

Draft Minutes of Skerries Community Association Annual General Meeting Thursday 19th June 2025, Little Theatre, Skerries Community Centre

Prepared by BMS

Attendees: Jane Landy (Chair), Paul Walsh (Acting Secretary), Brid Grimes (Treasurer), Mary Conway, Brendan Sherlock, Michael McKenna, Brendan Friel, Ger O'Mahony, Eithne O'Connell, Eric Byrne, Breda Shankey (BMS) Shay Fanning (Chair Community Centre Board of Management), Reps from Skerries Tidy Towns, Sustainable Skerries, Skerries Autism Friendly Towns, Skerries Cycling Initiative, Age Friendly Town, Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative (S-SECI), Transport Working Group, Frosties swimming group
Local residents, 2 members of local Gardai, Erin Cartlidge (Rush Community Council), Mayor Tom O'Leary, Cllr Malachy Quinn, Sinead Lucey Brennan
Apologies: John Coleman, Helen Scullion, Rowena Walsh, Aoife Malone, Bob Laird, Cllr Brendan Ryan, Grace Boland TD, Louise O'Reilly TD.
Approx attendance: 40 people.

Agenda:

To transact the Ordinary Business of the Company, that is to say: –

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 13 June 2024
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31 Dec. 2024
3. To elect Directors to the Board of Skerries Community Association CLG
4. To elect Members to Skerries Community Centre Board of Management
5. To reappoint Dempsey Mullen as Auditors and to authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration
6. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting of the Company
7. Updates from Committees
8. Open Forum for Discussion
9. Jim Quigley Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chair JL welcomed all to the AGM and shared apologies from those as noted above. After Health and Safety notices re the location of fire exits and toilets, all were reminded to switch mobile phones to silent. JL explained how the SCA is composed of nine groups, the Board of Directors (BoD) and eight committees who are all represented on the BoD.

The business of the AGM then began:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, 13th June 2024:
JL referred to the above, minutes of which are available on the SCA website.
Proposed by: BS Seconded by: MMcK

2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.
Copies of these were available on the SCA website and in hard copies at the AGM. BG summarized the key points. The net position at 31/12/24 was a deficit of €2335, from a deficit at 31/12/23 of €62,974. The Chair emphasized that the Company is in a very healthy condition and she commended the work of Community Centre Manager Sharon Guinane, her staff and the diligent oversight of the Board of Management.
JL asked if anyone had any queries or comments about the accounts. No questions were asked.
Adoption of the accounts:
Proposed by: BS Seconded by: SF

3. To elect Directors to the Board of Skerries Community Association CLG:
JL explained that there are currently 15 Directors on the BoD, so the 5 longest serving Directors since their last election are due for re-election.
Directors who had agreed to go forward again for re-election, Michael McKenna, Brid Grimes, Brendan Sherlock, Aoife Malone and Breda Shankey.
All were taken as one Proposal.
Proposed by: SF Seconded by BF
Rowena Walsh was formally proposed as a Director. She had been co-opted since the last AGM.
Proposed by: BS Seconded by MMcK

4. To elect Members to Skerries Community Centre Board of Management (BoM):
JL explained that there are 10 members of the BoM, and 3 due for re-election. Shay Fanning, Sadhbh Dillon, Susan Ayton and Eric Byrne stood for re-election.
Proposed by: MC Seconded by MMcK
Two new candidates for the Board of Management were proposed, Niamh Butler and Graham Cotter. They had been co-opted to the BoM since the last AGM.
Proposed by: BMS Seconded by SF
JL offered the Board of Directors' thanks to Gerry McKenna and Claire Fox who have stepped down from the BoM

5. To reappoint Dempsey Mullen as Auditors and to authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration:

This was agreed. **Proposed by: BF Seconded by: BS**

6. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting of the Company.

The new SCA branding: wallchart in Community Centre, banner and logo were introduced. The logo to be used by all SCA committees alongside their own. It encapsulates visually what the SCA are all doing, “working together for Skerries”.

Arrivals and departures: Shay Fanning has retired from the Board of Directors. “We miss him greatly”, but he remains on as Chair of the Board of Management of the Community Centre. JL thanked Shay for his many years of hard work and commitment to the BoD and the BoM.

She welcomed Rowena Walsh, who was co-opted to the BoD during the year.

7. Committee updates:

Tidy Towns: MMcG summarized the work of TT in the past year. Some new volunteers have joined the group and weekly work parties are in full swing. The Adopt a Patch and Pollinator Corridor initiatives continue.

She mentioned that the project to install a mosaic in Floraville, to commemorate May McGee’s landmark legal case in 1973, is near completion. The unveiling will take place soon and all are welcome.

Community Centre: SF gave a sense of the many activities which take place in the Centre, including the upgrading of the surfaces and lighting in the tennis Courts and All-Weather pitch. He thanked manager Sharon Guinane and staff for all their hard work.

Skerries Autism Friendly Town: GO’M said they had a particularly busy and rewarding year. They had a sensory Santa in the Mills in December and many sporting activities. GO’M thanked the Community Centre BoM for the monthly Family fun days in the Centre which are greatly enjoyed. The new Sensory Garden in Floraville is being well used and will have its official launch when the Library has been completed.

Skerries Age Friendly Town: BS said they had a very well attended Information Showcase for older people in the Harps in April. They are part of Fingal Older People’s Council which feeds into Age Friendly Ireland.

Cycling Initiative: MMcK described how they have been promoting cycling as a healthy, practical and sustainable choice for our community.

They have run cycling camps for children and bike maintenance classes for teenagers and adults and they repaired and donated many bikes.

Sustainable Skerries: Katie Lattimore, their Chair, gave an overview of the many

activities of the group, the open orchards, the pollinator plan, their water butt and Rain Garden projects, their Forest Summer School, beach toy library etc. All are described in the pre AGM flyer.

Town Twinning: BF said there was an excellent program in place in the Canton of Guichen which is preparing to welcome 25 visitors from Skerries and a smaller group from Villafranca de los Borros, in Spain, in early July.

Sustainable Energy Community Initiative: EO'C said their focus has been on Solar energy and giving people information about installing solar panels in their homes. She also encouraged people to borrow their Home Energy Monitoring Kit which is very helpful and very easy to use. There is another kit in the library.

Transport Working Group: Paula McNamee gave a summary of the work of this newly formed group, whose aim is to improve bus connectivity between Skerries and Dublin. They have linked with likeminded groups in Loughshinny, Rush and Lusk, as Bus Connects, and have met with representatives of Dublin Bus and local politicians.

Skerries Community Liaison Committee (SCLC): BMS described how two members of the BoD attend the quarterly meetings of the SCLC, which is composed of staff from FCC Ops dept., local politicians, reps from Skerries Business Association, Skerries Tidy Towns, Skerries Tourism and Loughshinny Residents' Association. It's a very useful forum to discuss plans for our area, and to make sure there is plenty of local input into decisions being made. There are ongoing representations for improvements to the Captains and Springers areas.

Skerries Neighbourhood Networks: Sabine McKenna spoke about this initiative which is linked to quite a few local residents' associations. Their aim is to have all neighbourhood groups join the network to improve local communications.

Open forum for discussion. The Chair JL spoke about the newly formed Transport Working Group and its activities to date. She welcomed Erin Cartlidge from Rush Community Council and spoke of increasing co-operation between the two groups. She said that, at the suggestion of the Community Centre Board of Management, earlier this year, the Company made a €5000 donation to SYSS (a local charity providing free counselling for young people). This was a special gesture as they had lost a major funder.

The Chair thanked all her co-directors, especially company secretary Aoife Malone, deputy chair Breda Shankey, treasurer Bríd Grimes and Michael McKenna for organizing this year's AGM. And a very special thank you to Mary Conway, former SCA treasurer for so many years and who remains on the board.

JL also thanked the members of all the SCA committees, manager Sharon Guinane and her staff in the Community Centre.

JL also thanked other volunteers who support the work of the SCA, three of whom are: **Sabine McKenna** who has edited and produced the annual flyer for the past ten years. It is a big job!

Máire Jones, who has run the website for several years and worked with the SCA on accessibility.

Dee Langton, who couldn't be present, for thinking up the idea of the Newsflash and for running it for about 20 years!

There was a small gift for each as a token of the BoD's gratitude.

The Chair then asked all present if they had any contributions to make to the Open Forum.

Mayor Tom O'Leary spoke at length about FCC plans for Skerries and Cllr Malachy Quinn also joined the discussion. The local sea swimmers spoke about ongoing issues of algae management by FCC in the Captains and Springers.

Jim Quigley Volunteer of the Year Award. BMS gave a summary of the life and work of the late Jim Quigley. She thanked all who had nominated people for the award and thanked the Adjudicators for their diligence.

The winner this year was Miriam Carroll, who was nominated for her work as a founding member of the Forget Me Not Cafe, a monthly social and support gathering for people living with Dementia and their loved ones. Miriam was warmly applauded for all her selfless work and the presentation was made by JL.

The AGM concluded with the Chair thanking all who had attended and contributed to it. The evening finished with tea/ coffee and biscuits.