. All villagers invited - bring own drinks and nibbles.

The Christmas tree had been ordered. PD would put it up (outside tree).

5 January – take down of indoor decoration. Time to be confirmed.

KM contacted Andrew Clark regarding the Burns Supper. Date proposed is 31 January. External caterers will be brought in.

FS and DJ said Skirling Rocks will be February or early March. Dates to be checked to ensure no clash with Soup and Sew.

Maintenance

KM/SS updated members on the maintenance needs and updates.

Rear guttering which abuts onto the bank at the back of the hall to be repaired which Bob Small has agreed to do. Annual maintenance of the bank to reduce the shrubs and help prevent ingress will be required going forward. Laurence Miller will undertake some initial work. Jack Sinclair will liaise with Laurence re preparation for Bob Small. SS to ask Bob Small for advice on the bitumen covering where roof over storage joins the rear wall of the hall.

SS thanked everyone for attending and invited everyone to help themselves to refreshments.