



**MEETING HELD IN ALLAN CENTRE, BRIDGE OF ALLAN,  
ON 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019 AT 10.00 am**

**Present:**

Moira Robertson, Delia Waddell, Hugh McClung, , William Derrick, Duncan Faichney, Mags Hughes, Robert Cairney , Michael Griffiths, Anna Johnston`

**In attendance:**

Leza Lafferty (Independent TP Officer)

Anna Gavienas (Housing Services Intern)

Fern Milne (Youth Services)

**Apologies:**

Alex Lamb, Allan Brown, Kathy Brown, Philomena McClung

William introduced Anna, Housing Services Intern, and Fern from Youth Services. Fern circulated copies of Our Place, Our Space (a mini gathering toolkit) to everyone at the meeting. She then gave an interesting and informative talk on the work which has been done and continues to be done with young people. Following her talk it was agreed that Leza will liaise with Fern to arrange a date and time when some members of STA could meet with some of the young people.

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019:** Acceptance was proposed by Hugh, seconded by Moira.
2. **Matters arising:**
  - a) Page 1 Item 2b Homelync – Homelync will be attending the next STA meeting but are unable to attend the Council’s Information Day at Cowie.
  - b) Page 2 Treasurer’s Report– Anna has written to Gillian Findlay to request payment of the second instalment due to STA in October.
  - c) Page 3 Visit to Scottish Parliament –William and Robert reported that this had been successful.
  - d) Page 2 Quality Assurance Statement – Moira asked if there is to be tenant involvement in the presentation of the Quality Assurance Statement. Leza said that this had been raised at Housing Advisory Group, when Hugh had reported that Regional Networks had requested from the Regulator that tenants should be involved in signing off the Statement. Regional Networks did not want this to be a “tick box exercise”.
3. **Chair’s Report:**
  - a) Consultation between Stirling Council, Arneil Johnston and TPAS on the Allocations Review had been brought up at the HAG meeting on Friday. William

expressed concern that STA had fought hard to get TPAS involved but when TPAS had asked for the brief they were only told that they would be allocated days for TPAS to hold open days. William had spoken to Lesley Baird yesterday and Lesley had confirmed that TPAS had only been involved in the Survey Monkey and the open days. Hugh felt this was unacceptable.

- b) Following on from above item it appears that Chief Housing Officer has lied about TPAS involvement and about the rent consultation. William added that the morale of the housing services staff is not good at the moment – Chief Housing Officer does not meet with them or with Leza.
- c) There had been a paper at HAG to discuss the rent consultation for next year. Chief Housing Officer had indicated steps being taken by North Ayrshire Council but Hugh has since found out that this is not true. Hugh has asked for a meeting with Isobel McKnight as he was not happy with the response from her to his letter of complaint. Two questions Hugh had asked remain unanswered.  
Private sector adaptations should not be coming from the Housing Revenue Account and Hugh will take this to the Government if necessary. He will also contact all Councillors on the Housing Committee.
- d) There is to be a special Housing Advisory Group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October to discuss rent strategy and allocations review.
- e) Regarding the appointment of a new Chief Housing Officer it was decided to ask the Chief Executive Officer if TPAS could be represented on the interview panel.

#### **4. Secretary's Report:**

Anna had received an e-mail from TPAS asking if STA/Stirling Council would be willing to sponsor an award at the TPAS Conference in December.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report:**

Moiria presented the current financial report – balance £3,874.13. £30.00 has been paid to Kiswebs.

#### **6. TP Officer's Report:**

- a) New Open Door will be issued soon.
- b) Leza had attended the Housing Professional Conference for TPAS.
- c) There is a new app called “Fix My Street” – take a photo with your phone and it automatically goes to the appropriate Council.
- d) Leza had visited Kelly Court and found that the tenants there feel rather isolated. Leza has arranged for Ian Brown (Digital Inclusion Team) and William (STA) to visit the tenants.
- e) Leza still working on TP Strategy – has received a number of responses from people who are not aware of STA's existence.
- f) Council's Information Day will be held tomorrow in Cowie Community Centre. Leza, William, Anna and Robert will attend – anyone else willing to attend will be made very welcome.
- g) Various dates were discussed and Leza will liaise with TPAS and with STA members to arrange two dates which will suit everyone.

**7. Report from Housing Advisory Group:**

- a) Meeting had been held on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Revised housing allocations review policy was discussed in a presentation by Arneil Johnston. Figures for homeless did not agree with figures in rapid rehousing transition plan. Arneil Johnston's decision is to opt for the group plus points system. This will be looked at again on 25<sup>th</sup> October at a special HAG meeting.
- b) Rent consultation - one proposal is for a 3.2% increase, other proposal is for a 4.0% increase. Hugh expressed some concern and said that we need to find out more. Consultation with tenants has to be meaningful – will Council honour the results of consultation?
- c) Review of assignation etc was also discussed.
- d) Investment in new housing at Newpark Farm. This development is adjacent to Graystale Road and Hugh queried whether land had been sold to the developer at nil value.

**8. Any other competent business:**

William circulated some menus he had obtained in preparation for STA's Christmas lunch.

**Next meeting will be held in Hillpark Centre, Bannockburn, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 am.**

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