

Minutes of Committee Meeting on 20th April 2026

(Held at the home of Sue West)

Apologies

Nil

In Attendance

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Accepted and signed.

Treasurer's Report

Liz reported that the Community Account has a balance of £2881.41. A deposit of £1780 was paid to the Langstone Cliff Hotel on the 17th April. The Commercial Instant Access account has a balance of £10,676.67. It was agreed that the Secretary will email all the club members with the WSCD 2025/26 accounts as soon as Peter has signed them off. There will also be paper copies at the AGM.

Dawlish Update

Val Sewry reported that the deposit has been paid to the Langstone Cliff, as per the Treasurer's report above.

Ball Update

The Secretary reported that we have had a most successful ball. The piper and the Grand March were popular and we have received a number of emails thanking us for a wonderful evening. We sold 64 tickets, compared with 73 last year. The ticket revenue this year was £1540 which was £285 less than last year. We made a loss of £1138 from the ball. This was a result of our unanimous decisions to keep the price of a ticket at £25 and to have the

caterers do all the food preparation. Some dancers reported that they would have attended our Ball had they not booked the Bristol Dawlish weekend.

We have booked Craigellachie, the hall, Andrew White and Ruth Marshall for our Ball on the 20th March 2027. The cost of the hall hire will be the same price as this year and Craigellachie will charge £685 which is an increase of £20.

The Secretary reported that there was an incident at the end of the Ball as people were going home. A dancer was returning to her vehicle in the Cricket Club car park and fell down the embankment. Fortunately, there were no fractures but she was having to use crutches.

We reported this incident to the Secretaries of Herrison Hall, the Cricket Club and to the Charminster Parish Council. The Council admits that the path is their responsibility and that they have considered fixed lighting in the past but residents objected. They discussed the incident at their April Council meeting and are considering installing solar low-level lighting. The Council also stated that they encourage people organising events at Herrison Hall to use the Cricket club car park as it relieves congestion in the village. The Council have been in direct communication with the dancer. The cricket club will consider motion activated lighting in their car park.

Day School

Irene reported that she had asked Ewan Galloway and Sarah Horne to run our Day School on the 9th January 2027. Unfortunately, they are unavailable. The Committee then had a general discussion regarding the best dates for our event. We considered problems with catering and the event clashing with Burns night and Mervyn Short's Bournemouth weekend and decided to aim for the 30th January. Irene agreed to teach but she will also ask if Sarah would run it. She will check Ian Robertson's availability for this date. We are hoping to have Ewan Galloway play for our club night on 14th January 2027 and we will make a donation to his charity, as we did this year. It was suggested that we book him to play at our Day School in 2028. It was agreed that although we would encourage improvers at the day school, it is not suitable for complete beginners.

Broadmayne Dance

Sue W discussed the catering support that we will provide for the Broadmayne dance. Sue H and Linda will liaise with Val Scriven. The Weymouth System will be used.

Evaluation of New Dances for Book 55

We have been tasked with evaluating 11 dances. These will be divided between the teachers and Val Braithwaite. There was discussion around the timing of these dances. The deadline is June 25th. Some will be danced at the Friday Challenge on the 22nd May and an extra session will be booked on the 28th May.

AOB

The Chair discussed our Risk Assessment policy. We remain concerned about the floor and the Secretary will raise this at the Southill AGM next week.

Sue Locke stated that she will come off the teaching rota at the end of term but we were delighted to learn that she will continue dancing and may help with Friday Challenge dancing and the beginners.

As Liz is unavailable before the break this means Irene will have all the first half teaching.

As Irene is stepping down from the Chair but would like to continue on the committee, Sue H has kindly agreed to step down, to allow our new Chair to join the committee.

Sue H expressed concern about the long hours expected of our teachers, especially when we run beginner classes.

We will run another cèilidh on Friday the 4th September from 6pm. This will be followed by a six-week programme of beginner classes. It will be explained that this programme may be repeated. Our regular classes will commence on Thursday 10th September.

We will put a Tea Dance on our next agenda, possibly at Twixmas.

There was no strong support for the formation of a demonstration team.

The Chair discussed improving our relationship with the South Dorset Caledonians.

The provisional date for our next meeting is the 20th July at 2pm at the home of Sue W.