

**MEETING OF STIRLING TENANTS ASSEMBLY
HELD ON 16th JUNE 2015 AT 10.30am IN MAYFIELD CENTRE**

Present:

Cathy Brown, Thomas Allan Brown, Alec Lamb, Dolly Gemmell, Delia Waddell, Anna Johnston, Michael Griffiths, Hugh McClung, Philomena McClung, Meg de Amasi, Duncan Faichney, Emma Meldrum (STP).

1. Opening Remarks and Apologies:

Hugh welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were intimated from Richard Waddell, Moira Robertson, Cathy Traynor, Robert Cairney.

Prior to the commencement of the business, Michael extended congratulations to Hugh on his recent award of MBE. The meeting joined in the congratulations and agreed that the award was well-deserved.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 21st April 2015:

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

3. Matters arising from minutes:

5.3 Philomena had spoken to Cathy concerning the proposal that she step down as STA's representative on the Housing Advisory Group. However, Cathy does want to continue attending HAG meetings.

4. Election of Office Bearers 2015/2016:

Emma took the chair for this part of the meeting. The following office bearers were elected:

Chair	Hugh (nominated by Michael, seconded by Dolly)
Vice Chair	Moira (nominated by Anna, seconded by Michael)
Secretary	Philomena (nominated by Michael, seconded by Dolly)
Treasurer	Dolly (nominated by Michael, seconded by Philomena)
Minute Secretary	Anna (nominated by Philomena, seconded by Allan)
Asst. Treasurer	Moira (nominated by Philomena, seconded by Michael)

All those nominated expressed willingness to accept the positions and Hugh resumed chairing the meeting.

5. AGM Report:

5.1 Service Level Agreement had been signed on the day of the AGM by the three parties involved.

5.2 Eighteen people had attended the AGM.

5.3 Presentation on Universal Credit had been given by Steven McCabe with two colleagues from the Change Organisation who are offering help and advice to anyone experiencing problems relating to the introduction of Universal Credit. People are already experiencing problems and what is yet to come is worrying. Change Organisation will welcome everyone to their training sessions. They are trying to obtain more funding from both Governments. STA members should take back to their respective communities that help is available. Dolly queried how people have been notified – at the moment it is only new claimants who are being affected, and when Universal Credit is rolled out everyone concerned will be notified by the DWP. Up-to-date information on Universal Credit will continue to be made available – anyone experiencing difficulties should be referred to Change, Stirling Council or CAB.

5.4 Hugh had discussed with Steven that it would be useful for us as a group to have an update in September. It was agreed that this was a good idea, subject to involvement of Stirling Council. This could possibly be arranged for a Saturday, perhaps in a location nearer the town than the Mayfield.

5.5 Committee was elected – only new Committee member is Robert Cairney.

5.6 Emma had spoken to Hugh regarding AGM catering. Suggested that next year the Committee could go out for something to eat following the AGM – this would save waste.

6. CRN AGM Report:

6.1 All who had attended the AGM expressed satisfaction with the contents of the day. Had mostly been about scrutiny and the panel had been most informative.

6.2 Alec had stood down but, following an election, had been re-elected. It was agreed that the election process had been very confusing. There may be a discussion at the next meeting about whether the group can co-opt someone onto the committee.

7. Report from HAG:

7.1 There had been two presentations – one by Philomena about the recent TLI on new builds. Recommendations and observations had been made to the Council.

7.2 The second presentation was on the empty homes project. A few years ago Stirling Council, along with Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Councils, had employed an individual to bring empty homes back into circulation by means of grants, awards, etc. It was reported that 72 properties in Stirling have been brought back into circulation, saving £33,000 in Council Tax arrears. It has also been possible to secure a number of properties for mortgage to rent. It had been a well-presented report.

7.3 There had been discussion some months ago about the proposal to use Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association – no decision has been made yet by Stirling Council. During the week a policy document from the Wellbeing Alliance had criticised the proposal. Alex Neil had said £300,000,000 could be spent in the Stirling area using Castle Rock. It was agreed that this should be open to bid, not only Castle Rock being considered. Hugh will write to Alex Neil saying that Hearthstone should not only be considering Castle Rock – they are failing on repairs, maintenance and communication with tenants. Emma is meeting with the Castle Rock Housing Officer who covers Cornton and Cultenhove.

8. Scottish Government:

Next meeting of joint networks is in August. A document is available online at www.gov.scot/publications/2015/06/5112 but is not being publicised elsewhere. It has been stated that responses will be welcomed but, as not everyone has online access, it was agreed that this was not satisfactory. Hugh will take this up with the Public Service Ombudsman.

9. Any other competent business:

Meg intimated that she will not be available to be contacted on her landline and requested that anyone trying to get in touch with her should use her mobile number or use e-mail.

10. Date of next meeting:

21st July 2015 in Crianlarich. Emma will check availability of a mini-bus to transport us there and back. It was agreed that we will go to the hotel for lunch, rather than collecting lunch from the hotel and transporting it to the hall as we have done in the past.

Abbreviations:

<i>AGM</i>	<i>Annual General Meeting</i>
<i>ASB</i>	<i>Anti-social Behaviour</i>
<i>CC</i>	<i>Community Council</i>
<i>CRN</i>	<i>Central Regional Network</i>
<i>FV</i>	<i>Forth Valley</i>
<i>HAG</i>	<i>Housing Advisory Group</i>
<i>HRA</i>	<i>Housing Revenue Account</i>
<i>LA</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>
<i>LAs</i>	<i>Local Authorities</i>
<i>LG</i>	<i>Local Government</i>
<i>RN</i>	<i>Regional Networks</i>
<i>RTO</i>	<i>Registered Tenants Organisation</i>
<i>SC</i>	<i>Stirling Council</i>
<i>SHQ</i>	<i>Strathfillan Housing Group</i>
<i>SHQS</i>	<i>Scottish Housing Quality Standard</i>
<i>SG</i>	<i>Scottish Government</i>
<i>STA</i>	<i>Stirling Tenants Assembly</i>
<i>STP</i>	<i>Stirling Tenants Project</i>
<i>TLI</i>	<i>Tenant Led Inspection</i>
<i>TP</i>	<i>Tenant Participation</i>
<i>TPAS</i>	<i>Tenant Participation Advisory Service</i>