

**Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee
held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4 June 2025**

Present:

Paul Barlow, Hannah Crow, John Fawcitt (Treasurer), Jamie Gray, Karen Lamb (Minutes), Katy Miller, Sarah Sinclair (Chair),

1. APOLOGIES & WELCOME

Apologies received from Andrew Clark, Peter Davies, Bob Hunter, Derek Jardine, Francesca Stuart.

SS welcomed all to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 26 MARCH 2025

Agreed to be an accurate record. KL to send Sara the Minutes for the village website.

3. FINANCE

An update on finance had been emailed to members earlier in the day. This set out the current position for the village hall finances to April. It was noted the financial year ran to October.

JF reported that there is a £500 grant in the account still to be paid out for insurance. £71.00 is still to be paid into the bank.

If it is agreed that the windows need to be painted, we should investigate securing a grant once the costs are determined.

Income and costs for May to be taken into account. Currently all looks healthy. Members were reminded that the application for exemption of water charges needs to be applied for every year to Business Stream. This has been done by SS – usually January - and agreed by Business Stream.

SS has also submitted the Accounts and Receipts for year 2023 -24 to OSCRand has been have accepted

Confirmed that the email address for the hall is skirlingvhc@outlook.com

The public entertainment licence application had been submitted to Scottish Borders Council and paid for. SS will chase up licence.

5. SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Advice from Blackwood & Smith in Peebles is that the conveyance process from the current Hall trust to the new organisation set up as a SCIO is fairly straightforward

regarding who has to sign documents. Costs including Land Registry fees are likely to be over £2000.

Discussed pros and cons of becoming SCIO (Scottish Charities Incorporated Organisation).

The steps to establishing a SCIO are:

Step 1 to establish that we have title deeds, which are at Smail & Ewart in Biggar. Agree that we wish to establish the hall as a SCIO. The members agreed that this is the way forward.

Step 2 is to agree the Constitution of the new organisation and submit it, together with an application to OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) to establish the SCIO.

Step 3 if OSCR agree to the SCIO, is to apply to OSCR to reorganise and seek their agreement, as the current Hall Constitution does not give us powers to change.

Step 4 if OSCR agree to reorganise, is to transfer the asset (Hall building and land) to the new organisation.

Step 5 once conveyance completed is to apply to OSCR to wind up the current Hall trust.

Agreed SS and KM will draft constitution over summer to then share with members for early September meeting, before applying to establish SCIO (Step 2). Complete process is likely to take a year.

6. MAINTENANCE

Members were asked to confirm their thoughts on getting the windows painted. Noted that Jim Duncan and Alex Marfinescu, local painters, could be approached to provide a quotation. JG suggested another painter and would share this information in the group chat.

Still needing a maintenance morning and H&S meet up. Suggested that either 6 or 13 July (am) be proposed. KL to set up poll for final agreement.

7. AOCB

PB had attended the recent AGM of the Peeblesshire Federation of Village Halls. There is a change coming in with regards to funding and the system of ad hoc grants will cease.

PB reminded members of the new village halls website which Skirling is included on.
<https://www.scottishbordersvillagehalls.co.uk/>

The signal/broadband to be tested again before publicising any events. The next rugby matches would be in the autumn.

Events – perhaps an August pizza/summer event.