

This minute is UNAPPROVED until adopted at the next meeting.

Skerries Community Council (SCC)
Minute of meeting held at 2.00 pm on (Friday 23rd January 2026)
In Skerries Community Hall

Present:

(P.J) Paul James Chair
(M.A) Marina Anderson (Teams)
(J.H) Janice Hughson
(K.J) Kia James (Minutes)
(M.T) Marina Tait (T)
(D.H) Dianne Hughson (T)
(L.H) Lynsey Hall (T)
(F.A) Frances Anderson

In attendance:

(R.T) Robert Thompson (S.I.C) (T)
(C.S) Carl Symons (SIC Environmental and Estate Operations) (T)
(B.M) Sergeant Brian Mulholland (T)

1) Apologies

(V.M) Violet McQuade
Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Declaration of Interest to any agenda Item

P.J and K.J asked for declaration of interests to item 7 on the agenda.

3) Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting, held on the (12th December 2025), were approved.
Proposed by (J.H), seconded by (M.A).

4) Matters Arising/Actions from last meeting

- 4.1 P. J finish off job advert and send it to V.M
Actioned. Advert posted on Facebook and circulated to the group.
- 4.2 P. J contact roads department re: culvert at the burn.
Actioned. Paul called S.I.C. Waiting to hear back.
- 4.3 V.M to order a skip.
Actioned. White goods have been removed from the harbour.
- 4.4 Contact Ferry Services re: proposed changes to timetable.
Actioned. V.H contacted Ferry Services- waiting to hear back.
P.J confirmed no changes to ferry services.

4.5) Maintenance post.

C.S joined the meeting to discuss the maintenance job for the island.
He outlined some of the jobs that might need to be done and the training needed. He raised the question as to whether there would be anyone in

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Skerries suitable to fill the role. He asked the community to think about and evaluate what jobs the island needs doing and to let him know. The role would be created in response to the islands' needs.

Action: P.J to gather views from residents, consolidate and send details to C.S.

5) Barge- Stringavoe

1 x chain broken.

Action: R.T to speak to Harbour Authorities.

6) Clerk post- Recruitment update

There was one application following the advert posted on Facebook. K. J's covering letter and application was circulated to the group.

K.J was selected for the Clerk position.

Action: K.J to liaise with V.M re handover.

Action P.J to inform M.D of the details.

7) Funding available

V.M not present. Carried over to next meeting.

8) Electric car charging

A discussion was had regarding electric car charging points being installed on the island for tourist use. R.T informed the meeting that funding for this has stopped for small islands. He advised the group that we could contact the Energy Saving Trust for any ongoing advice. It was noted that one electric charging point costs £15,000 and would require a maintenance contract. R.T mentioned that there it might be worth considering a mobile option instead or looking at other alternatives.

9) Bird restoration project

P.J. updated the meeting with a message from Will Brown(WB). W.B will be looking to come and stay in Skerries soon and wishes to meet with folk to discuss the project plans.

9.1 Rodent eradication

P.J relayed a message from W.B that its early days for the project. The C.C gave consent to a "letter of comfort" in principle. This is needed to show willing at this early stage between residents and project planners. A phone call will be arranged soon to find out more about the project.

9.2 Environmental health rodent update: A message from Marianne Gardiner. The team will be aiming to get to Skerries on Friday 6th February 2026, weather permitting.

10) Risks

No risks were identified.

11) Issues

No changes

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12) Correspondence received

All circulated.

13) ACOB

13.1 A creative and independent film crew have been in contact and are coming to Skerries on Sunday 15th February. Violet has circulated information about their project. They wish to meet with locals and hear stories and folk tales about life on the island. M.A expressed an interest in sharing her stories and said she would be happy to be contacted and take part.

13.2 Whalsay Medical Centre video call – Test
Kim Anderson has been contacted to arrange a test call with M.T - Awaiting feedback.

13.3 Lifeboat
It was noted that the lifeboat needs to be removed from the harbour.

13.4 Skip
It was suggested to use remaining funding before end tax-year for another skip.
Action- V.M to order another skip.

13.5 Marine Debris clear up on West Isle.
L.H mentioned that there have been some developments between Scottish Sea Farms, Crown Estate and S.I.C regarding this. She reminded the group that there is a separate meeting for discussing this topic only at 9.30am Monday morning, every fortnight. Advised to contact L.H for meeting details/ teams invitation.

13.6 S.D.G Reflections on the previous training meeting.
A discussion was had regarding creating a development plan for Skerries. It was mentioned by L.H that in order to submit a Community Right to Buy note of interest, a development plan needs to be in place. R.T suggested that the residents could work together to identify how they see Skerries in the future and what vision they have. He suggested a community gathering/event so folk can get their ideas recorded. This, in turn could be used to shape the development plan.
M.A (Chair S.D.G) agreed this was a good idea.

13.7 Sergeant B.M – Crime update.
B.H provided update of crime statistics for Skerries. Oct/Nov/Dec no crime/callouts/incidents to report.
He will be returning to Skerries in next few weeks and will inform us of the date

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The meeting concluded at 3.07pm.

14) Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting will be at 2pm Friday 6th March in the Skerries Community Hall

Summary of actions to be updated at next Matter Arising

- **P.J to follow up S.I.C contact re: culvert at burn (Item 4.2)**
- **P.J to send C.S details of jobs/residents' feedback re: maintenance post.(Item 4.5)**
- **P.J to send of "letter of comfort" to W.B (Item 9.1)**
- **R.T to speak to Port Authorities re: broken chain on barge. (Item 5)**
- **K.J to contact M.A regarding film crew meeting (Item 13.1)**
- **K.J to liaise with V.M about handover of Clerk role (Item 6)**
- **V.M to order a skip (Item 13.4)**

Chair Signature

Signed.....