

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee
held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 3 September 2025**

Present:

Paul Barlow, Andrew Clark, Hannah Crow, Peter Davies, John Fawcitt (Treasurer), Bob Hunter, Katy Miller (Booking Secretary), Sarah Sinclair (Chair),

1. APOLOGIES & WELCOME

Apologies received from Karen Lamb, Derek Jardine and Francesca Stuart.

SS welcomed all to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 4 June 2025

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

3. FINANCE

JF tabled the latest figures to end of July 2025, at which date there were a few outstanding invoices to be paid by hirers, but income was slightly higher than outgoings. The hall has a healthy balance. It was noted the financial year ends at the end of September.

JF will prepare the end of year accounts. SS will ask Mike Thompson if he is willing again to be the independent examiner for the accounts.

SS reported she had applied to both Clyde Wind Farm Borders Community Fund and Glenkerie Fund (administered by Foundation Scotland) for £3000 towards the cost of painting the outside of the windows and doors by CB Decor, as previously agreed by the members. It is hoped that one of the funds will make a grant by the beginning of October. The shortfall is £800. It was agreed that the Federation of Peeblesshire Village Halls be applied to for this latter sum - SS will action.

4. SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) application

The draft new constitution for the new SCIO was circulated. The draft is based on the model constitution provided by Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. While members agreed with the two tier model for the SCIO, there were couple of comments. The first tier is the Board and the second tier is the wider membership.

The quorum for the Board was discussed and agreed it would be 3 and that this would be the same as the number of trustees.

It was also agreed that Para 49 membership quorum would be 5% with at least 5 members present.

Para 17 was discussed and BH and JF raised concerns about the exclusion of people wishing to join as members at tier 2 (membership). It was agreed that this should be

removed. SS will discuss with Lorna McCullough at Borders Action and inform the meeting of the outcome.. SS will circulate the next draft following amendments.

As there are three trustees as per the constitution, they will be required to make the application to OSCR to set up the SCIO. JF, BH and SS agreed to be the trustees. SS stated she will draft the application and liaise with Lorna McCullough and BH and JF before submitting, together with the finalised constitution. As previously stated, OSCR can take up to six months for approval of the SCIO.

As the SCIO requires a database of membership, investigation as to the requirements of the Data Protection Act will need to be done.

5. AGM

It was agreed the date will be **Monday 17th November at 7.30** in the small hall. Current members, who were present, were asked if they were willing to continue for the following year; all agreed apart from Andrew Clark, who wished to stand down after many years of service. SS thanked him for the major contribution he had made. He kindly agreed to be called upon to help with the outside Christmas decorations, Burns Supper etc.

SS proposed a flyer advertising the AGM, with drinks and cheese, to be distributed and which was agreed.

6. MAINTENANCE

KM thanked AC for clearing the earth at the side of the hall, which will hopefully ensure the drain from the gutter is not blocked. SS asked if a couple of breeze blocks could be found to aid getting up at the back of the hall to inspect the gutter and keep vegetation at bay.. AC said he will remove the large bush which is at the back of the hall. SS thanked him.

PD stated the accessible toilet was not flushing properly and the pipe sounded like there was an air lock. KM said she will speak to Garry Miller to see if he can sort the problem, if not a plumber will be needed.

SS stated the fire appliances will undergo their annual inspection on Thursday and an invoice will be submitted for payment on 1 October 2025.

7. Skirling Community Development Trust update

As DJ had given his apologies for not being able to attend, SS summarised the update she had received from DJ.

Paul Barlow appointed as the co-ordinator, which will be stated in the newsletter and on Skirling website. The members congratulated Paul.

The SCDT will have three initial areas of focus:

- Purchase of orphaned land
- Heritage
- Play park/path to Broughton projects

- Signage of hall – the hall does not state it is Skirling Village Hall. It was agreed that a sign displaying the name on the grass, which would be visible to passing traffic would be the best option.
- Skirling 750 - BH spoke on what he was aiming to organise for a display and talk about the history of Skirling in the hall in late October. SS and KM agreed to see what they could find regarding the Hall, which could be displayed at the event and liaise with Bob.. KM proposed the hall providing refreshments during the day subject to sufficient helpers.

AOCB

- KM suggested that the hall host a 'murder mystery play' as a social event for the village. KM stated she had contacts. Members agreed this would be different and to find out more. KM agreed to find out about costs and possible dates in November or February. It was also agreed that she will see if the hall can apply to the wind farm for a small grant to help with the costs. AC suggested it be a joint fund raiser for the hall and a charity, which members agreed.
- It was noted that as the small hall is now occupied with the singing group on Wednesday evenings ,and which is attended by a couple of members, that an alternative weekday evening is explored for future meetings after the AGM.
- SS thanked everyone for attending.