



**STIRLING TENANTS ASSEMBLY  
MEETING HELD AT MAYFIELD CENTRE  
ON 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 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, Alex Lamb, Joyce Wighton (Stirling Council)

**Apologies:**

Brian Telfer, Cathy Traynor, Meg de Amasi, Michael Griffiths, Robert Cairney

Hugh thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Joyce Wighton as our guest speaker.

**2. Priority-based Budgeting**

Joyce explained that the Council are trying to involve members of the public in what the Council will be recommending to elected members. Various Community Conversations have been held and the report which was done in November is on the Council website. Survey is also online and will remain there until 12<sup>th</sup> February. All feedback, including e-mailed comments, will be passed to elected members.

John Swinney had announced a further reduction in what is being given to local authorities. This had turned out to be worse than Councils had anticipated, therefore further options re. budgeting will be put online by the end of next week, along with a smaller survey.

Regarding care and educational services Hugh had understood that Stirling had agreed to go in with Falkirk and Clackmannan but it seems that Clackmannan has decided to go their own way. Joyce clarified that in terms of education it had been Stirling who had backed away – for financial reasons.

Social services are slightly different and will still progress as Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannan.

Hugh asked about responses so far to the proposed budget. Joyce said there has been particular feedback about education (removal of PE and music specialists). This will not affect instrumental tuition. Waste proposals have generally been accepted.

Moira said that people in rural areas feel under-represented. For example if 10 people respond this seems like a small number of responses, but if it is 10 people out of 100 this is in fact a 10% response.

Hugh thanked Joyce for her attendance. Before leaving, Joyce distributed copies of the proposed budget report and added that two more Community Conversations have been arranged – Balfron Campus on 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6pm and Wallace High School on 4<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm.

**Report, Theme Option Sheets and Survey are available at:**

<http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/council-and-government/shapingstirling>

**Comments can be e-mailed to:**

[shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk)

**3. Minutes of Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015:**

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

#### **4. Business arising from Minutes:**

- Photoshop has not yet been purchased. Hugh will arrange. In connection with purchases Dolly had been advised that Groups cannot use cards and have to use a shop which will accept a cheque. Hugh will follow this up with Dolly.
- Richard advised that he has saved over £500 since installation of new heating.
- Moira – Emma has not analysed the information re. heating as promised. It is hoped that her replacement will be able to take this further. Moira has had 15 survey details returned to her but with no information regarding contact details. Two people had phoned Moira to ask for help in completing the survey. One complainant was needing to speak to someone and Moira will ask this tenant if he/she is happy for details to be passed to Thomas or if he/she would rather have Hugh deal with it.
- Website – Hugh will check whether new website is up and running.
- Future meetings – Rooms have been booked, except Kippen, and Philomena asked Richard and Delia if they could book the Reading Room.
- Emma's replacement – It had been intended that the STA office-bearers should meet with Lesley Baird from TPAS on 15<sup>th</sup> January to discuss job specification etc. However, Lesley had been unable to attend on that day and prior to the day TPAS had already publicised the job vacancy. . It is appreciated that this is a TPAS-based post but we would have appreciated a chance to make input.

Twelve application forms have been issued to those who had responded. Closing date is 29<sup>th</sup> January, followed by short-listing, interviews and appointment. Hugh is hoping to meet with Lesley Baird as soon as possible.

#### **5. Reports:**

##### Chair

- Hugh will report back from Scottish Government after meeting in February. There is a proposal to have a National Housing Day once a year for landlords and tenants to meet. Hugh will keep STA updated on whether this proposal is going to go ahead or not. (At this point in Hugh's report, Richard asked if a private rented landlord had to be registered as such. Hugh said that this is correct and Richard should speak to the rental registration service at Stirling Council for information.) Scottish Housing Network have produced a Guidance Framework on Housing Revenue Accounts.

##### Secretary

- Philomena emphasised that STA members must let her know whether or not they will be in attendance. This is necessary to prevent wastage on catering.
- TPAS has meetings forthcoming on Implementing the 2014 Housing Act. It was agreed that the cost was prohibitive.

##### Treasurer

- Statement to 14<sup>th</sup> December has been received. Cheques still to be cleared £518.00. Balance £10,840.74.

#### **6. Housing Advisory Group:**

- Hugh had asked that an article which had been printed in the Stirling Observer be added to the HAG agenda for discussion. A proposal has been made by a local Councillor that the Council could purchase some properties at an advantageous price. These are ex-Council properties in a serious state of disrepair. Hugh had been advised that the cost to make these properties habitable would be in the region of £60,000 per property, on top of what the properties would cost the Council to purchase. Hugh said that there is within the rules of Housing Revenue Accounts that before any purchase is made from HRA consultation must be undertaken with tenants group. Hugh's concern is that the tenants of these properties do not

have security of tenure and he has asked for a report explaining what these tenants' rights are, but mainly the problem is the actual purchase of the properties from HRA. Moira pointed out that a similar situation has occurred in the past, and Hugh will check this out.

**7. Any other competent business:**

- National Tenants Event is to be held in Glasgow on 8<sup>th</sup> March for Regional Network members.

**8. Date of next meeting:**

16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10.30am in Mayfield Centre.

Hugh closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.