



NOTES OF VIDEO MESSAGING MEETING HELD ON 22nd APRIL 2020

In attendance; William Derrick, Moira Robertson, Hugh McClung, Philomena McClung, Robert Cairney, Anna Johnston and Leza Lafferty (Independent Tenant Participation Officer). Mags Hughes joined in shortly after start of meeting.

William welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Notes of last meeting:

Leza had circulated these to everyone.

Matters arising from the notes:

1. Leza reported that Stephen Clark (CHO) and Craig Russell (HM) had wanted to attend today's meeting but did not want to use Messenger. It was decided that STA were quite happy with using Messenger but appreciated that some other format would need to be used for meetings involving Council officers. Leza will report this to Stephen and Craig. In the meantime Anna will send notes of today's meeting to them. Zoom, although used by Scottish Government and UK Government, has not to be used for Council meetings.

Mags had joined the meeting at this time and reported that she had experienced an unpleasant situation when she had phoned Council to report a smell of sewage in her home. Mags had explained that she herself has been told to shield for 12 weeks and that she has an autistic daughter. Despite this Mags had been told that "she was not vulnerable enough" to warrant a tradesman coming out to her home unless sewage was actually coming up her sink. It was only when Mags was passed on to a manager and told the manager that she was secretary of Cowie Community Council, secretary of Cowie Rural Action Group and vice-chair of Stirling Tenants Assembly that a workman was sent to sort the problem. Mags was angry about the way this had been handled. Leza asked Mags to pass on all the details to her and she will ask Gillian to look into this.

Mags also reported that Cowie Rural Action Group (CRAG) is a registered charity. Someone – purporting to represent CRAG, but not a member of CRAG – had gone into Kitchen at 44 King Street and had obtained food for the homeless people being housed at the King Robert Hotel. Hugh said that OSCR can remove a charity's charitable status and Moira suggested that CRAG should contact OSCR to ask for advice. However, Mags said that all she really wanted to know was whether the person who had obtained the food would be prosecuted.

Mags then left the meeting.

There was feedback during the meeting making it difficult to hear and Moira thought that the woman had stolen from CRAG. When she realized this was not the case, she messaged Mags to tell her that CRAG did not need to contact OSCR because no fraudulent crime had been carried out against CRAG.

Matters arising from the notes (contd.):

2. Open Door – Gillian is still working on Open Door and is in touch with Hugh about STA’s newsletter. Obviously information will need to be added concerning Covid-19.
3. Sale of land in Braehead – Leza had contacted Gregor but has not yet had a response from him. She will follow this up.
4. Twitter account – Robert has not set this up yet but will do so as soon as possible.
5. CIH Housing Festival – Anna has typed her report on the Housing Festival and will e-mail this to everyone.

Acceptance of the notes as a true record was proposed by Moira and seconded by Philomena.

Chair’s Report:

William reported that following Hugh’s complaint to the Scottish Government and his Freedom of Information request he had contacted STA members to seek approval to send a letter of complaint to Carol Beattie, Chief Executive Officer concerning the way this had been handled. Hugh had drafted a letter and members authorized him to send the letter to CEO.

Secretary’s Report:

Anna had nothing to report.

Treasurer’s Report:

Moira had sent end-of-year accounts to everyone. Balance £4,974.43 in Bank, less £30.00 which has now been paid to Kiswebs.

Moira had asked William to contact Gillian about STA’s Work Plan and Budget Application for 2020/21. Under the present circumstances Gillian had said that budget would not be looked at in the meantime and that no payments are being made. In some cases some senior officers are being delegated to make decisions. Moira said the only foreseeable problem which might arise would be if STA had to pay for attendees at the TPAS Conference in January 2021.

Regarding the cheque which Anna had posted to Hugh for stationery the envelope had not been “lost in the post”. The stamp had come off during transit and Hugh had had to pay £2.00 to receive it (this will be refunded to him). By the time Hugh received it Moira had already been in touch with the Bank and the cheque had been cancelled. Moira’s call to the Bank had cost £4.66 and this will also be refunded. If anyone needs stationery in the near future please let Hugh know.

Moira had looked into online banking but the Bank could not arrange this in a way that authority from 2 office-bearers would be required. Under these circumstances it was decided that we don’t want to go ahead with online banking.

Everyone agreed that the accounts had been presented by Moira very satisfactorily and she was thanked, Moira queried if she could be authorized to pay the usual £40.00 to the person who checks the accounts – this was agreed, although we are aware that the checking of the accounts cannot be done at the moment.

Regional Networks Report:

No Regional Networks meetings have been held.

TP Officer's Report:

1. Leza is trying to find out how other meetings can be set up.
2. She has been working with Alexa on the Tenant Satisfaction Plan. Hugh said that at the last meeting of the Repairs Group he had suggested to Alexa that tradesmen be provided with cards to hand to tenants on completion of a job if a follow-up visit might be required. Tenants would then have a reference number.
3. Leza reported that Alexa's previous job has now been filled. STA were pleased to hear that Alexa is now working as a Project Coordinator. At the moment she is dealing with Homelync and with the Tenant Satisfaction Plan.
4. Leza had also been doing a lot of work for TPAS. A Workplace on Facebook for TP Officers has been set up.

Any other business:

1. William asked if it would be possible for a tenant phoning the 01786 404040 telephone number to be provided with a reference number in case further action is required. This could be added to the newsletter.
2. Hugh expressed concern about the possibility of Housing Advisory Group having a virtual meeting. Several tenant members would be unable to participate – perhaps telephone calls would be better. Moira felt that discussion on the future of HAG should be done on a face-to-face basis.
3. William has now been provided with his cast which he is only allowed to wear for 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the afternoon.
4. William has phoned several STA members to check on their welfare. Leza, Moira and Anna have all done this too. Hugh has spoken to Michael who is still having breathing problems and is obviously not allowed out. Tony Ferguson from Stirling Council has been phoning tenants to check on their welfare and see if they needed any help or advice.
5. Hugh said that he cannot see our Annual General Meeting being held at the usual time. He proposed that until such times as this can go ahead we accept a continuation of the current office-bearers. This was agreed.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 19th May 2020 at 10.00 am (likely to be an online meeting again but this will be confirmed).