

**Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee AGM
held at 7.30 pm on Monday 17 November 2025**

Present:

Paul Barlow, Hannah Crow, Peter Davies, John Fawcitt, Treasurer, Derek Jardine, Karen Lamb (Minutes), Katy Miller (Booking secretary), Sarah Sinclair (Chair), Francesca Bell

In attendance:

Sue Davies, Mark Bambridge, Gemma Suttie, Stewart Dickson

1. Welcome/Apologies

SS welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Bob Hunter.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM Meeting 20 November 2024

Agreed to be an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising - Nil.

4. Treasurer Report – JF

This year has ended with a surplus of £1,800. Two events this year (Burns Supper and Skirling Rocks) had helped with income. Various grants through the year had helped with expenditure. JF can circulate breakdown.

Account balances:	£16,145 – Village Hall
	£21.00 – lunch club
	£12,051 – playpark

Total in account:	£28,217
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In relation to end of year accounts, all groups have been invoiced some outstanding payments still to be made, which JF will chase up.

Again, grateful thanks to Mike Thompson for independently examining the accounts.

5. Chair's Report – SS

See attached.

6. Election of Committee Members

- Andrew Clark – stood down as Committee member after many years but happy to help with certain events.
- Julie Devine – stood down as Committee member but happy to help.
- Jamie Gray – stood down as Committee member.

All other members happy to remain on the Committee: Bob Hunter, Paul Barlow, Hannah Crow, Peter Davies, John Fawcitt, Derek Jardine, Karen Lamb, Katy Miller, Sarah Sinclair, Francesca Bell

SS thanked Andrew for his many years on the Committee, which were greatly appreciated.

SS invited attendees not already members to join the committee. Approaches from villagers are welcome at any time.

7. Election of Office Bearers

All current Office Bearers agreed to remain in post.

Chair – Sarah Sinclair

Vice Chair – Francesca Bell

Treasurer – John Fawcitt

Secretary – Karen Lamb

Bookings Secretary – Katy Miller

It is noted that changing legislation mean that office bearers (trustees) will be listed on the OSCR website (Office of Scottish Charities Register) by name. This will be publicly available information.

8. Change of Legal Status

SS reminded all of the current status and the application to OSCR to become a SCIO. The history of the hall committee was summarised (a trust was set up by the Carmichaels with 3 trustees who have liability for the hall). Setting up the SCIO provides greater protection/limited liability. In addition, funders are requiring certain clauses to be in the constitution, like how funds will be disposed of in the event of the hall no longer existing. The current trust does not have the powers to change the constitution.

There will be a maximum of 10 members permitted on the Board, known as trustees.

The constitution for the new organisation has been updated following the last meeting to include the quorum requirements.

SS thanked everyone for attending.

Note of post AGM Meeting

Events

Musical Revue event this coming Saturday 22 November at 7.30 pm. So far there are 20-30 people coming. Attendees to let KM know if they are coming or know people who are. KM will let people know what help is required and when.

Delivery of **outdoor tree** will be 29 November. PD will help with this.

Indoor tree decoration proposed early December. Francesca, Katy and Hannah will agree date as may need to be Sunday 30th November.

Carols – 17 December – 7 pm. Organised by Fiona/Neil from the church.

Decorations to be taken down either before or after a party early January.

Murder Mystery – 24 January (funded by windfarm grant). Suggested charge of £10.00, BYOB. Nibbles to be provided. KM will arrange posters over Christmas.

Maintenance – Colin has finished the external painting which looks good. One of the heaters in the small hall requires to be fixed.

Hall Christmas Windows - £500 cost for J Duncan to repeat last year. Agreed if funds cover the cost. Francesca to contact Sara and the Community Council regarding a microgrant and Francesca to ask Jim how it would be best backlit.

AOCB

Dates for future meetings – agreed Mondays are a good option for future meetings.

Chairperson's Report for 1.10.2024 - 30.9.2025

Annual General Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Monday 17 November 2025
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 – John Fawcitt, **Booking Secretary** – Katy Miller

Committee members – Paul Barlow, Andrew Clark, Hannah Crow, Peter Davies, Julie Devine, Bob Hunter, James Gray 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 and Development Trust meetings and a singing group. 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 Bell and Katy Miller, while Christmas Carol singing is a welcome event in December. The hall can be hired for badminton, pool and table tennis. We have wi-fi, a projector and screen, and this year obtained a TV licence, should anyone wish to organise a viewing event.

The major fund raising this year was the Burns' Supper, after a five-year hiatus. It was as usual very ably organised by Andrew Clark, with help from members of the committee and Joyce Clark on the night. A significant sum was raised, which John has outlined in the financial report. The supper was a great success, particularly thanks to Andrew and members of the committee.

Thank you to Francesca Bell and Derek Jardine again for organising the "Skirling Rocks" music event in March 2025, which also ensured the hall finances were increased. Such events help towards our running costs: heating, lighting, insurance, cleaning and maintenance. Hall hire is of course the main source for meeting these costs.

In August we applied to Clyde Wind Farm Borders Community Fund and to Nadara Glenkerie Wind Farm Community Fund for help towards the cost of painting the outside of the doors and windows, and gutters. Our applications were successful,

and the work began in October (the next accounting year). We are very grateful to both Funds. Glenkerie must also be thanked for several micro grants during the year. During the year the Committee agreed to change the hall's legal status from a trust to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The constitution for the proposed new organisation was agreed and the deeds of the hall were checked with a solicitor (to eventually transfer the asset, which is the hall, to the new organisation). The SCIO application will be completed shortly. Thereafter, there are several steps to complete with OSCR before the new organisation is up and running. The new organisation will have similar aims as the current organisation, as outlined in the opening paragraph of this report to the AGM.

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. We were able to receive help towards the cost of insurance., for which we are grateful.

Thank you to John for his valuable work as Treasurer since October 2024, to Katy as the Booking Secretary, which is an important communication role with the community and beyond. Thank you also to Karen for very ably carrying out the role of Secretary.

Thank you to the Committee for their valuable 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 enabling it to continue.

**Sarah Sinclair, Chairperson
November 2025**