

**STIRLING TENANTS ASSEMBLY
MEETING HELD IN HILLPARK CENTRE, BANNOCKBURN,
ON 17 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 10.30am**

Present:

Alec Lamb, Dolly Gemmell, Thomas Brown, Cathy Brown, Anna Johnston, Hugh McClung, Philomena McClung, Delia Waddell, Richard Waddell, Brian Telfer, Emma Meldrum STP.

Apologies:

Cathy Traynor, Michael Griffiths, Moira Robertson.

- ⑩ As the speaker for today's meeting had not yet arrived, Hugh took the opportunity of going through the Service User Agreement page by page. This was unanimously agreed and will be presented for signature at the Annual General Meeting.
- ⑩ Annual Report will be done at the meeting in March, as will the Work Plan for the coming year. Hugh proposed having a session for everyone to discuss the Work Plan. This will be done after the meeting in Dunblane in March (Dolly will see if booking can be extended to 4pm).
- ⑩ Philomena suggested that ID badges should be obtained for all members of STA.
- ⑩ Philomena emphasised that, in order for catering needs to be accurate, all members must notify her whether or not they will be attending a meeting.

Station Square Development:

Jo from Creative Stirling told the meeting that the design element for Station Square has been chosen, and she had come to today's meeting to obtain views on the artistic design. She explained who Creative Stirling are and what their purpose is. Jo is looking for ideas from individuals or groups, perhaps sharing stories and memories. She presented a model of what the new Station Square Development would look like.

Everyone should think about Jo's presentation and bring their ideas to our March meeting. Hugh thanked Jo for coming along to today's meeting.

Minutes of meeting held on 20 January 2015:

Anna pointed out two typing errors on page 2. Under "Any other competent business" the word garaged should read garages, and the word thee should read the. Subject to these amendments being made, acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Thomas, seconded by Philomena.

Matters arising:

- ⑩ New builds at Cornton still not complete. Philomena will speak to John McMillan again, and Hugh will lodge a complaint with the portfolio holder.
- ⑩ Working Group on Rent Arrears – Philomena, Dolly and Anna had met with Steven McCabe. An article concerning rent arrears will be placed in the next issue of Open Door. Dolly felt that the documents should have been distributed prior to the meeting to give us a chance to read them. Philomena will organise the next Working Group meeting.
- ⑩ Hugh has been experiencing difficulty in updating the website. Kisweb have advised that the system is so old that we cannot update it. A new website will need to be up-and-running as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Report:

£7,087.49.

Housing Advisory Group:

Philomena, Thomas and Hugh had raised the matter of the Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association plans (Falkirk Council Pension Fund).

Hugh had said that he did not want it to be merely noted, but wanted it specifically noted that we do not approve of any deviation from the housing plan. Investment of 2 million pounds is blackmail – rural areas will have to wait approximately two years for any new builds in their areas.

Thomas will tell COP to organise a campaign to get Castle Rock to set up a local office in Stirling. They have already contacted Hillview Centre to see if they can book a room for meetings with tenants. Anna will check with CAPP, but felt sure they would support COP as tenants in Cornton are equally unhappy with Castle Rock as landlords. Hugh will contact Violet Weir to see if the Council would support a local office being set up.

Crudens Development:

Philomena wondered why Crudens have a poster up in Raploch advertising housing at Stirling Bridge. Why does the poster not say Raploch?

Questionnaires:

Emma has now received more responses (700) – a lot had been held up in a Royal Mail depot. Most of those who had responded were in favour of the rent increase and building up a reserve fund. Any complaints will be passed by Emma to the appropriate officers.

Website:

One option is to allow Cami to set up a website. Cost would be approximately £1,700 and around £200 per annum for maintenance.

Another option is to go with Wix. Cost would be approximately £12 per month but would probably require the purchase of 2 new computers, and might take longer.

Majority were in favour of the second option, depending on costs. Hugh will report back to the next meeting.

Secretary's Report:

- ⑩ Letter from TPAS about the Housing Scotland Act. This was passed round.
- ⑩ Letter from Scottish Housing Regulator advising that they are considering changes to guidance documents.
- ⑩ Letter from Scottish Housing Regulator regarding communicating with landlords and RTOs.
- ⑩ Final report from Regulator.

TPAS Conference:

Will be held in November 2015. As the cost will be £700 per delegate it was agreed that we need to cut down on the numbers attending. When the letter comes in from TPAS we will ask who is interested in attending and a ballot will be held. Hugh declared an interest as he is a member of the TPAS Board as well as a member of STA.

Date of next meeting:

17 March 2015 at 10.30 am in Victoria Halls, Dunblane.

Hugh closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.