

Skirling

community council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 25th September 2025

Present: Paul Barlow, Ross McIntyre, Andrew Clark, Clr Viv Thompson, Robert Laird, PC Gary Beaumont, Alison Leite.

Apologies: Isobel Hunter, Sarah Van der Vat.

Minutes 29th May 2025

- Approval of previous minutes: Proposed RMc Seconded AC

Matters Arising

1. **Police Reports:** PCB will be joined by PC Ryan Shields come October to help with his workload. Pop up Bob has been stolen from Skirling and other neighbouring villages. He is expensive and will not be replaced by SBC. A windfarm grant may be applied for as PCB believes they are effective in deterring speeding drivers. A grant for a security camera will also be applied for to monitor future thefts (**Action PB**). PC B also left literature providing information on how to protect our properties from break ins as well on how to protect against nuisance/scam callers. If there are any concerns about vulnerable residents PC B said they can be visited and advised.
Action: AL will scan and forward this info to be put on village website and leave a copy in village hall.

2. CAP/SCDT

1. Safe Skirling

Possibility of the Windfarm funding Speed Spy (RL RMc) **Action: RMc will get up to date quote and apply for windfarm funding.**

Possible Wind farm funding for a new cinder path for opposite the Village Green (RL) It has been suggested the council may pay for a tar path from opposite Skirling House up to the church entrance. VT advised this will not be a priority but will inquire for next financial year. It has been recommended this is a SCDT issue going forward and perhaps the residents concerned should be consulted about the possibility of a cinder path being installed outside their property.

Maintenance of Skirling Mill Path - ED / SV windfarm application submitted (SV) The work has been completed and paid for.

2. Well connected Skirling

Ross Robison to make way markers similar to those at Broughton Knowe. He has quoted £100 for 20. RL expressed concern that they may be knocked over by livestock but it was the consensus to go ahead and position them as close to fence line as possible to try and prevent this. RL also suggested an ordinance map of the route be installed at either end of the route. This will be a SCDT issue going forward. AL has volunteered to keep assisting.

Discussions with landowner re connecting Skirling to Old Railway (AL) Landowners not keen. Issue closed.

Email to Gordon Grant regarding any concerns about 91 bus times. (IH cc Viv Thompson) IH contacted MP David Mundell and Gordon Grant regarding the bus timetable. GG explained when the buses are not on the Peebles to Biggar route they are on other routes and not just sitting idle. It is also a factor that a bus service to Biggar is also out with the Scottish Borders.

Action: IH will pursue this and look into community bus company Borders Wheels. VT suggested the possibility of Skirling hiring the Newlands bus. She will send info to secretary email address.

3. Community Life

CC Reports to be included in Upper Tweed Community Newsletter (SV)

Toddler details to be changed on website (SV) Done.

Play Park – SBC contact details to be forwarded to MT for SCDT attention. VT will follow up on the use of the village green being used.

‘Community meet up’ Tweedsmuir 15th June (IH) – IH attended this meeting.

4. Environment and Heritage

750 years celebration of Skirling (IH) Planning and preparations are ongoing. A save the date has been distributed for October 25th and funding has been applied for.

Flower tubs slabs and planting: Planters are in place with the exception of Skirling Mill as a grass cutter has clipped the slab. **Action: AC will empty planter and realign. AL has volunteered to plant spring bulbs when ready. Sandra Warpole will maintain the others.**

5. Sustainability and Resilience

Graveyard maintenance: Action: AC will obtain an estimate to repair the stone wall, and the exposed tar at the graveyard entry. A windfarm grant will be applied for. David Gardiner will replace railing.

Burn Erosion at Schoolhouse: The landowner has this matter in hand.

6. Skirling Community Development Trust: PB updated SCC on progress. The focus has been on the upcoming “750” Event and obtaining advice on land acquisition.

7. Funds Update SV:

SSE Clyde Windfarm Funds for micro/main grants	£919.66 (top up due £1,250)
SSE Clyde Windfarm YBF	£800 (top up due £2,250 - an increase of £1000 per annum)
Glenkerie Windfarm for micro-grants plus 500 cost of living fund.	£2,873.92 (£600 ring fenced for Murder Mystery)
SBC Funds	£722.10 (£300 ring fenced for church repairs)

AOB

- Meeting Date changed from 27th November 2025 to 4th December 2025.
- Community Council Whats App to be started (AL)

End 21.02.