

Summary of Minutes
Skirling Community Development Trust
Trustee Board Meeting
Wednesday 23 September 2026 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Skirling Village Hall

The Skirling Community Development Trust Trustee Board discussed how the various Trust projects have progressed, during their September 2026 meeting. There were no apologies. The 11 April 2026 Meeting Minutes were signed off.

The 2026-7 Forward Plan was discussed. For each project in the Plan two lead trustees would be assigned who will work closely with the Coordinator to implement the project, using a pro forma template. Each project will adapt the same pro forma template to its own needs and purposes. The template will set out the roles and responsibilities of lead trustees and the coordinator, taking into account the importance of risk management, land acquisition and funding (if either are required). The projects will ensure that the wishes of the community choices are being taken forward and provide the opportunity to engage the wider community in the different projects. It was decided that all trust leads will complete a pro forma detailing their project.

Volunteering was emphasised. Discussion centred on the importance of making volunteers from the local community central to the progress of the projects. A volunteer plan will be created to guide this.

The importance of insurance was noted, so that it is in place where required. The Trust will Investigate insurance arrangements that other similar organisations carry for projects, and propose a way forward for all Trust activities.

Trustees discussed land acquisition as phase 2 of the Land Project. They agreed to pursue acquisition from three current landowners – 5 parcels from the Wheeler-Carmichael Estate; 3 or 4 parcels (of a possible 5) from Mr & Mrs Hunter; and the Skirling Mill field from Candleberry. Trustees agreed that these parcels were within the land acquisition project brief, and should be taken forward as one comprehensive land acquisition project. Acquisition of these parcels would not be dependent on potential uses.

Trustees were updated on progress of particular projects:

- Drove Path (Skirling to Broughton): a successful funding application means work to erect signage and clear the path can commence; a local contractor has quoted to carry out the work; it was decided the work does not need to be tendered, however risk management and insurance will be required. Work will commence in the autumn.
- Skirling Mill Field Wildlife and Recreation Area: a pro forma project plan has been developed.
- Skirling Playpark: an exploratory meeting with parents was held. An options paper will be written and likely a second meeting will be held on this topic.
- Castlestones path: Trustees learned of intentions to extend the path, and

sought assurances about risks and public access liability if the Trust were to acquire the land as one of the parcels.

Proposals for a digital museum were considered. Trustees support this proposal which will be taken forward. Details of any funding, volunteer involvement, the relationship with the Upper Tweeddale Eco-Museum will be worked out in a project plan.

In terms of Trust finances, the balance (all accounts) stands at almost £22,000 and includes the recent award of a second tranche of annual funding to support the Co-ordinator post.

Future meeting dates for the Trust will be circulated. SCDT's next meeting will be 10 November, followed by 8 December.