

Minutes for Central Scotland Regional Network 4
Held on 17th March 2022
On Line by Zoom
at 10.30 am

Present:

Hugh McClung MBE	HMc	Stirling Tenants Assembly	
John Duffy	JD	Shotts TARA	
Geoff Morgan	GM	BACCRA	
June Anderson BEM	JuA	Clackmannanshire T&R Fed.	
Jeanette Arneil	JeA	Clydesdale HS Tenants & Res.	
John Duffy	JD	Shotts TARA	
Frances McGonagle	FMc	West Dunbartonshire	
Shona Gorman	SG	Link Housing TSP	

In Attendance:

Susan McLellan	SMc	Scottish Government	
Jemma Stewart	JS	Scottish Government	

Apologies:

Peter Winnie	Coatbridge Fed. Of Tenants & Residents	
Susan Robertson	Clackmannanshire T&F Federation	
Georgia McCambley	West Dunbartonshire	
Philomena McClung	Stirling Tenants Assembly	

Item	Action
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<u>1</u>	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone, and apologies were recorded for Georgia McCambley, Philomena McClung, Peter Winnie and Susan Robertson.</p>	
<u>2</u>	<p><u>Minutes and Matters Arising from the previous Meeting on 20th January 2022</u></p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by Frances McGonagle, seconded by Geoff Morgan. There were no Matters Arising.</p> <p>.</p>	
<u>3</u>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>A letter of resignation from Lindsay Anderson was read out to members. The Chair said he would have to reluctantly accept Lindsay's Resignation, he had hoped she would have remained until the AGM, and felt the Network was losing a valuable member. It was agreed to leave the position of Vice Chair until after the AGM, when Office Bearers would normally be elected.</p> <p>A Communication had been received by the Chair from Michael Boal of the Scottish Government about the review of The Charter which took place last year. This Communication was requesting any comments to be submitted, and was accompanied by the updated Charter It was agreed that members would require to see the reviewed Charter before any comments could be made. Members to receive copies to view.</p>	

4	<p><u>Work Plan and Communications Strategy</u></p> <p>The New Network Plan and Best Practice Guide is now with TIS to review and give independent view.</p>	
5	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>The Treasurer reported that he had claimed mileage for recent journeys he had made on Business. This claim had amounted to £45. The Balance is now £2503.27. Cash in hand is still with TP Staff. The question of mileage rates was raised again, the Treasurer believes members should be reimbursed at 50p per mile, but already agreed Government regulations make it impossible for a Network to change. The Treasurer was advised he could make a complaint to the TP officially to progress the matter if he wished. The matter was left at this point.</p>	
S	<p><u>Working Group Updates</u></p> <p><u>SHR Liaison Group</u></p> <p>There have been no further Meeting since that reported at January Meeting.</p> <p><u>Chairs and Secretaries</u></p> <p>A Meeting took place on 8th February 2022, and a short Summary has been circulated to members. There was discussion around the new strategy and best practice, which members agreed too. Housing to 2040 progressing slowly, more people need to be involved, TIS and TPAS have been asked to help. The new Rented Sector Deal was discussed, HRA update, no movement on this, Anne Cook has been asked to pursue this.</p> <p><u>Rent Focus Group</u></p> <p>JuA had been unable to attend the last Meeting of this Group. It was suggested that a draft questionnaire had been worked on. Again these discussions are taking time, but are very complex as many areas and organisations are involved.</p> <p><u>HRA Focus Group</u></p> <p>No further development. Cabinet Secretary will be asked to instigate a review on HRA Guidance, to protect this funding. This will be at the Ministerial Meeting which will take place on 31st March 2022.</p> <p><u>RN Comms Group</u></p> <p>No Minutes are available from this Group, which LA would usually report on. The TP Team have Staff Sickness issues, which have delayed the Minutes, Issues with IT Companies are still holding up the Subscription Service.</p>	

	<p>SG commented on Staff shortages and illness within the TP Team are leaving them very stretched, and Minutes etc are taking longer to be produced. Hopefully this matter can be resolved soon, as it was agreed scheduled timescales have slipped behind what is best for all concerned. It was agreed that at Meetings the expected timescale for Minutes to appear should be agreed, then TP Staff know how to assess their priorities. JuA agreed that she was experiencing the same problems in her local area. Staff were under increasing pressure, and good people were moving away as a result. GM stated that other areas were also making economies wherever possible.</p>	
7	<p><u>Schedule of RN Meetings</u></p> <p>This subject came up briefly at the January Meeting, when there was little or nothing reported from Working Groups etc, because of the Christmas break. It was agreed to discuss at this Meeting to set up an agreed schedule to be followed after the AGM on 21st May 2022. In 2021 there was not a proper Network Meeting til August, was this too long from the AGM? General discussion took place and it was agreed that starting with the AGM in May, Meetings should then be June, August, October, December, February, April. Which would provide continuity, and staying up to date with business of Working Groups. It was agreed to minute the schedule and members can bring thoughts and comments to the April Meeting. At this point, the Treasurer informed members he would not be available for re-election, he was retiring. The Chair thanked him for his many years of contribution to the Network, and wished him well for the future.</p>	
8	<p><u>Ministerial Meeting 31st March 2022</u></p> <p>Questions have been drawn up following the pre agenda meeting on 8th March. There will be a question around the HRA. There was a lot of focus around Energy, in terms of rising cost of energy, carbon neutral targets, storm damage to power lines, and no gas back up? The Government loan to households. Housing for varying needs, when will guide be produced. Broadband issue in certain areas. Provision of housing for Ukrainian refugees, and also the matter of new housing being built does not always match that being taken away (high rise blocks) Around 6 questions, but several on energy. Was there a question around renewables in the Energy question? Still much concern around the timetable for carbon neutrality in social housing. Fabric first on it's own will take a lot of money and time, is this realised by Government? It was agreed that the questions being asked were much as the first meeting, not much progress would appear to have happened. A need to make it clear that these issues need to be properly addressed, and in a timely manner. Two budgets have passed since the HRA question was first raised, which is felt to be unacceptable.</p>	

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