



**STIRLING TENANTS ASSEMBLY
MEETING HELD AT MAYFIELD CENTRE
ON 15th DECEMBER 2015 AT 10.30am**

1. Present:

Moira Robertson, Dolly Gemmell, Anna Johnston, Thomas Brown, Kathy Brown, Hugh McClung, Philomena McClung, Duncan Faichney, Delia Waddell, Richard Waddell, Michael Griffiths, Alex Lamb, Emma Meldrum (STP).

Apologies:

Brian Telfer, Cathy Traynor, Meg de Amasi.

Hugh thanked everyone for attending. Before opening the meeting he advised that this was rather a sad occasion as Emma will be leaving her post. Emma's contribution has been exemplary and her guidance has been of great help to us. Hugh wanted to record his own personal thanks to Emma, as well as the thanks of the group

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th November 2015:

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

3. Business arising from Minutes:

- Photoshop has not yet been purchased. Hugh will arrange.
- Emma has sent out more survey forms regarding the cost of heating in rural homes. The plan is that when the surveys are returned Gillian will sort them out and forward details to Moira for input. Moira will contact Gregor to arrange a meeting.
- At a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on 18th November Hugh had reported the group's feelings about Castle Rock. There seems to be some concern about the relevance of pension funds being used for this part of housing. Hugh put across the point that Hearthstone is undemocratic and that no-one else had been allowed to bid. This will be further discussed in February and Hugh will report back to STA.
- New website is pretty much up to date. Some photos had required adjustment by Kisweb but should be finished by Friday. Contact page has Hugh's details. Emma will be in the office on 23rd and suggested meeting then to go through things.
- Richard's toilet seat has now been repaired – Stirling Council are investigating the inaccessibility of the seat. It was agreed that tenants who damage their property should be billed for repairs to the damaged items but each situation must be assessed individually.

4. Reports:

Chair

- Ministerial meeting – it had been indicated that £10,000,000 will be spent over the next 5 years on new build social housing. Shelter has said that this is not enough. Another £15,000,000 will be going into private rented sector.
- A meeting of all networks will be held on 8th March in Glasgow. Minister for Housing will be

there and there will be a panel session dealing with the Charter. Carol Hamilton will be a panellist. This will be the Minister's last meeting with tenant representatives as she is standing down at the next election.

Secretary

- Philomena had received the TPAS Calendar of Events and this was passed round.

Treasurer

- £11,657.69 on statement, cheques still to be cleared £358.00, leaving a balance of £11,299.69. Dolly had received a reminder from Kisweb about the Council bill – Emma is dealing with this.

5. Housing Advisory Group:

- Dolly finds it difficult to hear what is being said at the Housing Advisory Group meetings. Emma will mention this and Hugh will bring it to the attention of Carol Hamilton and John McMillan.
- Michael said that credit should be given to Carol Hamilton and the Housing Service for the work they are doing for homeless people.
- Rent consultation – has gone out to Tenants Panel. About 250 responses so far.

6. Any other competent business:

- Michael had been to visit Cathy – he said that she is rather frail but is alert and looking well.
- We will hear in February about proposed changes to Council Tax.
- Thomas said that although the staff looking after void properties are doing an excellent job there is an empty 5-apartment house in Culterhove – this has been empty for around 6 months. Dolly spoke about an empty Council property in Dunblane. Hugh said that anyone with information about empty properties should contact Allyson Allison.

7. Vacant post:

- Emma's last day in post will be 24th December. Contract still has 2 years to run, and we have now to seek an individual to replace Emma. Lesley Baird had contacted Hugh to request a meeting and she is coming to his house on 15th January to go through the spec. She will then meet with Carol Hamilton. Philomena suggested that office-bearers should be present at the meeting with Lesley – this was agreed. Advert will go out after 15th January, probably a 3-week period for applications, then short-listing will be done, then interviews.

8. Dates of future meetings:

19 th January 2016	Mayfield Centre	Speaker on priority based budgeting
16 th February 2016	Mayfield Centre	
15 th March 2016	Hillview Centre	
19 th April 2016	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan	
21 st May 2016	Mayfield Centre	Annual General Meeting
21 st June 2016	Crianlarich	
19 th July 2016	Kippen	

Philomena will make the necessary bookings.

Hugh closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.