

APPROVED AGM MINUTES



Tenants Together AGM Meeting held on Saturday 7th June 2025 at 11.00 a.m. via Zoom

Meeting Chair – Colin Stewart

Name	Initials	Position	Local Authority Area
Present:			
Colin Stewart	CS	Chair	Aberdeen City
Shona Gorman	SG	Vice-Chair	Clackmannanshire
Gordon Saunders	GS	Treasurer	Scottish Borders
Anne Cameron	AC	Committee Member	South Ayrshire
John Duffy	JD	Committee Member	North Lanarkshire
June Anderson	JA	Committee Member	Clackmannanshire
Kath Fennell	KF	Committee Member	Orkney
Liz Mcknockiter	LMck	Committee Member	Moray
Liz Richardson	LR	Committee Member	Highlands
Margaret Dymond	MD	Committee Member	Renfrewshire
Sarah-Jane Dunbar	SJD	Committee Member	Stirling
Scott MacLeod	SMacL	Committee Member	Highlands

In attendance:			
Carolynne Watson	CW	Tenant Priorities Team	Scottish Government
Bev Davenport	BD	Applicant	Moray
Lewis McGill	LMcG	Applicant	Aberdeen City
Lisa Clayton	LC	Applicant	Fife
Margaret Graham	MG	Applicant	Scottish Borders
Teresa Gallagher	TG	Applicant	Glasgow
Carol Hannaford	CH	Delegate	Aberdeen City
Derek Hart	DH	Delegate	South Ayrshire
Elaine McLean	EMcL	Delegate	Aberdeenshire
Gino Satti	GS	Delegate	Glasgow City
Greg Theocharis	GT	Delegate	Scottish Borders
Hugh McClung	HMcC	Delegate	Stirling
Lindsay Anderson	LA	Delegate	Falkirk
Margarateanne Browne	MB	Delegate	Stirling
Martin McCathie	MMcC	Delegate	Aberdeenshire
Mike Cameron	MC	Delegate	Angus
Ralph Nicol	RN	Delegate	Scottish Borders
Rhona McGlone	RMcG	Delegate	Argyll & Bute
Sunny Tanish	ST	Delegate	Perth & Kinross
William Munro	WM	Delegate	Aberdeen City

Scotland's tenant participation and engagement network

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Apologies

Alasdair Mackenzie	AMacK	Applicant	Western Isles
Irina Lazarenko	IL	Committee Member	City of Edinburgh
Linda Lennie	LL	Committee Member	Orkney
Ruth Fraser	RF	Committee Member	Aberdeenshire
Willie Derrick	WD	Committee Member	Stirling

Absent

Bruce Cuthbertson	BC	Committee Member	East Ayrshire
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	AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
1	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of interest CS welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM meeting, the first since Regional Networks rebranded as Tenants Together (Scotland) in June 2024. Under Declarations of Interest, CS noted the following: • CS – Board of the Scottish Housing Regulator; • SG – Board of Link Group; • GS – Board of TIS • MD – Board of TPAS • SMacL – Board of Albyn Housing Society • WD – Board of TPAS Thanks were extended to Norma Ferguson and to Jackie Bugden, both of whom stepped down this year after serving both as TTS and Regional Network members. Thanks were also extended to Anne Cook OBE, who retired from her role as Head of Social Housing Services, Scottish Government in May. A one- minute silence was held in honour of Gerald Low, previously of the North of Scotland Regional Network, who passed away in October. HMCC also noted the recent passing of Jennifer McLeod, also formerly a member of the North of Scotland Regional Network.	
2	Chairs Report • CS presented the Chair’s report, setting out information on the work and the achievements of TTS since the last AGM was held in June 2024. TTS have continued to meet primarily online, via the Zoom platform, over the last year however have also held a small number of in-person meetings. This way of working has provided	

a good balance and has proved very beneficial, and the intention is to continue the same approach in the coming year, with a face-to-face committee meeting scheduled for August.

- Over the past year, TTS have continued to build on the strong foundation established by the Regional Networks to represent the views of tenants and service-users effectively. This year, TTS members have:
 - represented tenants on the Scottish Government's Strategic Board on Housing to 2040 and on the Accessible Housing & Independent Living (AHIL) working group;
 - given evidence twice to the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning committee;
 - responded to three Scottish Government and Scottish Housing Regulator consultations;
 - met with the Minister for Housing, Paul McLennan MSP;
 - maintained a schedule of working groups in relation to a variety of policy topics, including the SHR Liaison group which meets quarterly with the Scottish Housing Regulator;
 - Led a series of focus group sessions with tenants on their lived experience of the Covid pandemic and presented the evidence from these sessions to the independent Covid Enquiry;
 - Developed TTS' Communication Strategy & Action Plan, which will shortly be available on the TTS website;
 - Delivered workshop and panel sessions at a range of conferences and events, including TPAS, TIS, the Chartered Institute of Housing, SFHA and the Scottish Tenants' Engagement Network (STEN).
- A great deal has been achieved over the past year, and CS thanked the committee members for their hard work and contribution.
- HMCC thanked CS for his report, and noted that he contacted TTS in March in relation to a point in the published minutes of the February meeting on the implications of National Insurance changes and Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA). HMCC stated that to date, he has received no response from TTS on this, and went on to provide further detail on the current position with regard to HRA. CS noted that he believed a response had been sent, and confirmed that this will be checked. In relation to the information HMCC set out during the AGM, CS noted that TTS will contact HMCC after the AGM for further information on this.

Copies of the Chair's report can be made available on request.

3	Minutes of previous AGM and Matters Arising The minutes of the June 2024 AGM were approved on 18 June 2024 as follows: <u>Approved: AC</u> <u>Seconded: LR.</u> There were no Matters Arising not already included on the agenda for today's AGM.	
4	Treasurer's Report GS presented the Treasurer's report, per the report included in the AGM pack, noting the following for financial year 2024/25: ○ Opening balance at 1 April 2024 was £4773.37. ○ A total income of £6000 was received from Scottish Government in 2024/25. ○ Balance brought forward is £10,773.37 (total opening balance + total income). ○ The direct running cost of Tenants Together (Scotland) in 2024/25 was £9626.28. ○ The balance as per end of financial year was £1147.09. The accounts as presented were audited by the Scottish Government Social Housing Services- Tenant Priorities team, May 2025.	
5	Constitutional amendments SG presented this agenda item, setting out the four proposed changes to the constitution tabled for the AGM as follows: 1. All Regional Network Committee members at the start of the AGM on 01 June 2024 will be entitled to be Committee Members of Tenants Together- removed. 2. Amend paragraph 5.5 from "The Committee will consist of tenants and service users of registered tenants' organisations (RTO's), landlord-recognised groups and up to 5 individual tenant or service users who are not in an RTO or landlord-recognised group" to "The Committee will consist of tenants and service users of registered tenants' organisations (RTO's), landlord-recognised groups and · up to 5 individual tenant or service users who are not in an RTO or landlord-recognised group. · up to 3 individual tenant or service users who are also a member of staff of a social housing landlord"	

On point 2, LR expressed concern that in some communities and locations, particularly in rural communities, the prospect of social landlord staff members joining tenants' groups- even if tenants themselves- can have implications for trust and maintaining confidentiality. This also has the potential to put members into difficult positions where conflicts of interest may arise. HMCC and WM echoed these points.

SMacC highlighted that whilst this can be challenging in some circumstances, TTS is considering issues of national policy importance in the public domain. Any conflicts of interest that do arise can be managed through declaration of interests, and through the requirement for members to abide by the Code of Conduct. MD noted her agreement with these points.

SG noted that given the likely numbers of tenants who are also staff members of a social landlord- whether working in housing or elsewhere- it is inevitable that this situation arises, and noted that it will be important for TTS to determine a position on tenant staff members joining. GS also noted his concern that it may effectively be inequitable if tenants who are also staff members are prevented from joining.

A vote was held on approval of the constitutional amendment as tabled at point 2, with 16 delegates of a possible 28 voting to approve the amendment- **approved**.

3. Amend paragraph 11.9 **from** "Applications from members to become a committee member must be received no less than 14 days / 2 weeks before the AGM. Applications can be received throughout the year and can become co-optee's without voting rights until the next AGM" **To** "Applications from members to become a committee member must be received no less than 14 days / 2 weeks before the AGM. However, applications can also be received throughout the year. Applicants must be informed or an online chat must be arranged within 28 days of application being submitted. If successful, members can become full committee members with voting rights (on a chosen date) at the discretion of the office bearers" – **approved**.
4. Amend paragraph 14.1 **from** "As soon as elected at an AGM, Committee Members are required to agree to the Committee Code of Conduct. This requirement extends to each time someone is elected to the Committee. This will be done with an agreed process" to "As soon as elected, whether at an AGM or throughout the year, Committee Members are required to agree to the Committee Code of Conduct. This requirement extends to each time someone is elected to the Committee. This will be done with an agreed process via basecamp" – **approved**.

6	Elections to the committee Prior to today's AGM, application paperwork to join the TTS committee had been received from 6 individuals, from the following local authority areas: ○ Alasdair Mackenzie – Western Isles. ○ Bev Davenport- Moray ○ Lewis McGill – Aberdeen ○ Lisa Clayton – Fife ○ Margaret Graham – Scottish Borders ○ Teresa Gallagher – Glasgow City All were warmly welcomed. CS noted that updated information on TTS committee members following today's AGM will shortly be available on the TTS website.	
7	Closing remarks and thanks CS thanked everyone for attending and contributing to today's AGM, extending thanks on behalf of the TTS committee to: ○ TTS committee members and office bearers; ○ Fawn Russell, Tenants Information Service, who has supported TTS with the development of their Communications Strategy and Action Plan this year; and ○ Carolynne Watson and Michael Boal, Scottish Government Social Housing Services team. SG extended thanks to the Chair on behalf of attendees, committee members and office bearers.	
	Results from Private committee session, election of Office Bearers This year, the Chair, Colin Stewart, stepped down as Chair, however is eligible for re-election. Nominations were invited for the role of Chairperson, and these were received as follows: ○ Colin Stewart was nominated for re-election by Gordon Saunders, seconded by Shona Gorman. There were no further nominations, and Colin was subsequently re-elected to the post of Chair.	

Date	22-Jun-25
Proposed	JD
Seconded	KF