



**STIRLING TENANTS ASSEMBLY
MEETING HELD AT MAYFIELD CENTRE
ON 16th FEBRUARY 2016 AT 10.30am**

1. Present:

Alex Lamb, Kathy Brown, Duncan Faichney, Michael Griffiths, Moira Robertson, Anna Johnston, Philomena McClung, Delia Waddell, Richard Waddell.

Apologies:

Dolly Gemmell, Thomas Brown, Hugh McClung, Brian Telfer, Cathy Traynor, Meg de Amasi, Robert Cairney

In Hugh's absence, Moira took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 19th January 2016:

Acceptance of minutes was proposed by Philomena, seconded by Duncan.

3. Business arising from Minutes:

- Priority-based budgeting – Moira reported on proposals to make changes in her area which would result in the Headteacher of two schools becoming responsible for the Nursery as well.
- Purchase of Photoshop is pending – very expensive if not being used by an individual. This will be discussed at next meeting.
- Heating Survey – Moira had received an e-mail from Gillian Findlay asking for the completed surveys. Moira had asked if Gillian would be doing the analysis but had been told that this will be done by either George McArthur or the new Tenant Participation Officer when appointed. It has since been confirmed that it will be done by the new Officer.
- Interviews for new Officer (two interviews) will be held on 19th January.

4. Reports:

Chair

In Hugh's absence, Moira read out his written report – any questions/comments have been inserted in red typeface.

- Sorry I'm not with you today. I have to present another report to the Scottish Government and the Regional Networks. In the past few weeks I have learned that the new Housing Act 2014 preparations will not now be approved until September 2016. I think this is astounding given the emphasis to bring the private rented sector into the 21st century with new rights and agreements. There is a new guide/toolkit for tenants to help them understand the Housing Revenue Accounts and I will speak about that at our next meeting.
- Housing Advisory Group – The item that I raised on the Agenda last month concerning the article in the Stirling Observer of 16th December 2015 was discussed at HAG. The issue is no longer one of contention as the landlord is no longer under administration and those houses won't be sold off. Homes cannot be bought under the rules of Housing Revenue Accounts, but what is perceived to be the thoughts behind the proposal for the Council to purchase those houses is to use the reserves. Which reserves are unclear, but the Council will look at any individual situations on a case by case principle. We need to keep an eye on this.

The TP strategy will be tweaked after some amendments and we will likely have it for approval at the next meeting.

Rent report was approved – full Council will decide.

Our Power – A new facility supported by Housing Associations and Councils to provide efficient energy at a lower cost than the "big six". More detail to follow.

Anna, on behalf of Moira, had raised the heating systems survey.

Next meeting 29th March. Tenant reps will be asked to make a report of their community. **Anna queried the date for the next HAG meeting which she'd thought was 18th March, not 29th. Although she is aware that tenant reps making a report of their community to HAG had been discussed at previous HAG meetings Anna had no recollection of this being discussed at the HAG meeting on 29th January.**

Agenda items are becoming scarce. I already requested a rent arrears report. Agenda items are becoming more

and more verbal reports. We need to sort this by getting written papers.

Tenant reps need to say more. Already two tenant members have been conspicuous by their absence from Plean/Fallin with no apologies. This is since the new changes were being proposed.

- Annual General Meeting – Date is 21st May. We need to decide venue/speaker etc or leave this until next meeting. **It was agreed that Mayfield Centre is the best venue for the AGM. Sub-committee will meet to discuss speaker, catering etc. Hugh, Philomena, Michael and Kathy will form sub-committee.**
- Budget – group budget needs to be decided and I usually do this on my own. I would like others to be involved. Perhaps three people and myself. There are issues on which I will make a report at the next meeting with the budget projections. So, if you have any ideas please let me know. Budget meeting is on 22nd March with Carol Hamilton and STA office-bearers. **A meeting to discuss the budget will be arranged – hopefully Hugh, Philomena, Dolly, Moira and Anna will attend.**
- Annual Report – Combined with the budget, we will have to draw up an annual report for our AGM. Anna, Brian and I did the last one, so I'd like help with this too please. **Anna offered to do this and Philomena will contact Thomas to see if he would be interested in helping.**
- Scottish Government – The report I am doing is based on the Joint Housing Development Programme. It will be confirmed later that there will be a proposal to have a National Housing Day which will be supported and reported through the media, leaflets etc and possibly funded by the Scottish Government. The proposal is before the Housing Directorate and I will keep you informed.

Secretary

- Reading Room has been booked by Richard and Delia for the meeting in Kippen. Delia will go to Deli and see if they will provide sandwiches.
- Letter from TPAS re. the National Good Practice Awards 2016. It was decided not to nominate.
- National Tenants Event is to be held in Glasgow on 8th March for Regional Network members.

Treasurer

- Balance £11,100.74.

5. Any other competent business:

- Moira had details of the proposed new Community Village on the site of what was Stirling Royal Infirmary. She circulated these for everyone to have a look at.
- Moira submitted her apologies for the next STA meeting.

6. Date of next meeting:

15th March 2016 at 10.30am in Hillview Centre.

Moira closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

ADDENDUM:

Following the meeting Moira realised that she had omitted to update the meeting on Thomas Brown contacting a tenant in St. Ninians regarding the heating survey and the tenant being refused gas heating as wet electric had been installed. I heard from Thomas and he had visited the tenant and passed all the information to the person in St. Ninians who is helping to sort this type of incident out.