



**STIRLING TENANTS ASSEMBLY
MEETING HELD IN ALLAN CENTRE, BRIDGE OF ALLAN
ON 15th NOVEMBER 2016 AT 10.30am**

1. Present:

Dolly Gemmell, Anna Johnston, Moira Robertson, Duncan Faichney, Philomena McClung, Thomas (Allan) Brown, Kathy Brown, Alex Lamb, Willie Derrick, Richard Waddell, Michael Griffiths, Kenneth McKenna.

Kirsty Hill (TP Officer)

Apologies:

Hugh McClung, Delia Waddell

In Hugh's absence Moira welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 18th October 2016:

Acceptance of minutes was proposed by Willie and seconded by Allan.

3. Business arising from Minutes:

- Page 2 – Over 300 responses have been received about the rent consultation.
- Page 3 – TP budget – Moira did not receive a questionnaire and Kirsty will get Gillian to provide a copy for her.
- Page 3 – Disposal of Assets – Disappointment was expressed that Gregor Wightman had not attended the October STA meeting. (At this point Richard queried why a piece of land behind his house had been sold by the Council for £1. Kirsty responded that discussion needs to take place.) It was agreed that Gregor be invited to attend the December STA meeting.

4. Reports:

Chairperson

Moira read out Hugh's report as follows:

- TPAS Contract Questionnaires – Those of you who have not completed and/or returned the questionnaire need to do so now.
- Budget meeting 7th October 2016 – This was an update meeting prior to the second payment of our grant. Workplan had been submitted with updates in red – this was distributed to today's meeting. It was agreed that second stage grant will be paid.
- TPAS Conference Delegates' Expenses – Mileage will be required for those taking their car to St Andrews. Expenses to delegates of £25 per night are required for each delegate. **This was agreed.**
- IUT Conference – A copy of the report from the delegates who had attended the IUT Conference was distributed to today's meeting and will be submitted to Stirling Council and to the Housing Advisory Group. Hugh wished to thank his co-delegates for their contribution and attendance at an excellent conference.

- December meeting – Philomena had a menu available for lunch following December meeting.
- Telephone Survey – 2 sessions have been held and 26 tenants contacted. Survey will continue until end of year. Anyone who has not yet volunteered to take part need to do so soon. Statistics will be compiled and a report will be made at our January meeting. We need to consider what happens next. If this exercise is successful, and the results are acceptable, Hugh would like to propose that we offer the Council a return to such a survey every two years.
- Housing Advisory Group – Next meeting is on 9th December. If there are any items for the agenda Hugh would like them noted at today's meeting.
- Scottish Government – Budget is on 23rd November. There is likely to be a cut in the overall budget for housing. The Housing and Regeneration Division has been split because of the new Department for Social Security. The 50,000 houses over the next 5 years should be commencing early in 2017. The new Guidance for the Housing Scotland Act 2014 is now online. We need to sit down as a sub-group and examine the detail. **It was agreed that sub-group will consist of Hugh, Allan, Willie, Philomena, Kenny and Michael.**
- Regional Networks – Structure is under review. In 2008/7 there were 9 Regional Networks representing some 600+ RTOs. Today there are less than 500 RTOs but we still have 9 Regional Networks and they are having difficulty maintaining current membership levels. A sub-committee has been set up to examine a new structure.
- Social Security legislation – Social Security legislation in the Scottish Government is still being consulted on. Consultation is on the Scottish Government website.

Secretary

- Philomena arranged for everyone to make their selection from the menu for lunch following December meeting. It was agreed that 2 courses would be sufficient.
- CIH Dinner – Hugh and Philomena had been invited to attend. It had been a good evening.

Treasurer

- Balance on statement £8,673.84. Cheques have been issued for £258.90, not yet cleared, which will leave a balance of £8,414.94.

5. Any other competent business:

- Michael proposed that Kenny be co-opted on to the STA. This was seconded by Allan. Willie had already been co-opted on to the STA at our August meeting.
- Telephone Surveys – Kirsty has arranged some extra sessions. Michael and Philomena will attend on 8th December, Kenny and Allan on 7th December (sessions will be from 2pm to 4pm). If another session is needed on 14th December Anna will be available.
- Dolly reported that she had had water coming down her bathroom walls from flat upstairs. Dolly had experienced difficulty in getting through to report this but had eventually done so at 11am. Tradesperson had not arrived until about 7pm and was excellent. It was agreed that this difficulty in reporting a problem was not acceptable, and that automated telephone answering service is deplorable. One of the questions being asked during the telephone surveys concerned what service tenants experienced when reporting a problem and Kirsty will be keeping an eye on this aspect.
- Kirsty advised that STA have been invited to visit North Ayrshire Council – potential to go and speak to staff and tenants. Members present at today's meeting expressed interest in this visit, preferably sometime in March. Consideration should be given to the possibility of obtaining a mini-bus. Kirsty will liaise with Tracy at North Ayrshire Council

6. Date of next meeting:

- Next meeting will be held on 20th December 2016 at 10.30am in the Mayfield Centre.

Moira closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.