

Minutes for Central Scotland Regional Network 4
Held on line Zoom
28th April 2022 at 11am



Present:

Hugh McClung MBE	HMc	Stirling Tenants Assembly	
John Duffy	JD	Shotts TARA	
June Anderson	JuA	Clackmannanshire T&R Fed.	
Jeanette Arneil	JA	Clydesdale HS Tenants & Resident	
Frances McGonagle	FMc	West Dunbartonshire	
Shona Gorman	SG	Link Tenant Scrutiny Panel	

In Attendance:

Carolynne Watson	CW	Scottish Government	

Apologies:

Peter Winnie	Coatbridge Fed. Of Tenants & Residents	
Philomena McClung	Stirling Tenant Assembly	
Susan Robertson	Clackmannanshire T&R Fed.	

Item		Action
1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the final Meeting before the AGM. Apologies were recorded for Peter Winnie, Susan Robertson and Philomena McClung.	

2	<p><u>The Minutes of the last Meeting Held on 17th March 2022 and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by JA and seconded by HMc.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>There were no Matters Arising.</p> <p>.</p>	
3	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>No Correspondence has been received</p>	
4	<p><u>Work Plan/Communication Strategy</u></p> <p>There is nothing to Report under this heading.</p>	
5	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>.</p> <p>The Treasurer was not present at the Meeting and had left no Report. CW will contact him to establish Balances.</p>	
6	<p><u>RN SHR Liaison Group</u></p> <p>Members have received a Summary of the Meeting of 26th April 2022. The main item of interest is the publication of Landlord Reports, and engagement plans with Landlords. All the information on this can be found on the SHR website. 12 new Tenant Advisors have been appointed for a 3 year term of office. The SHR are pleased with the variety and diversity of the applicants, whose names are not made public. Members were surprised by the number of applicants from Central Scotland (17)</p>	
6	<p><u>Chairs and Secretaries</u></p> <p>There has been no Meeting since the last Report. SG said the next Meeting would be on 10th May, 2022. There was still a place for 1 observer, FMc agreed to go. CW will submit both PMc and FMc to be attendees.</p>	

6	<p><u>Rent Focus Group</u></p> <p>A report has been done by JuA, but not yet shared with Members. The group had a meeting which heard from Craig Sanderson of the Edinburgh Poverty Alliance who have been concerned with this and did a Report on 2020. Members discussed Affordability, how it can be measured objectively. Was consideration being given to the ageing population? Measures such as HARSAG were short term solutions to long term problems. Local Authorities are under immense pressure in so many areas at present..</p> <p>A Group under the Chair of Ken Bruce is being set up and Terry Kirkby from RN has been invited to participate on this Group. Members felt very strongly that only 1 Tenant Representative was wrong. There needed to be more, the TP team have managed to acquire an observer place in addition to Terry, to have someone who is able to be in place if Terry can't manage, but members still felt this was not enough – where was the “lived experience”? Also surely there should be reps from Local Authority Tenants and the PRS. There was a reminder that the Zest Group also had only 1 Tenant Rep. The TP team assured members they were doing their best to ensure the Networks were represented and heard as much as possible.</p>	
6	<p><u>HRA Group</u></p> <p>This group have not met recently, there are still issues surrounding the Act and later Guidance, and which should take precedence. After the local elections and when the new COSLA members have been confirmed the Group hope to move forward in a more positive manner. In the recent Survey sent out to L/A's questions about use of HRA funding had been added. A few Authorities said they had considered the use of these funds for other purposes, and a few said they would not do that, but 19 of the 32 did not give a response. Members were agreed that the matter remained of deep concern and progress definitely needed to speed and a resolution found. Clarification is required, and if necessary a change in legislation.</p> <p><u>RN Comms Group</u></p> <p>The new Communication Strategy was approved by members at the last Chairs and Secretaries Meeting and from there went to an independent Assessor – Sharon Donoghue from TIS to be checked. The on going IT issue with the Subscription Service on the Website remains unresolved. A decision was taken at the last Comms meeting that Colin Stewart would draft an email to Anne Cook, in the Scottish Government to see if she could help the Group make any progress in this difficult matter. The Newsletter and Copies of the Flyer are printed and should be ready for the TPAS Conference and any Summer Events.</p> <p><u>Housing to 2040 Working Party</u></p> <p>This Group with reps from all the RN's have had their first Meeting, at which they looked at the Government Paper, and Groups with Protected Characteristics. It was decided to make a few additions to those Groups already listed. There was then a discussion about establishing a National Panel, a large representative Group of Tenants whose opinions can be sought on a wide variety of issues. It was agreed that the only criteria for membership of this Panel should be that the members rented their Homes. This Panel</p>	

would feed into the work of the Network Group, and give them a great sounding board of “lived experience”.

7 **Ministerial Meeting 31st March 2022 online**

This is the second Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Shona Robison, and Minister Patrick Harvie. Network reps had various questions on a variety of issues.

We started with the HRA matter, the Cabinet Secretary said it was on the Agenda for a Meeting with COSLA, but other more pressing matters had taken priority and they had not yet spoken to COSLA. After the elections, they would hopefully be able to discuss it.

Mr Harvie was asked since Carbon Emissions in the Social Housing were small in comparison to other areas, could there be a tie extension. He said it would be a challenge for all.

The matter of Fuel costs was also raised, the proposed UK gov. loan of £200 to people to help mitigate rising bills was not popular, since it was a loan and would have to be paid back. The Cabinet Secretary said Scotland had raised this matter but it would be a UK Gov. decision.

Housing for varying needs was next, there has been a review but it has not yet been made public.

Digital Communications was the next topic, the Government had not met their Target for December 2021 – when would this target be met. The Minister promised to look into it.

Could the Government give any indication of how many Ukrainian refugees would come to Scotland? There was no firm answer on this matter, but the Government was committed to assisting.

After hearing about the Meeting, members discussed the issues raised.

There was considerable frustration over the HRA funding not being resolved. Members were also unconvinced by the answer on Zero Carbon Emissions. Members feel that this issue is not being fully addressed – when will Fabric First come into being, who will pay for the huge cost of this before we even begin to think of new heating systems. There was absolute agreement that new heating systems should not be installed until a property was as energy efficient as possible. On the matter of Digital Communications, instances of residents and tenants being expected to pay a substantial part of the costs were spoken of. Rural areas are definitely disadvantaged.

8 **AGM**

TIS are in charge of preparations for the Region 4 AGM which will take place on 21st May 2022, online by Zoom. It has been agreed that all Network members are most welcome to attend each others AGM's. The TP will organise this for anyone who wishes to attend.

9 **AOCB**

The date of the first Meeting after the AGM was set for 16th June 2022 at 11am

The Chair thanked everyone for all the support he had received during his time as Network Chair. He would attend the AGM and give his Report, but that would be his final Meeting.

The Secretary thanked the Chair, acknowledging the debt the Networks owed to Hugh, he had played such a large part in establishing the Network. He had

and the other founder members had laid a solid foundation for the Networks to thrive and prosper. She wished him well in his retirement. Other Members too, joined in to thank him and wish he and Philomena well. The Chair said he was sure that Members who were already showing their commitment and passion would rise to the challenges that lay ahead.

Date of AGM 21st May 2022 at 11am

Date of next Network Meeting 16th June 2022 at 11am.

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