

**Approved Minute of North of Scotland Regional Network 1**  
**Meeting held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**  
**via Zoom**

**Present:**

Colin Stewart	Chair	<b>CS</b>
Alasdair Mackenzie	Vice Chair	<b>AM</b>
Leonora Montgomery	Secretary/Treasurer	<b>LHM</b>
Gerald Low	Committee Member	<b>GL</b>
Liz Richardson	Committee Member	<b>LR</b>
Steve Byrne	Committee Member	<b>SB</b>
Sue Mcaleaney	Committee Member	<b>SMca</b>
Tom O'Brien	Committee Member	<b>TO</b>

**In attendance:**

Susan McLellan	Scottish Government	<b>SMcL</b>

**Apologies:/Absent:**

Derek Wilkie	Committee Member	<b>Absent</b>
Cameron Grant	Committee Member	<b>Absent</b>

<b>Item</b>		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></b>  CS welcomed all to the Meeting. No Apologies had been received.  Declarations of Interest – CS gave his for being on the SHR Board.	<b>CS</b>  <b>CS</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Minute of Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021</u></b>  This was proposed by SB and seconded by GL as an accurate record of the Meeting.	<b>CS</b>

	<p><b><u>Matters Arising –</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>	ALL
3.	<p><b><u>Treasurer’s Report</u></b></p> <p>LHM advised that as there had been no expenditure during November, December and January the Balances remain at - Bank Account – £1,651.40 Cr and Petty Cash - £16.33 Cr.</p>	LHM
4.	<p><b><u>Business Matters</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Website Update</b> – CS advised that this was still working well although there was still one small detail to be added i.e. the Unsubscribe Link for the Subscription Service. CS is hopeful that this will be completed in the next couple of weeks.</li> <li>• <b>Chairs and Secretaries Group Report</b> – LHM advised that the majority of the items discussed were on our Agenda with the only additional item being Future Meetings with Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary and Patrick Harvie MSP. SMcL is going to take this forward and once a date is agreed, she will let all the Regions know.</li> <li>• <b>SHR Liaison Group Update</b> – LHM stated that the first half of the Meeting was the Question and Answer Session with George Walker and Michael Cameron and the Questions were – ‘How they felt they and the Sector had coped with the challenges during the last two years/Affordability/Fuel Poverty/Zero Emissions/their Dashboard Reports/Charter Responses/New Deal for Tenants Consultation’. As ever they answered these in full and were pleased to hear that we had formed our Rent Focus Group, the results from which they look forward to hearing about. Kelda and Stephen then gave the updates on their Quarterly Returns/Tenant Advisors Campaign/Board News/Statutory Actions and Engagement Plans/Recent Publications and Events/and that they will be moving premises in 2023 to 177 Bothwell Street in Glasgow. We gave them our sub Groups and area updates, such as they were, and also asked if the Liaison Group/Regional Networks could help to work or support the Tenant Advisors in any way which they hadn’t considered so will take this forward.</li> <li>• <b>Communications Group Report and Strategy</b> – CS advised that he had raised the Strategy at the Chairs and Secretaries and received no suggestions with the only comments being that it was good. CS stated that he had met with LHM and changed the Appendices to a Spread Sheet for each Region with the confidential information only accessible to Members. SMcL advised that she had been contacted by Sharon Donohoe from TIS who had a few suggestions so she is going to forward these to CS/LHM. She also suggested posting a condensed version on the Website so CS/LHM are going to attend to this with the hope that all will be finalised for the AGM’s. The Newsletter is more or less complete with only photographs to be added.</li> <li>• <b>Rent Focus Group Report</b> – CS advised that they had postponed issuing the Questions for Tenants and Questions for Landlords until after the completion of the New Deal for Tenants Draft Strategy which will be discussed at their Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</li> </ul>	<p>CS</p> <p>SMcL</p> <p>LHM</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HRA Group</b> Update - Meeting has still not taken place.</li> <li>• <b>A New Deal for Tenants – Draft Strategy Consultation</b> – Lots of views stated by Members which SMcL has noted for our discussions with TPAS who will contact us with suitable dates. CS/LHM spoke about the statement on ‘Making the Regional Networks’ more diverse and asked how? SMcL advised that she was working on this and early suggestions were to have a Panel of interested parties to complete consultations, etc. which we look forward to hearing more about.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>A.O.C.B.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AM mentioned the Cabinet Secretary’s statement that the cost of EESSH 2 would not impact on rents but no explanation was given expanding on this. All agreed that this was perhaps a Question for the next Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary.</li> <li>• LR stated that she had a possible Tenant from Orkney interested in the Regional Network and was advised that they should be invited as an Observer at one of our Meetings. LR also asked how to let other Groups, etc know about the Regional Network. CS advised that together with LHM they were going to produce a short video to be permanently on the Website for all to see. LHM also stated that it was contained in our Communications Strategy that all Members visit local Groups and Events in their area to promote the Network as she and Bill Chapman (former Chair) had done before the Pandemic. CS stated that he had been contacted by Lindsay Anderson from Region 4 as her daughter had just moved to Nairn and was interested in possibly joining the Network so CS to take this forward.</li> <li>• SB raised again the issue of Rural Broadband and the costs involved and was advised to speak to the Digital Inclusion Team who had sent out a Consultation on this very subject, which we were all encouraged to complete. They also welcome telephone calls.</li> <li>• <b>AGM</b> - Both GL and TO raised the issue of no communication/ involvement in their area with the Groups they are on so how were they supposed to re-apply. SMcL will speak to them both outwith the Meeting and will also contact their respective Officers to see what is happening. LHM advised that she had raised this issue with the SHR a couple of times so CS is to take this forward to his Board Meeting. Much discussion then followed on who, if not all, should stand down from the Committee at the AGM so CS/LHM to discuss this to find a viable solution.</li> <li>• SMcL stated that Stanley Green, former Chair of the Group, had decided not to rejoin but hoped to attend the AGM.</li> <li>• LR asked if we had received the National Planning Framework Consultation and none had, including SMcL who is going to look into this to see if we should be responding.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AM</b></p> <p><b>LHM</b></p> <p><b>CS</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>SMcL/ CS</b></p> <p><b>CS/ LHM</b></p> <p><b>SMcL</b></p> <p><b>SMcL</b></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting –</b></p> <p><b>Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom.</b></p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>