

**Minutes of the Meeting of Skirling Village Hall Committee
held at 7.30 pm on Monday 18 May 2026**

Present:

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

1. Welcome/Apologies

SS welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Hannah Crow and Derek Jardine.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting 9 February 2026

Agreed to be an accurate record.

3. Finance

JF tabled accounts for members. The position is just over £2K above a similar time last year, i.e. £16,000, after Playground Funds set aside. However, there are some transactions still to take place. Overall, the hall is breaking even.

SS confirmed that the grant from Borders Council which has been awarded in the past to cover insurance has changed, previously coming through the Federation of Peeblesshire Village Halls. There is now a Neighbourhood Support Fund for all halls.

The Hall has applied for £2K funding from Clyde Wind Farm towards conveyancing costs relating to changing to a SCIO. It was noted that we may have to contribute £1,000.

There are a couple of outstanding hire charges to come in.

Members noted that the insurance is due at the end of June.

There was a new rateable value for the hall of £5,900. The hall pays neither rates nor water charges due to its charitable status.

4. Maintenance

Thanks were given to Garry Miller for gutter work and to Peter Davies for completing the health and safety checklist with SS. Moss and glass are to be cleared from the bottle bank area. The Fire evacuation plan was reviewed and agreed as appropriate.

The water heater in the kitchen has been replaced.

Members all noted that the stop cock for water in kitchen is behind the heater under the sink in the kitchen. The one for the WCs is in the ladies WC. SS will put a plan

on the notice board for future reference **Action**. It was noted that there will be a bill from the plumber.

It was suggested that there also be clear idea on identification of circuit breaker switches. Agreed to be carried out at next cleaning/ maintenance morning in the Autumn. **Action**

PD confirmed light in storage cupboard needs replaced. FB will ask electrician to advise on suitable replacement (as whole fitting needs replaced) and find out what's required. **Action**

Skirling Village Hall SCIO - progress

SS as reported previously has spoken to Fiona Fleming of Blackwood and Smith regarding the conveyancing of current charity to Skirling Village SCIO.

There is a slight issue regarding property boundaries on the property search. SS/BH explained to members what this was (deeds of different dates show slightly different boundaries and with the SO map). Members agreed to go with the pragmatic solution and whatever works for the hall. SS agreed to inform Fiona Fleming **Action**

Valuation for the hall (which was required for information on transfer of assets under winding up) is £150-175K, with thanks to Blackwood and Smith Estates Agents for obtaining advice and waiving charges.

SS advised that had spoken to current insurers, Allied Westminster, regarding cover for the SCIO and been informed that they will insure both from now, and once the current trust is wound up and they are informed, the new SCIO will be sole legal facility insured.

Questions were asked about the current rebuild costs as determined under the insurance and whether the annual insurance costs were high. SS advised limited companies to insure community halls. FB/KM will go over the current schedule to ensure best value for insurance with other companies. JF asked to send insurance schedule to them **Action**.

SS is speaking to Coop bank with a view to opening a charity and community account and setting up digital banking. There is an option for dual authorisation which is the best option as required under charity regulation. Members agreed to applying to the Cooperative Bank. SS asked if the two other trustees of the Skirling Village Hall SCIO agree to become signatories together with herself– JF and BH agreed. **Action**

SS will complete a form for OSCR for permission to wind up the current charity. In relation to dissolution, it was agreed this to be as at the end of September 2026 with a view to welcoming new members to the SCIO at the AGM in November (9 or 16 November). JF will check if date works on financial side and let members know asap. (Please note 30 September subsequently agreed by JF).

30 September is the end of the financial year and we would look to start charging as Skirling Village Hall SCIO from 1 October 2026.

AOB

BH outlined some proposed changes at the church in relation to building works including removal of pews, making the space more flexible and adding A/V (possibly). Having AV connection to the hall could involve the hall for, e.g. overflow for large church services where not everyone can get into the church, streaming of services etc. Members agreed this would be a good use of the hall.

It was agreed that JF cancel the current TV licence as this was not being used. It can be added back if required.

Members of the current hall committee were happy to transfer to the SCIO in their current roles as trustees, but it would be necessary to attract members.

The next meeting will be late August, while any issues arising should be communicated by email/ WhatsApp or if necessary, a short meeting.