

Approved MINUTES



Tenants Together

Meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2025
at 10.00 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	Falkirk
Alasdair Mackenzie	AMaK	Committee Member	Western Isles
Anne Cameron	AC	Committee Member	South Ayrshire
John Duffy	JD	Committee Member	North Lanarkshire
Liz Mcknockiter	LMcK	Committee Member	Moray
Margaret Dymond	MD	Committee Member	Renfrewshire
Sarah-Jane Dunbar	SJD	Committee Member	Stirling
Scott MacLeod	SMaL	Committee Member	Highlands
Margaret Graham	MG	Committee Member	Scottish Borders

In attendance:

Carolynne Watson	CW	Tenant Priorities Team	Scottish Government
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Apologies:

Bev Davenport	BD	Committee Member	Moray
Bruce Cuthbertson	BC	Committee Member	East Ayrshire
Gordon Saunders	GS	Treasurer	Scottish Borders
June Anderson	JA	Co-optee	Clackmannanshire
Linda Lennie	LL	Committee Member	Orkney
Lors Robinson-Moseley	LR-M	Committee Member	West Lothian
Margaret Anderson	MA	Committee Member	South Ayrshire
Ruth Fraser	RF	Committee Member	Aberdeenshire
Willie Derrick	WD	Committee Member	Stirling

Absent:

Lewis McGill	LMcG	Committee Member	Aberdeen City
Lisa Clayton	LC	Committee Member	Fife
Kath Fennell	KF	Committee Member	Orkney
Teresa Gallagher	TG	Committee Member	Glasgow

Scotland's tenant participation and engagement network

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AGENDA ITEMS		ACTION
1	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of interest</p> <p>CS welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting apologies as above.</p> <p>Under Declarations of Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS noted his role on the Board of the Scottish Housing Regulator; • MD noted her role on the Board of TPAS; • SG noted her role on the Board of Link Group Board; • SMaL noted his role on the Board of Albyn Housing Society; 	
2	<p>Business Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Previous minutes</u>: Approved by AMac & AC. • <u>Matters Arising</u>: There are no Matters Arising which are not included on the agenda for today's meeting. • <u>Treasurer's report</u>: In GS absence, CS presented the Treasurer's report for the period, per the following: <p>Opening balance 01 Oct – £5,010.29 Money in - £0.00 Money out - £724.87 Closing balance - £4,285.42</p> <p>Following discussion at the previous meeting In October on provision of a more detailed breakdown on spend, CS shared the following breakdown of spend with members:</p> <p>Accomm - £245.10 Travel - £410.80 Meals - £32.07 Conf Entry Fees - £25.00 Postage - £3.90 Bank Charges - £8.50</p> <p>Members agreed these categories give adequate detail of expenditure and are content with reporting on this basis moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Correspondence</u>: NIL. • <u>TTS updates</u>: <p>SG noted that work is continuing on the Communications Strategy and Action Plan, and further discussion will follow at Item 3.</p> <p>SG highlighted her recent meeting- along with GS- with Cairn Housing Association on their developing approach to tenant participation.</p>	

	<p>SG and CS attended the CIH awards and dinner In Glasgow In November, which went well and office bearers will be discussing the potential for input into the CIH Scotland Housing Festival in the new year with the CIH team.</p> <p>TTS office bearers held a meeting with Eveline Armour, the new CEO at TPAS, to discuss the project work TTS and TPAS will be working on for the remainder of the financial year, and further discussion will follow at Item 3.</p> <p>CS updated on the most recent meeting of the Strategic Board- the Housing Emergency remains the main current focus of the Strategic Board however work is underway to also re-focus on Housing to 2040. The Strategic Board heard from Glasgow and Edinburgh representatives on the current challenges facing the cities, particularly in relation to homelessness. Members agreed it is absolutely essential that issues around temporary accommodation provision are tackled, and homelessness is addressed- both In Glasgow and Edinburgh and throughout Scotland.</p> <p>Finally, CS highlighted recent changes with Bank of Scotland community accounts, which will affect the TTS account going forward. BoS will now be charging a monthly fee for the account, which members agreed was unacceptable. CS noted that he is now pursuing a new account via HSBC.</p>	
3	<p>Subgroups</p> <p><u>Accessibility group:</u> The TTS Accessibility group has remained on hold whilst the Scottish Government's AHIL group is paused, however members agreed they are keen to resume work on this in some form, and JA has previously agreed to coordinate this group going forward. CW reminded members that there is scope for TPAS to support with some work on accessible housing/independent living themes, and members agreed they would be keen to look again at this in the new year.</p> <p><u>Comms Group:</u> Work is continuing to consider the actions and pieces of work set out in the Communications Strategy and Action Plan, and CS highlighted that tasks will be allocated to members to progress via Basecamp.</p> <p><u>Social Media:</u> Planning work continues around the social media aspects of the TTS Communication Strategy and Action Plan and the Social Media sub-group and SMaL set out some of the sub-group's thinking on content, including member profiles, sub-group and working group focus and general updates on TTS.</p> <p><u>HRA:</u> CS noted that at this point, no further evidence is available in terms of the aspects of HRA previously discussed by TTS and no group is actively meeting because of this. CS advised that as a result HRA will be removed from the subgroups section of future agendas as a standing Item, however as and</p>	

	<p>when issues come up for discussion on HRA, these will be added to the agenda as required.</p> <p><u>Net Zero/Decarbonisation:</u> GS continues to coordinate on this group, and CS highlighted that he raised the importance of guidance for the sector at the recent Strategic Board meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Housing.</p> <p><u>Rent Consultation:</u> An initial meeting of the working group was held on 1 December with Eveline Armour, TPAS, to begin the process of scoping out this project. The group have agreed to develop questionnaires aimed at tenants and at landlords, with follow up focus groups taking place to delve deeper into the questionnaire findings. CW highlighted that the group will be working to a relatively tight timescale on this, with commitment to produce a report and good practice recommendations by April 2026. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for Monday 13 January at 10am.</p> <p><u>SHR Liaison group:</u> SG updated on the most recent meeting with SHR, which took place on 11 November, in person, and was also attended by Michael Cameron, SHR Chief Executive and Garry Coutts, the new Chair of the SHR Board. TTS members raised topics of discussion including damp and mould, fuel poverty, net zero, homelessness and the housing emergency- SG highlighted that these are all long-standing topics for discussion during the regular quarterly meetings with SHR, however members agreed it was important to raise these for discussion given Michael and Garry's attendance. Following this session, TTS members met with Liaison Group Chair and SHR Board member Helen Trouten-Torres along with SHR staff and Board members to discuss communication between SHR and tenants.</p> <p><u>Lettings Standards:</u> A project on lettings standards will also be going forward with support from TPAS in the new year, with the first meeting of this working group scheduled for 15 January to begin the process of scoping this project.</p>	
4	<p>Agenda Standing items</p> <p><u>Working group representation:</u> Detail of the TTS working groups and membership is available on Basecamp and members are encouraged to review and consider whether they have interest in joining any of the working groups, including the new group which is forming to progress the Letting Standard work.</p> <p><u>Communications Strategy & Action Plan:</u> CS noted that information on the Comms Strategy and Action Plan were posted on Basecamp in October, with a request for members to consider and respond on this. To date, no members have posted a response and CS asked members to continue to use Basecamp between meetings to stay in touch and contribute to the work of the group. CS noted that he will re-post the post on the Strategy & Action from October.</p>	

	<p><u>Meeting with Cabinet Secretary:</u> CW will progress a meeting between the Cabinet Secretary and TTS representatives in the New Year, and will remain in contact with members on possible dates for this.</p>	
5	<p>Website and Basecamp</p> <p>CS updated member on progress with Basecamp, noting that Basecamp 2- the version currently used by members- now significantly out of date and likely to be switched off fairly soon. CS has now scoped out costs for a move to Basecamp 4 which is likely to incur an equivalent cost of approximately £40 monthly to run. Members discussed and agreed that Basecamp continues to provide a user-friendly platform that helps significantly in facilitating the group's work. The monthly fee was considered to represent good value for money, and members agreed the move to Basecamp 4 should be made as soon as possible.</p> <p>CS also updated on TeamViewer, a tool which can enable CS to provide technical and IT support to members who may need assistance remotely. Members agreed this is likely to be helpful going forward, particularly with the move to Basecamp 4.</p>	
6	<p>AOCB</p> <p>NIL.</p>	
7	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 4 February at 10am – Via Zoom</p>	

Date	dd-mmm-yy
Proposed	SG
Seconded	LMcK