

**Minutes of the Glasgow and Eilean Siar Regional Network Meeting
Held in Highlander House on 21st January 2010 at Glasgow**

Present:

Lilian Woolfries	Banner Residents Association	Glasgow
John Banks	Prince Albert Residents Group	Glasgow
Kevin Paterson	Western Isles Residents Forum	Western Isles
George McGuinness	Baillieston Tenant & Resident Association	Glasgow
R. Marie O'Brien	Sandyhills Residents Association	Glasgow
Barney MacKay	Cearns Residents Association	Western Isles

- Please note that Barney MacKay actually participated via Conference Call.

In Attendance:

Ann Marie Stanley	Tenant Priorities Team	Scottish Government
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Apologies Received:

Greg Hine	Govan 'C' Residents Association	Glasgow
Esther Thomson	North Cardonald TRA	Glasgow
Rena Dowling	Partick United Residents Group	Glasgow

Item

1. Welcome

Kevin opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Greg Hine, Esther Thomson, Rena Dowling.

3. Previous Minutes

These were proposed as a true record of the meeting by George McGuinness and seconded by John Banks.

3.1 Matters Arising

PAIH 2010 Wall planner; AMS produced a copy, which as well as looking great gives loads of details. Well worth the £10 cost with monies going to the homeless. Each Region has 1 and it is hoped we can encourage more people to order copies.

Expense forms; Kevin advised that new guidelines for expenses are coming out, and AMS re-iterated revised guidance for expenses.

Ann Marie circulated a synopsis of what meetings regional networks committee members currently attend for clarity.

Chairs meeting with Mary Mulligan; it was noted that she is not the Labour Housing Minister; she is in fact the Scottish Parliamentary Housing Spokesperson for Labour. Kevin has emailed the Liberals, Greens & Conservatives to appraise them of the views of the regional networks in terms of the draft housing bill.

Glasgow Federation & Western Isles Forum News – GHA item; it was pointed out that Martin Armstrong was introduced as the ACTING Chief Executive of GHA at the Radisson in October. His appointment as Chief Executive was not confirmed until 31st November 2009.

Treasurers Report; John advised that he now has petty cash slips.

Questions for Minister & Acting Head of Regulation; it was agreed that a small sub committee should be set up for this.

Housing Bill update; was introduced to Parliament on 13th January 2010.

AOCB - Website; is causing John problems as he is locked out and so can not update. John requires 'DRAFT' taken off the minutes if he is to put them on the Web.

CIH conference; Kevin advised that the Roll up displays are excellent. Discussion ensued about attendance.

4. Correspondence

An invitation was received to a Garden Party, including a 1st Minister Campaign Reception on 13th July. Marie will attend with Lilian as her companion. Forms required to be filled in.

4.a Treasurers Report

John provided everyone with a written Treasurers Report.

5. Report on meeting with Minister 16 Dec 09 and SPLG

Kevin gave a short report of the meeting at which William Fleming was also present. Local Government and committee called for evidence and the regional networks were encouraged to respond highlighting 1 or 2 elements. The Bill devolved by Government then goes to Parliament who decides what to accept. The Minister, at the moment, has the right to charge for the use of the Regulator, but it is proposed that the Regulator become independent from Government and so transferring these powers to charge and streamlining existing information. Kevin requests everyone reads the Bill and feed comments to him. A spokesperson will be nominated to take forward the 1 or 2 issues, with Region 9 backing and supporting. Stage 1 – January to June, 2 – September to October, 3 – October, with Royal assent in November it should be through on 1st April 2011 and law by April 2012. The Regulator acknowledges all the points that the regional network chairs raised, but can only appoint Shadow Board until legislation is passed. The Labour Government would never stop RTB (right to buy), but RTB is less of an issue than protecting the New RTB which has merit, the criteria has to be looked at and no 2-tier system could be introduced.

6. Housing Bill Update

Kevin will e-mail the report.

7. Charter Update

The Regional feeling is not yet back, but there is time yet.

8. Glasgow Federation & Western Isles Forum update

Meetings have not yet taken place.

9. May Conference

The date settled on is Tuesday 18th May 2010, and the venue is the Menzies Hotel, with 4 structured workshops, and the Minister and William Fleming coming.

10. AGM Planning

We have the AGM pencilled in for the 13th May, this will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

11. Chairs Quarterly meetings with the Minister.

On 22nd March there is a meeting with the Minister, Kevin or George to attend. Kevin will liaise with AMS on communications.

Region 9 agreed to put forward paper to next chairs/secretaries meeting on the 14th April re rationalising the number of meetings.

12. AOCB

George mentioned that there is to be a meeting on 26th February of the Allocation Committee. This is an emotive subject, which must remain on a strictly 'need to know basis' as they will be dealing with registered sex offenders within social housing. Kevin and George will be presenting a workshop at the CAPITA conference on 22nd February.

The Planning sub-group is on the 11th February, after which Kevin wants to give a presentation to a sub-group to get feedback, if premises are available.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was arranged for the 25th March at 10.30 am in Highlander House.