

**Minutes for Central Scotland Regional Network 4**  
**Held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**On Line by Zoom**  
**at 11 am**



**Present:**

Hugh McClung MBE	HMc	Stirling Tenants Assembly	
Philomena McClung	PMc	Stirling Tenants Assembly	
Geoff Morgan	GM	BACCRA	
John Duffy	JD	Shotts TARA	
June Anderson	JuA	Clackmannanshire T&R Fed.	
Georgia McCambley	GMc	West Dunbartonshire	
Frances McGonagle	FMc	West Dunbartonshire	
Shona Gorman	SG	Link TSP	
Lindsay Anderson	LA	Link Housing Association	

**In Attendance:**

Susan McLellan	SMc	Scottish Government	
Jemma Stewart	JS	Scottish Government	

**Apologies:**

Peter Winnie	Coatbridge Fed. Of Tenants & Residents	
Jeanette Arneil	Clydesdale HA Tenants & Residents	

Item		Action
1	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone, and the Meeting began with a vote of thanks to Mary Niven, who has decided to step down from the role of Treasurer on health grounds. The Chair has written to Mary to thank her for her contribution to the Regional Network.</p> <p>Apologies were recorded for Jeanette Arneil, Peter Winnie and Susan Robertson.</p>	

2	<p><b><u>Minutes and Matters arising from previous Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021</u></b></p> <p>The Minutes were approved. Proposed by GMc and seconded by LA. There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>.</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p>No Correspondence has been received</p>	
4	<p><b><u>Work Plan/Communication Strategy</u></b></p> <p>There are no new developments to report</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Election of a new Treasurer</u></b></p> <p>.</p> <p>GM agreed to be nominated as Treasurer. He was proposed by FMc, and seconded by PMc. Arrangements will be made to transfer funds and Banking mandates to the new Treasurer.</p>	
6	<p><b><u>Working Group Updates</u></b></p> <p><b><u>JHPDG</u></b> This group no longer functions. The Resilience Group set up in 2020 has no Tenant membership, it's role was more an administrative one, but Policy Circles also set up in 2020 have Tenant Representation.</p> <p><b><u>Fire Safety</u></b> There have been no meetings of this Group</p> <p><b><u>Housing and Social Security</u></b> This Group no longer exists.</p> <p><b><u>Age Home and Community</u></b> This group has also ceased to function at present. Steve Byrne from Region 1 will keep us updated if there is any change in this situation.</p>	

	<p><u>Chairs and Secretaries</u></p> <p>This group met on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021. Tony Cain Policy Director of ALACHO was guest Speaker, and he spoke of the relationship between the RN's, and Government, Rent Affordability, and he expressed concern about opportunities for feedback to Government by Tenants. He also mentioned the Government initiative of carbon emissions in relation to Social Housing. The upcoming Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and the review of the Charter were also topics of discussion at this Meeting. Minutes will be circulated when they become available.</p> <p><u>SHR Liaison Group</u></p> <p>JuA gave a verbal report, which will be followed later with a written summary. She said that links had been given to the National Panel recent survey results And to Michael Cameron's Blog. Currently there was intervention with Faifley and Caledonia Housing. SHR were currently talking with the Human Rights Commission on the "right to housing". Landlord ARC reports were now published along with Performance and the impact of Covid on Landlords and their Organisations.</p> <p>Members congratulated June on the official presentation of her BEM.</p>	
7	<p><b><u>Communication sub group/Website update</u></b></p> <p>The next Meeting of this group will be in October. Once the Website is up and running, Organisations and Groups will be able to subscribe to receive news and updates</p>	
8	<p><b><u>HRA Update</u></b> The group which has been set up to look into the spending of HRA funding by Local Authorities is focussing on the difference between the 1987 Act and the 2014 Guidance, and having meetings with Government departments to try and clarify the situation, and get a conclusion on what is legitimate spend of HRA funding. It is hoped to have clarity before the Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Concern was expressed about the seriousness of this situation, and did the Government view it with the same degree of seriousness as the RN's? Does the guidance need to be put into legislation?</p>	
9	<p><b><u>New Rent Focus Group</u></b></p> <p>JuA reported that meeting has been rescheduled to include new Government team member whose role includes affordability. At a TIS meeting on affordability and getting the best from consultations, Michael Cameron spoke about the challenges in this area and the importance of the Tenant voice.</p>	

	<p>SMc reported that the work of the Rent Focus Group would be on hold to allow the new Government team member to assess whether joint working could be used, and the CIH are also now doing some work in this field. So the TPAS led Rent Focus group will wait and let the others involved in this area to catch up, so that work can be aligned. Disappointment was expressed at this delay in the RN group work, but it was made clear that the pause was only to find out what the other projects were doing, not to be integrated into them. It was felt important that there was no duplication of work, but that the findings of any other research in this field should be known to the Group, and indeed might be included as part of the Group's final Report.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b><u>Charter Review Consultation</u></b></p> <p>The response from RN 4 has been submitted and we now await the outcome, which is expected in the next few months.</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Ministerial Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021</u></b></p> <p>A pre Ministerial meeting has taken place and the areas that questions will cover are; Rent Affordability, Zero Emissions targets, HRA priorities, Digital inclusion, Smoke Alarms, Accessible Inclusive Housing, Provision of Charging Points for Electric Motability Scooters, E-bikes etc. As always this Ministerial Meeting will be attended by 2 Representatives from each RN.</p>	
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b><u>Training for RN Office Bearers</u></b></p> <p>Secretarial Training will take place on 29<sup>th</sup>. September 2021. In hindsight, SG thought it might have been good to have emphasised the sessions as an opportunity to meet colleagues in other Regions doing the same job, and to share knowledge and experiences, rather than terming it a Training Session, which more experienced Office Bearers may have felt it unnecessary to attend. LA attended the Chairs and Vice Chairs day, found it excellent and thought provoking, but was disappointed by the attendance, and agreed it may have been a missed opportunity to bring colleagues together. HMc did not agree and felt that it might mean that new Office Bearers might be influenced by more experienced people and that this would not be beneficial. He felt that it was an individual experience, and did not wish his influence or experience</p>	

to be in any way directional on new Office Bearers. The view was offered that it was more the experience, perhaps of difficult situations, that would be useful,

**13**

**AOCB**

JD reminded Members that National Housing Day was on 15<sup>th</sup> September

JuA Had a Report on Fire Safety. She had attended a Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August This Meeting was the first for a long time, and the work of the Unit around the final recommendations following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, All high rise residential properties need to have information plates, and work to ensure these are in place is ongoing. Also awaiting research into the “stay put” policy and it’s implication for residents. New Fire policy February 2022. New working group to be set up by Gov. to keep progressing outstanding issues such as Fire Doors.

Members agreed that the Reports they gave verbally will be passed to either Secretary or TP Team

Dementia and Age Scotland have a new Consultation underway. Conditions are very varied in many areas, and this consultation is not getting the publicity it needs. Link to shortened version of this Consultation will be made available to Members by TP Team when it is possible.

**Date of Next Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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