

# Skirling

community council

## Annual General Meeting – Minutes.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 7.30pm, Village Hall

**Present:** Andrew Clark (chair), Paul Barlow, Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Councillor Viv Thompson, Isobel Hunter, Alison Leite.

**Apologies:** Sara Van Der Vat

**Approval of Minutes of 23rd September 2025** Proposed: RL Seconded: RMc

### The Skirling Community Development Trust Update (PB)

#### 1. Safe Skirling:

**Speed Spy (RL RMc)** RMc has refreshed the quote with this company. **Action: RL and RMc will coordinate with SV to apply for grant. It was agreed this is not a SCDT issue.**

**Cinder Path for opposite Skirling Green update (RL)** A path is to be arranged **Action: RL will pursue SEPA. VT will pursue money for tar path but stressed this will not be a funding priority.**

#### 2. Well connected Skirling:

**Update on path (PB, AL)** SCDT taking the lead. RL PB AL have volunteered to liaise on this. Scotways is not going to provide any further help. SBC has already arranged for a new style and signage. **Action: RL will share landowner map and seek permission to install the additional signage Ross Robson has created. AL will obtain a written estimate from RR and PB will apply for grant.**

**Concerns about 91 bus times (IH)** IH been in touch with council and MP. The matter will be reviewed by the bus company at a later date. In addition IH looked into the Newlands hire out bus as an alternative but at £1.40 per mile this may prove costly.

#### Community Life:

**Play Park update:** The Green is a registered Green space. VT suggested Broughton has had similar issue and the plans are moving forward there. As an alternative SCDT has applied for funding to hire a consultant for Pre Application Advice as to potential places for the park and possible applications going forward. There are a number of factors to consider and there will be a public consultation arranged to discuss.

#### Environment and Heritage:

**750Year celebration of Skirling:** The Event was held on October 25<sup>th</sup> and was very successful- there was a good turnout. AC thanked IH and BH for their efforts. There will be an exhibition in Biggar museum for 2 weeks. **Action: IH will put it on FB to advertise and place a poster in the Hall.**

**Flower Tubs:** Sandra Walpole has planted and was thanked. AC will fix misaligned slab in the Spring.

### 3. Sustainability and Resilience:

**Graveyard maintenance update? (AC)** Railing at the church will be completed before Christmas by David Gardiner. Stonewall: AC talked to Margaret Summerville who has given permission to access. **Action: AC will get quote from Darcy.**

IH discussed the felling of the trees in the graveyard. Nobody from the CC or from the church were informed by SBC of the plans to take these trees down and all are in agreement it has been left looking terrible. Supposedly there are another 5 to come down. The church is a conservation area and VT will ask for a report on what has happened. AC said the CC should have been informed before the action took place. It was also noted a cherry picker was left dangerously in the road. Tree replanting is to occur.

### Correspondence Received:

- 1. Invitation to Convention of Community Council Convention on the Impact on Communities of Major Infrastructure in Scottish Borders - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026:** This Convention invites community councils adversely affected by major energy infrastructure similar to that which was organised and chaired by Helen Crawford in the Highland region earlier this year. The general consensus of Skirling CC was that the issue doesn't really affect us. **Action: SV will RSVP No thank you.**
- 2. New Powers for Scotland's Community Councils: Petition calling for Scotland CCs to have same discretionary powers as England's parish councils. 323 people have signed so far:**

[https://secure.avaaz.org/community\\_petitions/en/the\\_scottish\\_parliament\\_give\\_scotland\\_s\\_community\\_councils\\_real\\_powers\\_and\\_budgets\\_like\\_england\\_s\\_parish\\_councils/](https://secure.avaaz.org/community_petitions/en/the_scottish_parliament_give_scotland_s_community_councils_real_powers_and_budgets_like_england_s_parish_councils/).

Skirling CC will not support this petition as we as a village benefit from windfarm funding already and to get money from the local authority may result in more responsibilities for the volunteers.

### Funds Update

DESCRIPTION	BALANCE	DUE
SSE Clyde Windfarm Funds (micro-grants & main grants)	£919.66	£1,250.00
SSE Clyde Windfarm Fund for Youth Bursary Scheme	-£800.00	£2,250.00
Nadara Glenkerie Windfarm Funds (micro-grants)	£1,413.92	
Scottish Borders Council & Other (£300 ringfenced for graveyard)	£697.10	
<b>BANK CLOSING BALANCE:</b>	<b>£2,230.68</b>	

## **AOB**

The car in field at Skirling Straight. **Action: RL (chair) will mention to PC Beaumont at the next meeting.**

Splash Bridge being repaired? South Lanarkshire agreed to repair but nothing has happened.

**Action: VT will ask colleagues in South Lanarkshire.**

Light out at rockery: AC has already reported.

Going forward Police will need to be informed by CC secretary when CC meetings are postponed or cancelled to save unnecessary trips.

Robert Laird will chair next meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2026.

## **20.30**