

**Minutes of the Northern Lights Regional Committee held on
Thursday 30th April 2009 Johnstone House, Aberdeen**

Present:

Eric Allan	Hazlehead Residents Association - Chair	EA
Diana Foxcroft	FRANRA	DF
Charles French	Lossiemouth Tenants Forum - Vice Chair	CF
Helen McPherson	Tenants Service Review Group - Sec	HM
Stanley Green	Thistle and Windmill Residents' Association	SG
Steven Christie	Bilbohall Estate Forum Moray	SC
Gregor McAbery	Ruthrieston Residents Association	GM

In Attendance:

Michael Boal	Scottish Government	MB
Susan McLellan	Scottish Government	SM

Agenda for 30th April 2009

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Welcome to new members of committee
5. Feedback from AGM
6. Discussion on issues for sub-groups and allocation of members to new sub-groups
7. Meetings schedule
8. National conference in May
9. AOCB
10. Date of next meeting

Item	Subject	Action
1	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were accepted from Lynda Spink, Willie McArthur, Linda McIntosh, Heather Anderson and Tom O'Brien.</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of meeting Held 26th March 2009</u></p> <p>The minutes were checked for accuracy and as a true reflection of the meeting. The committee agreed that the minute was a true reflection and were accepted.</p> <p>Proposed –Charles French</p> <p>Seconded - Stanley Green</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising from Meeting of 26th March 2009</u></p> <p>There is still no response from Shona Robison and she is now outwith the 21 day window for replies. When the letter finally arrives it will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
4	<p><u>Welcome to New Members</u></p> <p>The chair welcomed the new committee members and explained the procedures of the committee.</p>	
5	<p><u>Feedback From AGM</u></p> <p>It was generally agreed that the AGM had gone well, CF thought everything went well and was happy with the day. SG said the only thing was there was no one there to meet the tenants from the Orkneys and Shetlands but apart from this all went well. GM believed the day was worthwhile but, there were issues on the day that could have been better organised. SC was of the opinion that the day went well and achieved the desired result. The feedback from Ann Baillie the Scottish Government representative was that she knew the day would go well as the committee were well prepared. EA informed the committee that the amended constitution and would be sent to all committee members ASAP.</p>	EA
6	<p><u>Discussion on Sub-Groups and its Members</u></p> <p>The committee discussed the issues raised at the AGM by the network members. The outcome was that the following would be the initial issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification on the methodology employed by the Scottish 	

	<p>Government in fiscal allocations to local authorities and how transparent is the system and whether or not local authorities are bypassing the ring fencing of the Housing Revenue Account</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and how drugs and alcohol abuse contributes to ASB 3. Regeneration where instead of building sustainable communities, councils destroy communities with major demolition programmes 4. Homes for Heroes and the apparent lack of priority for those who have fought for this country 5. Housing Association service charges which drive up rents to a level which people cannot afford 6. The committee to continue to pursue resolving issues surrounding Free Personal and Nursing Care in Scotland and the charging regimes used by care providers <p>The committee members allocated to the Sub – Groups are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steven Christie and Heather Anderson 2. Helen MacPherson and Gregor McAbery 3. Lynda Spink and Diana Foxcroft 4. Eric Allan and Linda McIntosh 5. Charles French and Tom O’ Brien 6. Stanley Green and Willie McArthur <p>The members of the Sub-Groups will be able to co-opt one person from the general membership of the regional network to work with them on their project.</p>	
7	<p><u>Meeting Schedule</u></p> <p>The committee discussed the need to devise a meeting’s schedule that allows as many of the committee members to attend the meetings. This would have to go to Anne Cook to work out the feasibility. EA to Email Anne to come up with a solution that would suit everybody. All members will be kept informed on the progress of this issue. And hopefully different venues could be used three times a year. EA to sort out a possible change of venue for the 25th June</p> <p>The group asked if all Retinol Networks are to get the same amount. This will be brought up at the next Chair and Sec meeting in Glasgow on the 8th July a proposal will be put forward by EA. HM.</p>	EA
8	<p><u>National Conference in May</u></p> <p>The National Conference will be held at the Grosvenor Hilton, in Edinburgh. Alex Neill the new Communities Minister will attend to explain, in his keynote address, the Draft Housing Bill. The</p>	

	<p>members of the committee were requested to think about their response to the bill and the questions they would like to ask the minister.</p> <p>The committee were informed of the briefing sessions being carried out by TPAS and TIS on the Draft Housing Bill and it was hoped that as many as possible could attend these sessions.</p>	
9	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>There were two items raised under AOCB:</p> <p><i>Funding</i> - MB informed the group that once the committee had set up a bank account, a sum of £1000.00 would be deposited to cover group expenses. Budget discussions were still in progress as to try and work out the future requirements of all regional networks. MB assured the committee that all regions would receive the same funding.</p> <p><i>Web site</i> - There was a discussion on the new Web site, CF, SC and GM volunteered to maintain the Northern Lights pages and to keep it up to date. They will keep in contact with each other over the entries to be inserted.</p>	
10	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be 25th June 2009</p>	