



Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 29 May 2025, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Present: Paul Barlow, Andrew Clark, Esther Daborn, Isobel Hunter, Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Councillor Eric Small, Alison Leite, Sara Van der Vat, Mike Thompson.

Apologies Katy Miller

Approval of Minutes of 27th March 2025 Proposed: PB Seconded: AC

Elections 2025

- Cllr ES confirmed election of Skirling Community Councillors as Paul Barlow, Andrew Clark, Isobel Hunter, Robert Laird, and Ross McIntyre. They were congratulated and thanked.
- The Code of conduct was signed as read and accepted by PB, RL, AC, RMc and IH. All community council members have therefore agreed to the provisions set out.

The Skirling Community Development Trust

- Mike Thompson provided the CC with a SCDT update and discussed possible sharing of responsibilities for progressing the Community Action Plan. So far there have been 3 meetings trying to clarify the role as a new group.
- SCDT has applied to the SSE Windfarm for funding to employ a group coordinator. They have drawn up a job description for the role and put together a wish list of goals based on the Community Action Plan.
- SV advised that communication needs to be open between the CC and SCDT. It was suggested that when the Coordinator is in place, that person could report to CC in order to maintain information sharing. It was suggested a coordinator could also work on other issues in the community such as 'Speed Spy' and other windfarm applications.

Action: PB agreed to be the link between CC and SCDT in the meantime.

- SCDT had a meeting with Colin MacMillan (SSE) relating to land purchase around village. He suggested applying for grant funding for consultant to advise trust on buying land suitable for a play park. ED suggested Hannah Lacon and Carol Cook can advise, also Stuart Young.

Action: ED to forward contact details to MT so that SCDT can arrange a meeting to discuss.

MT was thanked and left

Returning to AGM Business -

ES asked if anyone could be nominated to replace ED as Chair. As there have been no volunteers SV suggested the 5 existing CC members each take a turn chairing the 5 meetings in a year. All members will have access to the secretaryskirlingCC email as there is no secretary

currently. The possibility of paying a secretary was discussed as it is such a time-consuming job. SV and RMcI offered to set a new password and monitor the email.

ED will support the handover and provided handouts showing how the folders are organised. She advised that the highest effort areas are ensuring that the actions arising from the meetings are taken forward, particularly maintenance. ES suggested an action tracker. It was noted that SCDD minutes indicate there is interest in talking forward items in Themes 2,3,4,5. It is to be hoped that in time the involvement of the SCDD will reduce CC business to Funding, Police Matters and Village Maintenance.

Action: SV and RMC agreed they will monitor emails when the new password is set.

Community Action Plan

- Progress review, March 2025. PB was thanked for coordinating contributions from everyone as was Sara for putting the information on the website and sending out the village email.

1) Safe Skirling

- Joint CC Speed Spy meetings (RMcI) No update.

Action: RL will enquire again about the possibility of the Windfarm funding Speed Spy.

- Pavement routes
 - Residents of the Upper Village - views about path route and type. No update.
 - Would wind farm fund a new cinder path for the area opposite the Village Green? **Action: RL will ask again.**
- Maintenance of Skirling Mill Path - ED / SV windfarm application submitted. Waiting for outcome.

2) Well-connected Skirling

- Skirling to Broughton path working group report (RL, AC, MJ, HC, MD and AD) No update
- PB has been in touch with Sue Grey (SBC) who has advised no other assistance will be provided. PB also advised that a sign for the Old Drove Road is getting made but has been delayed by an error. **Action: AL will ask Ross Robison if he can make way markers similar to those at Broughton Knowe. It was noted that clearance from landowners is needed before they are put them up.**
- Discussions with landowner re connecting Skirling to Old Railway. RL spoke to land owners The general feeling here was that it would be impossible. **Action: AL will pursue this.**
- 91 Bus service - New timetable in action since 12th May. ED has used Facebook to ask for feedback to CC Email- none has been received thus far. IH said the service is good but the length of time between buses is too much. ES suggested sending email to Gordon Grant regarding any concerns about times.

Action: IH will do this and copy Viv Thompson who is coordinating.

3) Skirling Community Life

- Litter Pick (KM) – Went well despite the challenges of it coinciding with Mothers Day. Thanks to Katy and Andrew and all who turned out.
- Upper Tweed Community Newsletter- ED sent contribution for June edition based mostly on Kirk Matters. In future the CC report should be included. **Action: SV will put this together and change toddler details on website.**

- Car Boot Sale (IH) £1620 was raised for Christian Aid.
- Play Park – SBC contacts noted as Hannah Lacon, Carole Cook, and Stuart Young (see above) – **Action: contact details to be forwarded to MT for SCDT attention**
- ‘Community meet up’ Tweedsmuir 15th June: **Action: IH will attend.**
- Celebration of 50 years of Community Councils 22nd May (ED) – Skirling sent apologies and did not attend.
- VE celebrations – ED sent info to Facebook. A wreath was laid at memorial by Gavin Marshall (Deputy lieutenant) and a 2 minute silence was held at the Skirling Lunch.

4) Environment and Heritage

- 750 years celebration of Skirling (IH) An exhibition is being planned in due course.
- Flower tubs – slabs and planting and funding. AC will purchase 2 additional tubs for Galalaw and install slabs and tubs at Skirling Mill and at the Speed limit Changeover. SV has ring fenced £500 for this. Email to go to current plant tub adopters and request 2 extra adopters for new tubs. **Action: SV and AC will liaise.**
- Graveyard gravel and railing metalwork – AC informed the meeting that gravel had been spread by SBC and money had been received to pay David Gardner for railing. Edging has not been done but not a big deal. **Action: AC will get an estimate for repairing the stone wall in graveyard and tarring the little exposed bit on the entry to the new graveyard.**
- Car now removed from Spittal burn (ED) Thanks to Councillor Thomson for coordinating with South Lanarkshire Councillor to get that done. Signage remains in a poor state.

5) Sustainability and Resilience (PB)

- Tweeddale Flood Group – Thanks to Councillor Thomson for making the link with Colin Kerr. ED sent the information to PB.
- Burn maintenance – erosion at Schoolhouse. Link to be made between owner of land and advice from SBC Duncan Morrison (ED). RL undertook to source stones and liaise with landowner, **Action: ED to let MT know the work is in hand**

Funding (SV)

- Current balances (SV) Glenkerie has increased the amount available for individual micro grants to £400 and £1000 for groups – to be distributed by CC at their discretion.
- Windfarm request for Skirling Mill path maintenance (ED) – waiting for news.
- Request for small scheme funding – Graveyard, Footbridge (ED). We had been advised to choose some small maintenance projects that could be funded under Small Schemes as Councillors can distribute that money. It appears to have been used for the Graveyard maintenance. Douglas Ford has advised that South Lanarkshire have agreed to carry out the Splash Road footbridge repairs.

Skirling Community Council Accounts

Balance carried forward:	
SSE Clyde Windfarm Fund	£1,083.66
SSE Clyde Windfarm YBS	£250.00
Ventient Glenkerie Windfarm Fund	£873.92

SBC & other	£470.87
Total Balance	£2,678.46

- **Funding offers:**

- **Safe deposits Scotland** - Safe-deposits Scotland, the country's leading tenancy deposit protection scheme, has introduced a Community Fund to provide small grants to projects enhancing communities across Scotland (max award is £5K for each quarter). Applications can be made at [SafeDeposits Scotland Community Fund](#). There are four deadlines per year: Friday 30th May 2025, Friday 29th August 2025, Friday 28th November 2025 and Friday 27th February 2026.
- The **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** is an open grant scheme to provide community groups with the opportunity to access funding for transformative projects that enhance health, safety, and economic growth in the region. (£500,000)
The Expression of Interest form can be accessed on Scottish Borders Council website at <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/12149/expression-of-interest-form>
ukgovfunding@scotborders.gov.uk
Action: pass this information to SCDT

Police matters

- Police Reports for March and April were received. A lot of activity reported.
- Pop up Bob - Skirling will share with Lamancha, Newlands, and Kirkurd (LNK). **Action: AC will take responsibility for the Skirling part and will liaise with Chris Wood (LNK) to set up a rota.**

Remaining AGM Business

- Annual Accounts were presented by SV **Action: KM to sign off.**
- Final Handover - once the minutes have gone out, ED will withdraw from secretaryskirlingcc@gmail.com so that a new password can be set by SV and RMcI
- ED has uploaded paperwork required for CC business to the CC shared Google Drive so that everyone can access them. **Action ED to liaise with SV and RMcI on final detail**

AOB - ED was thanked for her work on the CC since joining in 2018, taking the role of Chair since 2019 and assuming the Secretary role in 2022. She asked for her interest and appreciation of the role to be minuted and wished all well going forward.

End 21.05

Meeting Dates 2025: 25th September; 27th November.