



**STIRLING TENANTS ASSEMBLY
MEETING HELD IN BANNOCKBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON 21st FEBRUARY 2017 AT 10.30am**

1. Present:

Hugh McClung, Dolly Gemmell, Anna Johnston, Moira Robertson, Duncan Faichney, Alex Lamb, Michael Griffiths, Philomena McClung, Richard Waddell, Delia Waddell, Willie Derrick, Kenny McKenna, Tony Kelly (TPAS), Gillian Findlay (Stirling Council).

Apologies:

None.

Hugh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Consultation on Independent Tenant Advisor:

Since 2000 Stirling Council have had a contract to supply independent tenant advice. Firstly there was involvement in the setting up of tenants' groups/forums with the advent of the Tenant Participation Strategy.

Since then an ITA contract has been operated through TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) who have individually won the contract since 2003. Their service, with an individual being appointed to work for and with tenants, has been of benefit to both tenants and to Stirling Council in their progress of their Tenant Participation Strategy.

The extensive contract costs a considerable amount of money to operate – includes costs of staffing and support costs (admin, office, telephone etc).

Carol Hamilton, Tenancy Services Manager, Stirling Council, has asked the STA to consider whether the current contract with TPAS is value for money, and whether the Council would be better to have their own Tenant Participation Officer.

Gillian explained that Council have to look at all contracts. TPAS is paid £133,000 over 3 years. To bring the post in-house would save approximately £10,000 per annum.

Prior to Kirsty leaving Gillian had spoken to her and Kirsty had advised that she could probably have done her workload in 20 hours per week.

Contract was due to end on 31st March 2017 but has been extended until 30th June 2017.

After discussion it was agreed that the Tenant Participation Officer should remain independent through TPAS and not in-house through Stirling Council. Gillian will speak to Carol. Number of working hours per week will have to be considered.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th January 2017:

Acceptance of minutes was proposed by Dolly and seconded by Michael.

4. Reports:

Chairperson

- Hugh had received an e-mail this morning asking if the STA would be willing to participate in a golf tournament. Unanimously decided not to participate.

Secretary

- Philomena was asked if there was an up-to-date list of STA members' details. Philomena agreed to prepare this for the next meeting (Tony Kelly to be included).

Treasurer

- Kiswebs had advised Dolly that they had banked 2 cheques but cheques have gone astray. They had asked Dolly to check our bank statements which Dolly had done and found that the 2 cheques referred to had not in fact been cashed. Dolly was authorised to get our Bank to stop these cheques and issue a new one with a note saying that once Kiswebs have received a cheque from STA it becomes the responsibility of Kiswebs. Hugh will contact Alan Leary about this situation.
- Balance £13,448.65 with £90.00 to be deducted.
- Banking Arrangements – Hugh reported on a succession of mistakes which had been made by the TSB concerning the STA's account. These included missed appointments, incorrectly registered details, etc. Hugh suggested 2 options:
 - a) Removing our account from the TSB and seeking an account elsewhere, or
 - b) Making a formal complaint to the Financial Services Ombudsman.It was agreed that Hugh should go ahead with complaining to the Financial Services Ombudsman.

Housing Advisory Group

- Hugh reported that the most recent HAG meeting had been very interesting. A lot had been discussed.

Study Trip to North Ayrshire Council

- 29th March 2017.
- Moira, Willie, Kenny, Philomena, Anna and Hugh will be attending. Allan and Kathy Brown not present at today's meeting so Hugh will clarify whether they wish to attend. Tony expressed an interest in attending.
- Willie, Hugh and Tony will take their cars.
- Hugh will advise North Ayrshire Council that we will be arriving at 11.00am.

Reports from TPAS Conference

- Hugh submitted his report from the TPAS Conference.

5. STA Profile:

- The discussion paper which Hugh had prepared was considered.
- It was agreed that tenants need to be made more aware of the STA. Hugh has done a newsletter for inclusion in the next issue of Open Door. Tony suggested including the date of the AGM, as well as photographs of our members.
- Open Door and newsletter will be going out end of March/beginning of April.

6. Annual General Meeting:

- Will be held on Saturday 6th May 2013 in the Mayfield Centre (Philomena will check availability of the Centre).
- More arrangements for the AGM will be discussed at next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting:

Next meeting will be held on 21st March 2017 at 10.30am in Hillview Community Centre in Cultenhove.

Hugh closed the meeting.