

Minutes of Committee Meeting on 26th January 2026

(Held at the home of Sue West)

Apologies

Sue Heath

In Attendance

Irene Robinson-Chairperson, Liz Mason-Honorary Treasurer, Graeme Dickson-Honorary Secretary, Val Sewry, Linda Rowles, Sue West, Sue Locke, Rosie Dickson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Accepted, awaiting signature.

Treasurer's Report

Liz reported that the Community Account has a balance of £9684.40. Within this there is £4980 which is money paid in for the Dawlish weekend. There have been 24 ball tickets sold, 2 at the reduced rate of £15 as they are non-dancers, giving a total of £580.

42 people attended the Day School, 40 paid £10 and 2 paid £5 for a half day. 5 people were unable to attend and were offered a refund. 2 refunds were made, the other 3 declined a refund. We received £135 as payment for lunches and the total payments for the day were £575. Bills paid for day school to date are £143.57. Hall hire will be £90.

We have offered people who made cakes £3 to cover their costs. The Committee agreed that in future cake makers will be offered £5.

The Committee agreed that we should arrange a Debit Card for our account. The treasurer felt this would be useful for paying bills where BACS is not an option. We have made a donation of £50 to our charity, following the dance demonstration at Acorns Day Centre.

Dawlish Update

Val reported that we have 85 attendees who are paying, 5 of whom are non-dancers. There is currently a waiting list of 7. It was felt that 80 dancers were probably the maximum for comfortable dancing. William Williamson was happy to teach 80 people when he was at Dawlish in 2024. We have booked 40 rooms at the hotel, including all the single rooms. There are still another 20 rooms available.

Val reported that internet access to our banking has proven most useful. There has been an enquiry from a dancer who lives locally to attend on a day only basis. It was felt that as we have a waiting list, we should not encourage this and that we would also need to clear it with the hotel, who may require payment.

We have accepted the hotel for 2027 and the dates are 22nd to 24th October. We have an agreed cancellation policy in place. Regarding the teacher and musicians, we are considering Angela Young and Graham Berry. Other possibilities for musicians include Nicol McLaren or the Dewhurst Band.

Action: Liz to check the availability of teachers and musicians for this event.

Ball Update

The Secretary provided a Ball update. To date we have sold 25 tickets. At this stage in 2025 we had sold 29. We are expecting to sell more at Charminster, Bridport and Bournemouth. We have sold 8 tickets to Weymouth dancers.

The band is £665 this year and the hall is £310. As we agreed to keep the price at £25 per ticket, these two costs represent almost 40 ticket sales. The costs of advertising, printing and hiring the MC for the evening require a total of almost 50 ticket sales.

Ruth Marshall has agreed to the same labour costs as last year, which was a total of £450. There followed a discussion around the possibility of the Committee buying and preparing the food and us asking members to volunteer to help in the kitchen and with serving. There was unanimous agreement that we should request Ruth to provide all the food and labour for the ball. Ruth has always said that she would be able to do whatever we wanted, but has not given the Secretary any specific costs per head. It was accepted that this will almost certainly involve us running the ball at a financial loss. The labour costs last year, with 73 tickets sold, gives £6.16 per head, and as we spent £206 on food, this approximates to £2.80 per head for food.

Action: Graeme will explain our requirements to Ruth and obtain costings before our next meeting.

It was agreed that we will charge Poppy £15 for her ball ticket as we will not be providing her with food or drink.

There will be a raffle at the Ball, with proceeds going to our charity. We will need four or five decent prizes.

We have agreed to have the piper at the start of the evening and he is to be paid £70.

There will be no drinks reception. The aim will be to have all the tables in the main hall, rather than using Toad Hall.

We will have a committee meeting before the ball, where Rosie will present a list of tasks which was developed last year. This will include items like bunting, flowers and table cloths.

Last year the flowers for the tables were kindly provided by Val Scriven and for the stage by Jan Mason.

Action: Irene to discuss this with Val and Jan

Day School Update

The Day School was a great success and we have received a lot of positive feedback. The Committee would like to express their thanks to Sue Locke for all her work in organising the event and teaching on the day.

It was felt that next year we should aim to avoid Burns weekend and also Mervyn's weekend. We would like to have a musician next year and the possibility of Ewan Galloway to play and Sarah Horne to teach was discussed.

Although the Day School will be aimed at all abilities, including beginners, it was felt that we should not encourage people with no experience at all to attend.

Next year we will ask about dietary requirements on the booking form and mention this on the flyers. We will also produce a table plan for the food.

Action: Irene to check the availability of Ewan and Sarah and also the date of Mervyn's weekend next year.

Summer Socials

The dates for the Summer Socials are

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th

Teachers taking the Summer Socials will be offered £50.

Action: Graeme to invite, in the first instance, Mary Phippard, Liz Beckinsale and Laura Brown to take the Summer Socials.

AOB.

We discussed the progress of our newer dancers. Some feedback included the possibility of repeating a dance regularly, perhaps as a starred dance or dance of the month. Many would like more step practice and formations. Irene and Sue agreed to run another series of classes for beginners, at 6.30 beginning on February 5th. Linda has agreed to assist.

Following the recent tidy up of the club's equipment, Val Sewry has produced an inventory of the locations. There is now a dedicated catering cupboard.

When Ewan Galloway played for us on the 15th January we made a profit of approximately £40. It was agreed that we should donate this to Ewan's charity

Action: Graeme to contact Ewan

Irene raised the General Data Protection Regulation requirements. We need to develop a Privacy Policy and provide an unsubscribe facility to our mailing list. The Secretary explained that the only data currently kept was the email address of each member, and that this was not shared with any third party.

We will continue with issuing emergency medical cards to new members.

Action: Liz will discuss with the Charminster dancing group the removal of Weymouth Scottish Country Dancers from the programme of their future events.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 2nd March at 2pm at Irene's home.

GRD/11th Feb 2026