

Approved MINUTES

Tenants Together

Meeting held on Wednesday 2 October 2024

at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom

Present:

Meeting Chair – Gordon Saunders

Name	Initials	Position	Local Authority Area
Colin Stewart	CS	Chair	Aberdeen City
Shona Gorman	SG	Vice-Chair	Falkirk
Gordon Saunders	GS	Treasurer	Scottish Borders
Anne Cameron	AC	Committee Member	South Ayrshire
Donna Murray	DM	Committee Member	South Lanarkshire
Frances McGonagle	FMcG	Committee Member	West Dunbartonshire
Irina Lazarenko	IL	Committee Member	City of Edinburgh
John Duffy	JD	Committee Member	North Lanarkshire
June Anderson	JA	Committee Member	Clackmannanshire
Kath Fennell	KF	Committee Member	Orkney
Liz Richardson	LR	Committee Member	Highlands
Margaret Dymond	MD	Committee Member	Renfrewshire
Norma Ferguson	NF	Committee Member	North Ayrshire
Sarah-Jane Dunbar	SJD	Committee Member	Stirling
Suzanne Austin	SA	Committee Member	Renfrewshire
Liz Mcknockiter	LMck	Observer	Moray

In attendance:			
Michael Boal	MB	Scottish Government	

Apologies / Absent			
Carolynne Watson	CW	Scottish Government	Apologies
Bruce Cuthbertson	BC	Committee Member	Apologies
Jackie Bugden	JB	Committee Member	Apologies
Linda Lennie	LL	Committee Member	Absent
Rebecca Blackwood	RB	Committee Member	Absent
Scott MacLeod	SMacL	Committee Member	Absent
Willie Derrick	WD	Committee Member	Apologies

Scotland's tenant participation and engagement network

W www.tenantstogether.scot **E** info@tenantstogether.scot



	AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
1	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of interest</p> <p>GS welcomed everyone to the Committee meeting of Tenants Together.</p> <p>Under Declarations of Interest, CS noted his role as a Board member of the Scottish Housing Regulator, GS noted his role on the Board of TIS, MD noted her role on the Board of TPAS, SG noted her role on the Board of Link Housing, SA on the Board of Bridgewater and JA on the Board of Paragon.</p>	
2	<p>Business Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Matters Arising from previous meeting</u>: There are no Matters Arising which are not already covered on today's agenda. CS highlighted that the last minutes from 12 June were approved via Basecamp, 50% of committee members required for this. They are then posted on the website, don't want minutes 2/3 months old to be sent out to subscribers and on website etc, so the process was changed. The gap between the June and October was due to the meeting in August being an in person event for committee members. There were no minutes for this session but a general note was taken of actions etc. • <u>Treasurer's report</u>: GS presented the Treasurer's report, noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening balance at 1 July - £3,483.84. ○ Income received – NIL. ○ Closing balance at 31 Sept 24 - £2,487.84. <p>Any expense claim forms from the in person meeting in August to be emailed to GS.</p> • <u>Correspondence</u>: Email from SG about fuel poverty targets report. Committee will be holding a meeting, letter and questions will be posted on basecamp, will be on 14th October at 2 pm to go through the consultation questions. 	
3	<p>Website and Basecamp training</p> <p>CS, highlighted that following the in person meeting he has agreed to do roadshows for committee members individually or in groups to provide further technical support on basecamp and the website. Members agreed this was a good idea and discussed how they could come together to make this as efficient and easy as possible. CS to consider timescales etc further.</p>	

<p>4</p>	<p>Sub groups</p> <p><u>Communications group</u></p> <p>CS reported that the Communications group met a couple of weeks ago and a new working group looking at net zero and retrofitting will be established, not about new builds, about current stock, the group will do a report on tenants views on this matter and submit it to the SG.</p> <p>Covid enquiry w/c 21st October more later in agenda</p> <p>A revised strategy and action plan will be refreshed with Fawn Russell from TIS. A membership application form will also be developed.</p> <p><u>Inclusive Living & AHIL</u></p> <p>LR reported that there has been no recent meeting of the AHIL group on which to update but LR and JA attended The Housing & Social Care Accessibility Summit 2024 in Dundee. JA reported it was an excellent conference, opportunities to participate, issues were raised regarding SG budget to landlords for adaptations. MB advised he would follow this up with relevant colleagues. LR explained that every aspect of housing and social care were represented at the event which provided opportunities to network and advocate for our own areas. Housing and social care sectors were called to be: bold and brave, human rights-based (housing is a right not a commodity), person-centred (not target-driven), inclusive (co-design and co-production, and not just within our own silos), innovative and creative; and that we all have a part to play in this.. The event was full of energy and commitment. JA was impressed with the contractors who were in attendance showing the aids etc that were available. A full report of the event is likely to be available on Scottish Housing News. SG asked LR and JA if delegates were aware of who TTS were? The general impression was no, on this matter CS highlighted that he and SG will be doing a presentation at a STEN event (Scotland Tenant Engagement Network – for social landlords) and will be doing a workshop at the Tenants Information Service conference in November. It was agreed publicity and awareness of TTS is something the group will be pursuing.</p> <p><u>SHR Liaison group</u></p> <p>SG reported last meeting with SHR was 31 July. Helen Shaw and Nicola Marcus from SHR presented proposed changes to the (ARC) charter indicators with an emphasis being on tenant and resident safety and damp and mould. This was discussed by the group, a formal consultation will be taking place and TTS will be doing a response (4th November @2pm). SG gave SHR background on the launch of TTS and work going forward including their in person meeting in August. It had also been identified that there was a need to update the Terms of Reference for the group. SHR asked about membership of TTS. SG gave SHR assurance</p>	
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	<p>that this had been fully considered and that there was always efforts being made to ensure a geographical mix of committee members since the move to one committee. SHR also provided updates on a number of key areas. The next meeting will be an in person(or online for those who can't attend) at end of October, George Walker (Chair) and Michael Cameron (Chief Exec) will be attending. SG confirmed she was currently in discussion with SHR about changes to ToR and group members will be provided more info at the pre agenda meeting on 15th October. LR highlighted that TTS is also doing a response to submit to the Local Government, Housing and Planning committee of the Scottish Parliament following their call for evidence in advance of them scrutinising the performance of the SHR later this year.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Agenda Standing Items</p> <p>Working Group Representation CS explained you can choose what groups to participate in except the SHR liaison group which is by invite only. TTS will also be starting up a net zero group (highlighted in communications update) and the accessibility group will be restarted. More information regarding all of these will be on basecamp.</p> <p>Meeting with Minister CS confirmed we meet with the Minister twice a year, CW has requested a meeting with the Minister, haven't had a response yet. If members have potential questions CS confirmed it would be good to start putting these on basecamp so we can plan issues to be raised. CS will put a thread on basecamp for members to submit questions so we can build these up between meetings.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>TTS and Covid Enquiry</p> <p>CS confirmed that TTS will be holding 4 online meetings for the enquiry in October, dates are on website and how to book places. They want to speak to tenants and TTS will be facilitating these. They are looking for views on impact of pandemic on tenancies, rent arrears, repairs and maintenance, restrictions on closures to access to housing, and quality of accommodation and lasting impacts. Broad range of issues can be discussed in relation to housing. The sessions are open to any social housing tenants in Scotland who were tenants between the dates of 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2022. Further info on TTS website. SG confirmed TTS are delighted to have been asked to facilitate these meetings for the enquiry.</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>CS highlighted that some members need to confirm they agree with the code of conduct which has been put on basecamp. He asked those members who haven't responded yet to place a comment to say you agree or you can do this by email.</p> <p>JA provided some information on an issue brought to her by a tenant, the group discussed this case and provided advice on how JA could potentially take this forwards for the benefit of the tenant. JA also raised an issue and gave an update regarding a gypsy/ traveller site in Clackmannanshire who have been waiting on funding. MB thanked JA for her efforts to get the funding released and acknowledged this was ongoing.</p> <p>SG reported that there was a TIS rent setting and affordability event and a number of TTS members attended. A panel session including SFHA, CIH and a tenant from Maryhill HA highlighted problems in housing today, supply programme, net zero etc. A real mood of disappointment at the event in the government regarding lack of action to tackle the current crisis. A value for money session and scrutiny of the housing revenue account took place in the afternoon. MD has put in a report on the event.</p> <p>LR made a general point– highlighted human rights conference she attended, and stressed in all these areas and events TTS members have attended let's not focus on the deficit model, we all need a recommitment and reinvigoration to hold government to account.</p> <p>CS confirmed dates for TTS meetings next year will be posted on basecamp, get them in your diary. He also highlighted that TTS members have been at a number of meetings and our name is getting out there he was particularly pleased to hear the enthusiasm of members who have been involved.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 10am – via zoom.</p>	

Date	21-Oct-24
Proposed	DM
Seconded	MD