



# Skirling Village Hall

## Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 26 March 2025

### Present:

Andrew Clark, Hannah Crow, Peter Davies, John Fawcitt (Treasurer), Bob Hunter, Derek Jardine, Karen Lamb (Minutes), Sarah Sinclair (Chair)

### 1. Apologies

Katy Miller, Paul Barlow, Francesca Stuart

It was noted that Dorota Dongiewicz had stood down from the Committee.

### 2. Minute of the meeting held 13 January 2025

This was agreed to be an accurate record.

### 3. Matters Arising

#### Burns Supper

SS extended a huge thanks on behalf of the Committee to Andrew Clark (and Joyce Clark plus members of the committee) for all the huge amount of work in relation to the Burns Supper in January. The event had been a great success with the catering arrangements from the Elphinstone Hotel working well.

#### Skirling Rocks

Thanks too were given to Derek and Francesca for organising **Skirling Rocks**.

Both events have made a good contribution to Hall funds.

#### TV Licence

This had been obtained for the hall primarily to provide the ability for groups of villagers to come together to watch TV events e.g. Six Nations, Eurovision etc. The licence is paid by direct debit so can easily be cancelled if it is felt that having this for a year is not worthwhile.

BH and DJ had tried out the equipment for one of the rugby matches as a test. This led to the conclusion that the signal to show live TV was not satisfactory as it stood. BH will investigate a booster to rectify this.

It was agreed that:



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- we run with a TV licence and review this time next year
- BH investigate a booster for the signal
- any events are promoted and donations requested.

## 4. Financial Statement

JF reported on finances including:

£853.00 into the account from the Burns Supper.

A £500.00 grant has been received from Borders Council from Federation of Village Halls. This was applied for by SS and goes towards the cost of insurance each year. Payment of insurance is due in June.

Skirling Rocks - £454 paid into the account.

£27,941 now in the account (remembering the playpark and lunch club monies (respectively £12,051 and £150) are also held in the same account).

Overall there is £630 more than there was in at the beginning of the year.

These events are good to keep finances healthy as without them we would not be covering costs.

Prices for hall hire are to be reviewed according to level of activity.

BH suggested ensuring that internet costs/supplier are reviewed to ensure we are getting competitive rates.

JF will send out figures.

Monies are due for work carried out cutting back vegetation at the back of the hall. Members may view this work in daylight to see what has been done and whether large shrub/tree should be removed.

It is noted that permission is required to take down any trees within a conservation area.

Thanks were given to Peter for painting the downpipe.

## 5. Legal Update

SS recapped on the village hall's intended move to SCIO status. KM and SS had met Lesley Armstrong of Smail and Ewart. Smail & Ewart required detailed information and evidence on historical hall membership (office bearers) to take this forward. It is noted there are some gaps in the most recent information. SS has



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subsequently been in touch with Lorna McCullough of the Bridge, who has suggested Blackwood & Smith who have experience of similar work for Tweedsmuir and may be able to advise if a simpler process for the eventual conveyance. SS will inform committee of outcome. SS stated will need to look at drafting new constitution for move to SCIO, draft is available on Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisation (SCVOs) website and OSCR.

BH referred to the Scottish Land Registry as they have their own template with regard to a constitution.

### **6. Maintenance**

SS suggested a maintenance morning in the next few weeks (after Easter). KL to issue some dates. Saturday or Sunday mornings (DJ not Saturdays) were felt better than an evening.

Overall it was felt to be a good start to the year.

### **7. AOCB**

It is noted that 14 June 2025 will be 700 years of Skirling – potentially have an event; perhaps talk, history, supper/drinks.

SS will let members know of pricing for conveyancing.