

**Minutes of the Glasgow and Eilean Siar Regional Network Meeting**  
**Held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Glasgow**

**Present:**

Lilian Woolfries	Banner Residents Association	Glasgow North
John Banks	Prince Albert Residents Group	Glasgow West
Kevin Paterson	Western Isles Residents Forum	Western Isles
George McGuinness	Baillieston Tenant & Resident Association	Glasgow East
Esther Thomson	North Cardonald TRA	Glasgow South
R. Marie O'Brien	Sandyhills Residents Association	Glasgow East

**In Attendance:**

Ann Marie Stanley	Tenant Priorities Team	Scottish Government
Linda Hunter	Customer Engagement Co-ordinator	Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) (Part)
John Goldie	Penilee Tenants & Residents Association	Glasgow (Part)

**Apologies Received:**

Rena Dowling	Partick United Residents Group	Glasgow West
Barney MacKay	Cearns Residents Association	Western Isles

**No apologies received from:**

Greg Hine	Govan C Residents Association	Glasgow South
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**Item**

**1. Welcome**

Kevin opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**1. a. Apologies**

Rena Dowling & Barney MacKay.

**2. Previous Minutes**

These were proposed as a true record of the meeting, proposed by George McGuinness and seconded by Lillian Woolfries.

**2. a. Matters Arising**

John Banks reported that he still can not get on to the website; Ann Marie will let Ann Baillie know.

**2. b. Treasurers Report**

John provided everyone with a written Treasurers Report.

**3. AGM and network advancement discussion**

Discussion on the AGM confirmed that the date will be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am – 1.00 pm in the Conference Room of Granite House. Kevin and Maureen Dowden, GHA had

been in contact and Kevin was delighted to advise that GHA will host the event in their offices at Trongate. A discussion followed where Kevin outlined a need for support to encourage RTOs to attend the AGM and to have a local contact to liaise with the GHA on organisational matters. Kevin suggested that he would like to co-opt someone on to the committee to do this role until the AGM. The committee discuss this and agreed to the co-option for this specific role and time period only.

The format of the AGM was discussed and generally organisation but we will do the paperwork. It is envisaged that working together will be beneficial. Ann Marie will obtain a list of all Housing Associations and forward to Kevin who will write to them to advise them of who we are, what we do, our remit and request from them expressions of interest in attending our AGM. It was agreed that Anne Cook and Maureen Dowden be asked to do a short presentation on the day.

#### **4. Meeting with representative of GHA plus introduction to Guests**

Kevin introduced Linda Hunter the Customer Engagement Coordinator from GHA and John Goldie a member of the GHA RTO (Registered Tenants Organisation) Federation. It was agreed that John Goldie should be co-opted on to the Region 9 committee as a conduit to GHA until the AGM takes place.

Linda advised that GHA are happy to co-operate with Region 9, and feel that working together can only be mutually beneficial.

There are 80 groups eligible to send 2 delegates to our AGM and the Conference room available has a capacity of 50, however if we get a 30-40% turnout that would be a great result. SFHA could also be invited to speak (Ann Marie to liaise), and EVH will be asked to put notification in their Newsletter. John G. stated that SFHA should also be putting something out to members as legislation now demands tenant involvement.

#### **5. AGM and nomination to committee procedure**

There will be the standard format on the day but the logistics must yet be fine tuned. It was decided that 6 weeks notice for RTO's will be enough to ask who they are going to send. The 1st notice letter should be out by 21<sup>st</sup> April, the template to be run by Kevin, and asking that replies be received by 14<sup>th</sup> May in order that the confirmation paperwork be despatched by 21<sup>st</sup> May. A stamped pre-addressed envelope should be included to facilitate ease of reply.

John Banks will do expenses on the day. Greg, as secretary, will be asked to help with George, Lilian and Marie on standby in that order.

Our constitution demands that 50% of our numbers resign and stand for re-election each year. This year it affects Lilian (North) as she is presently standing out with her area, and the sad passing of Donald leaves another North vacancy. John (West), George (East), Kevin (Western Isles) & Esther (South) are the other members affected this year.

Ann Marie will letter Rena re her availability to attend.

Kevin feels that the Constitution should be amended to reflect the ratio formula on attendances as well as percentage.

#### **6. GHA and landlord input to regional network**

The RTO Federation is keen to circulate information from Region 9 and at present the Chair receives our ratified minutes, this should however be a reciprocal arrangement with the RTO Federation's ratified minutes being made available to us as a matter of course. It must be remembered that the Second Stage Transfer LHO's must also be involved in tenant's rights. The RTO Federation networking events held throughout the city could be tapped into as a positive way forward. It was proposed that the RTO annual event on 10<sup>th</sup> May could include a presentation by Kevin or Barney with direct relevance to the audience. Region 9, being at the very heart of government is strategically placed to ensure that tenants issues from both ourselves and the RTO Federation are fed in to the system, and effective dissemination of information from government can be achieved to both organisations.

**7. Capita Conference and Chairs Meeting update**

George reported that the Minister was very enthusiastic about the paper on the HRA (Housing Revenue Account) provided by the Region. The regulations on HRA have not been looked at for 22 years but the Regulators insist that RSLs are looked at every 3 years. A new small sub committee has been instigated with COSLA and the Audit Commissioners to initiate a review of the guidelines and to make the HRA more transparent and accountable to tenants.

George has to produce a paper re the steering group in the East End about the Homelessness treadmill, as the Minister has asked the Regional networks for their views on this..

Kevin's workshop at the Capita Conference resulted in his being marked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest speaker.

Danny Mullen is to be congratulated for his 3 hour presentation in the Scottish Parliament on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. Giant steps have been achieved.

Consensus was given to try to organise tickets for the Scottish Parliament in conjunction with one of our meetings.

**8. Correspondence**

There was nothing from Greg In his absence.

Kevin has Housing Magazines.

**9. AOCB: Ministerial Meeting Update**

Kevin attended the Housing Group in Parliament's presentation by the Deputy Director of Social Housing Division about the remit of the Housing Policy Advisory Group and alternative ways of funding housing. This is a positive approach by Government to being inclusive to tenant representatives as tenants have never had input into this before.

**10. Forward meeting schedule and agenda items**

The forward meeting schedule previously issued will be implemented and the next meeting is scheduled for the 22 July in Highlander House, 58 Waterloo Street, Glasgow.

**11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM on the 10 June 2010 at GHA offices, 177 Trongate.

**Kevin closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.**