

SCDT Update (February 2026)

The February meeting of Skirling Community Development Trust was briefed on the Skirling-Broughton core path. Following a site visit with a local farmer over whose land the path runs, it was agreed that SCDT could organise clearance of fallen wood and trees obstructing the path. The trust is now obtaining quotations for the cost of the work, with a view to securing funding.

Regarding the progress of the construction of the playpark in Skirling SCDT has obtained positive pre-application planning advice from SBC, who had no objections in principle to the construction of the playpark on the site specified. Current owners of the land on which the play park could be built now require to be contacted regards any future planning application. The Skirling community as such needs to be informed about the outline plan prior to SCDT's AGM.

The land project was discussed. Jon Hollingdale, contractor for the land project conducted a site visit in January 2026; he is going to produce a draft report by the end of February 2026; thereafter commence community engagement. It was suggested that SCDT would need another board meeting before the April 2026 AGM to discuss his draft report, and support the community engagement and consultation.

SCDT is now preparing for its first AGM on Saturday 25th April 2026 at Skirling Village Hall. At the AGM SCDT is preparing to submit a new constitution to its members. It was reported that OSCR and Clyde Community Windfarm had been informed of the details of the new constitution which aim to make fit for future purpose and to enable community right to buy powers. OSCR confirmed they are content with proposed changes to the Constitution and with the date of the AGM.

SSE Clyde Windfarm requested minutes of the AGM, and submission of key documents with relevance to their funding conditions for SCDT. They plan to meet the newly configured SCDT board in May or June 2026. SCDT will invite Glenkerie Windfarm to the AGM.

A draft constitution (which is compliant with Community Right To Buy legislation, DTAS and Scottish Land Fund requirements) was discussed. It was decided that provisions in the draft constitution enabling inclusion of "junior members" would not be included in the new constitution, as unnecessarily complicated. Trustees were committed to involving and including groups across the community. It was agreed that a provision to co-opt members from Skirling Village Hall and Skirling Community Council would be continued. The new constitution will be circulated to members in time for the AGM.

An annual report is required for the AGM to outline what SCDT has done to date and its future projects; which is to be submitted with annual accounts at the AGM. At the next meeting a 1-2 page annual report will be circulated to the board for discussion prior to the AGM.

It was agreed that SCDT should promote engagement and awareness of forthcoming AGM via email to members, flyers to be inserted into community newsletter together with advertisement on Skirling Website and Facebook site. It was agreed Skirling Village Hall and Community Council should be asked to confirm their co-opted candidates for the SCDT board; in terms of catering for the event Clyde SSE Windfarm can be asked to approve use of existing SCDT funding for that purpose. A notice for the AGM is required to be sent out at least 14 days prior to the AGM. It was agreed that a guest speaker from Ettrick and Yarrow (one suggested by DTAS) would provide useful source of information and feedback for SCDT and Skirling generally.

- AGM format – It was agreed plans should be made anticipating up to 30 attendees at AGM – but hopefully more. The AGM will be 12 – 2.30pm and the agenda will include two guest speakers; SCDT annual review and future projects; and member votes on composition of board and adoption of new constitution.

It was discussed that Skirling Community Council approached SCDT to consider taking on the project of constructing a cinder path as part of the Land Project. It was decided that until such time as issues with land ownership and potential usage have been subject to thorough discussion for the purposes of obtaining community-wide agreement, SCDT cannot take on such projects. It was recommended that any proposed path should be considered alongside the wider Skirling Land Project and consultation, and thereafter taken forward as needed by the SCDT, or indeed the CC if appropriate, depending on the agreed way forward from the community. Skirling Community Council are to be informed of SCDT's position.

David Gass and Mike Thompson noted a declaration of interest regarding the Cinder Pathway item. It was clarified for SCDT purposes a declaration of interest is required when a trustee's personal position may be in conflict with a Trust agenda item to ensure SCDT transparency of decision-making and good governance when that item is discussed.

The next SCDT meeting will be held on 31st March 2026. The AGM will be 25th April 2026. Thereafter it is proposed meetings are to be held every six weeks.