

Minutes of the Glasgow and Eilean Siar Regional Network Meeting
Held on 3rd December 2009 at Glasgow

Present:

Greg Hine	Govan 'C' Residents Association	Glasgow South
John Banks	Prince Albert Residents Group	Glasgow West
Kevin Paterson	Western Isles Residents Forum	Western Isles
Ann Marie Stanley	Tenant Priorities Team	Scottish Government
Rena Dowling	Partick United Residents Group	Glasgow West
Esther Thomson	North Cardonald TRA	Glasgow South
Lilian Woolfries	Banner Residents Association	Glasgow West
Marie O'Brien	Sandyhills Residents Association	Glasgow East
George McGuinness	Baillieston RA	Glasgow East

Apologies received:

Barney MacKay	Cearns Residents Association	Western Isles
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Item		Action
1.	<u>Welcome</u> Kevin opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
2.	<u>Apologies</u> Barney MacKay.	
3.	<u>Previous Minutes</u> These were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Marie O'Brien and seconded by Esther Thomson.	
3.1	<u>Matters Arising</u> PAIH 2010 Wall planner. Kevin kindly provided the artwork, AMS will keep liaising with PAIH to have the regional network artwork included. Expenses forms - AMS has had a meeting with John, and appraised him of the SG guidelines. The committee suggested that they present an update on what the regional network committees were involved in the next GHA tenant's conference, GMcG to progress for next year. Next Housing Ministers meeting with the regional network chairs is scheduled for the 16 th December with the acting head of regulation expected to attend. GH gained some clarity regards the meeting with Minister and TRAG, in respect of the charter. GH is on the tenants' charter group and was concerned there may be potential overlap between the two groups. KP had not seen the minutes. AMS used the analogy of the 'chicken & egg' syndrome to highlight the current scenario.	KP/ AMS GMcG KP

	<p>KP suggested make up list of things going on and synopsis AMS will do.</p> <p>The chairs are to meet with Mary Mulligan, Labour Housing Minister on the 15th December to discuss what they consider is required in the forthcoming Bill. Other groups will need to approach other political parties if they wish to gain cross party support for what the networks consider is important in the Bill.</p> <p>Meeting Forward Planner - dates given previously by KP and agreed by the committee.</p> <p>KP approaching Anne Cook for funding for trip to Western Isles in September 2010.</p> <p>9a Western Isles visit documentation, minor changes made. AMS asked whether to send out to every RTO in R9? The committee agreed that it should just go on the website - JB to upload to website.</p>	<p>AMS</p> <p>JB</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Glasgow Federation & Western Isles Forum News:</u></p> <p><u>GHA</u> New GHA Chief Executive is Martin Armstrong, this was announced at their tenants meeting in Radisson in October. SST 17,000 houses potentially involved. The Tenants Federation has asked whether they could receive a report from the regional network meeting. Agreed to add Federation to the mailing list and send minutes to the chair, Mary Scahill.</p> <p>Re sending out minutes to RTOs - GH advised that the best way is for RTOs to register for communications from website. Gave some history regards the web group requesting details of registered RTO contact details for use on the website and for mailing. AMS agreed we need to be more pro-active.</p> <p><u>Western Isles Forum</u></p> <p>Forum has been forward planning. Consultation document with tenants sent to Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP). Latest newsletter is in draft and the Forum is looking to start a tenants panel, 1st one to focus on rent arrears. The Forum has found that taking the information out to the tenants works best and they are keen to work more closely with region 9. There will be three tenants conferences one in each of the main island groups. Main conference in Stornoway, application to HHP. 24th April in Bridge centre, 29th May Harris then Benbecula 4th September. WIFTRA has agreed to vary meeting locations and hold training sessions on the same basis. KP will discuss visit planning with Anne Cook. Copy of 'Howeward' for records and WIFTRA meeting minutes given to GH.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Treasurers Report</u></p> <p>Given to all. Guidance on expenses to be distributed by AMS. JB would like people to provide receipts for everything as this is a requirement of the expenses guidance. GH advised that Petty cash slips can be used in the interim whilst people are awaiting receipts. AMS advised that the current policy is being reviewed and the networks will be consulted on this, a general discussion about expenses and guidelines took place and the committee agreed to continue to pay the as per current</p>	<p>AMS</p>

	understanding. JB to get petty cash slips for occasional use.	JB
6.	<p><u>Conference 2010 and note of conference Sub group</u></p> <p>AMS advised that the Conference sub-group was set up comprising of both chairs of regional network committee and members as some members had wanted it opened up for anyone who wished to be involved in the sub group had an opportunity to do so. The first meeting held in October, feedback was given, people wanted more time to network, so agreed to spend more time to prepare rather than 6 months. Plenty of emails around regards this. The sun group wanted to hear the views of the regional committees, the proposals were discussed and this committee agreed:</p> <p>Charter as main agenda item. 4 workgroups , 2 sessions, GH and KP to discuss and forward their proposals to Hugh McClung as he was chair of this sub group. Invitation to be extended to Minister Alex Neil.</p>	KP/GH
7.	<p><u>Western Isles Report</u></p> <p>Kevin has prepared a comprehensive report on the visit, which will be put on the website.</p>	JB
8.	<p><u>Questions for Minister & Acting Head of Regulation</u></p> <p>The committee discussed the questions they would like Kevin and the other chairs to put to the Minister and Regulator, Kevin will report back at the next meeting.</p>	KP
9.	<p><u>Feedback from TPAS workshop</u></p> <p>Kevin and Hugh Wilson Fraser (Region 6) presented this workshop to raise awareness on the work of the regional networks. This was well attended, the workshop went down well, hoping for the same next year.</p>	
10	<p><u>Housing Bill update</u></p> <p>AMS advised that it will be introduced to Parliament week beginning the 11th Jan, this will be updated to chair & sec 19th January. The finance committee first then other government committees and may invite organisations to give representation. Stage 1 debate poss early May. Ambitious to have this in place by end of year. RTOs should be appraised of the fact that the network is now regularly meeting with Ministers. The committee will have to consider how best to do this further.</p>	ALL
11	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>JB spoke to GH about things being put onto our website which are wrong. Also 3 minutes not been put up which have not been uploaded by GH. JB will amend AMS. 1. Feedback from chairs & secretaries meeting was gone through in detail and verbatim. (see GH comment below) CIH conference as a method of promoting the network SG to provide Roll up displays x 3 and booked a table. GH Suggested that the network should look at</p>	JB

	<p>stands with interchangeable banners so that the stands have more functionality and a better longevity of use. SG has 3 day passes which can be shared if landlord doesn't pay for attendance at the conference. 16-18th March for conference GH agreed to go on a pass and man stand. This will be agreed when all the information is gathered on the availability of members' attending the conference.</p> <p>Regional network training – Dates given out Marie, Lillian & John were nominated as primaries from Region 9.</p> <p>AGM 13th May, 80 or so groups in region. How do we engage with RTOs, go out to them? Possible venue PAIH, committee to form sub-group via email and get this to be more of an event than normal. KP, GMcG, JB, GH. Send details of RTOs to JB & GH – AMS (the database is being updated; the updated list will be circulated when available).</p> <p>JB would like to go to the next training for treasurers through SHARE. JB to send a request.</p> <p>GH emails. Suggest that any 'issue' emails be sent to the person in question first before 'carpet bombing' the rest of us as this is losing the network credibility. Highlighted a need for some sort of mandate from regions. R9 agreed that KP has delegated authority with the chairs, and that regional members at groups have the same authority. KP and GH to look at the process developed in the initial set-up of the region and consider if revision is required.</p> <p>GMcG – for regulation meeting about private landlords & why is it that SG is so 'keen' on TP but when they inspect HA's do they not pick up on the lack of TP. KP will ask for a representative to attend from Regulation at next meeting 21st January.</p>	<p>GH/AMS</p> <p>AMS</p> <p>JB</p> <p>KP/GH</p>
11	<p><u>Next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting was arranged for the 21 Jan at 10.30 am in Highlander House, Glasgow.</p>	