

**Tenants Together**  
**Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025**  
**at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom**

**Meeting Chair – Gordon Saunders**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Local Authority Area</b>
<b>Present:</b>			
Colin Stewart	CS	Chair	Aberdeen City
Shona Gorman	SG	Vice-Chair	Falkirk
Gordon Saunders	GS	Treasurer	Scottish Borders
Alasdair Mackenzie	AMK	Committee Member	Western Isles
Anne Cameron	AC	Committee Member	South Ayrshire
Bev Davenport	BD	Committee Member	Moray
John Duffy	JD	Committee Member	North Lanarkshire
Kath Fennell	KF	Committee Member	Orkney
Liz Mcknockiter	LMk	Committee Member	Moray
Liz Richardson	LR	Committee Member	Highlands
Margaret Dymond	MD	Committee Member	Renfrewshire
Scott MacLeod	SML	Committee Member	Highlands
Teresa Gallagher	TG	Committee Member	Glasgow

<b>In attendance:</b>			
Carolynne Watson	CW	Tenant Priorities Team	Scottish Government

<b>Apologies</b>			
Irina Lazarenko	IL	Committee Member	City of Edinburgh
June Anderson	JA	Committee Member	Clackmannanshire
Linda Lennie	LL	Committee Member	Orkney
Margaret Graham	MG	Committee Member	Scottish Borders
Rebecca Blackwood	RB	Committee Member	Aberdeen City
Ruth Fraser	RF	Committee Member	Aberdeenshire
Sarah-Jane Dunbar	SJD	Committee Member	Stirling
Willie Derrick	WD	Committee Member	Stirling

<b>Absent</b>			
Bruce Cuthbertson	BC	Committee Member	East Ayrshire
Lewis McGill	LMG	Committee Member	Aberdeen City
Lisa Clayton	LC	Committee Member	Fife

**Scotland's tenant participation and engagement network**

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	AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
1000	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>GS welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting apologies as above.</p> <p>Under Declarations of Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CS noted his role on the Board of the Scottish Housing Regulator;</li> <li>• GS noted his role on the Board of TIS;</li> <li>• MD noted her role on the Board of TPAS;</li> <li>• SG noted her role on the Board of Link Housing;</li> <li>• SML noted his role on the Board of Albyn Housing Society;</li> <li>• TG noted her role as employee of Rutherglen &amp; Cambuslang Housing Association.</li> </ul>	
1005	<p><b>Business Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Matters Arising from previous meeting</u>: No matters arising which are not already covered on today's agenda.</li> <li>• <u>Treasurer's report</u>: GS presented the Treasurer's report, per the following: <p>Opening balance as at 01-Apr-2025 = £1147.09 Income = Nil Expenditure = 187.41 Closing balance as at 31 May 2025 = £959.68</p> </li> <li>• <u>Correspondence</u>: CW highlighted correspondence already shared with members, from the Scottish Government Fire &amp; Rescue Unit, in relation to re-establishing a working group on fire safety in high rise blocks.</li> </ul>	
1020	<p><b>Subgroups</b></p> <p><b>Communications/ Strategy sub-group</b>: Following the Communications Strategy sub-group's work with Fawn Russell, TIS, a near-final Strategy &amp; Action Plan are now developed, setting out what Tenants Together (Scotland) aim to achieve over the next two years. Both the Strategy and Action Plan will</p>	

	<p>be a focus for discussion at the August meeting, after which the documents will be finalised and published on the website.</p> <p><b>Accessibility group:</b> A meeting to reconvene the Tenants Together Accessibility sub-group was scheduled for 20 May, however was postponed as a number of members were unable to attend. LR agreed to liaise with JA as coordinators of this group to confirm possible dates for the working group to re-schedule the meeting.</p> <p><b>SHR Liaison group:</b> The next full meeting is scheduled to take place in August, so no update is currently available.</p> <p><b>Net Zero/ Decarbonisation:</b> The initial meeting of the sub-group on 12 May highlighted a range of issues, and SG and CS noted that during their recent attendance at the SFHA conference, attendees seemed to be largely unaware of the concerns of tenants. The group have agreed to meet again on 2 July to consider how to move forward with this.</p> <p><b>HRA:</b> LR noted the recent meeting of the HRA sub-group on 3 June, highlighting the points discussed by the group on the longer-term implications of HRA debt and the impact on tenants. LR agreed to collate sources of existing data on this ahead of a subsequent meeting of the group, and agreed to liaise with JA on next steps, including a letter for the new Cabinet Secretary for Housing outlining these issues.</p>	
<p>1100</p>	<p><b>Open Discussions</b></p> <p><b>Rents and National Insurance:</b> CS highlighted that with the impact of business National Insurance changes, Tenants Together Scotland should establish a clear position on this, and members have already clearly stated that associated costs in relation to this should not be being met by increased rent and/or service charges.</p> <p>CS noted Tenants Together's view that it is important for landlords to consider how they can save money and make efficiencies in order to accommodate new and emerging costs and highlighted that many landlords routinely schedule gas safety services significantly before the anniversary deadline. CS noted his calculation that practice can ultimately cost landlords around £10k per 1000 homes annually. CS noted that carrying out services closer to the anniversary date could generate potential savings to offset a proportion of some costs. Members agreed that in this instance, services must be carried out within the one-year anniversary window, and that these must be no risk to tenant health and safety. CS proposed Tenants Together develop a statement on this, and agreed to take this forward.</p>	

	<p><b>Rent consultations:</b> Members have previously discussed practices in relation to carrying out rent consultations, with some members of the view that tenants are now receiving less information as part of the rent consultation process to allow them to make an informed choice as part of the consultation, and some noting fewer methodologies are being used to reach tenants in comparison to previous years. LR mentioned that these are an opportunity for landlords to collect more data from their tenants</p> <p>Members discussed how aware tenants in general are of their rights in relation to rent consultation, and agreed that locally, some tenants are likely unaware of what the rent consultation is, what it is for and what their rent covers.</p> <p>Support for a working group and project on this topic have previously been discussed and agreed, and members agreed they are keen to start work on this later in the summer. CS agreed to share a request for members for the group, and will look at dates later on July for an initial meeting to scope this work.</p>	
<p>1115</p>	<p><b>Agenda standing items</b></p> <p><b>Working group representation</b></p> <p>CS ran through the list of current working groups, and noted that membership will be looked at in more depth at the next meeting in August. Ideally, each member would be involved with at least one working group to ensure a broad mix of members from different areas and backgrounds are getting involved.</p> <p><b>Meeting with Cabinet Secretary</b></p> <p>The new Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Mairi McAllan MSP, is now in post and members agreed it is a positive development to see housing as a distinct portfolio at Cabinet Secretary level. Members agreed they are keen to meet with the Cabinet Secretary and requested CW follow up on this on Tenants Together's behalf.</p>	
<p>1130</p>	<p><b>Website and Basecamp</b></p> <p>This will be discussed in more details at the F2F meeting in August</p>	
<p>1150</p>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>No items were noted under AOCB.</p>	

1155	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August @10.30am- in person, a Glasgow venue tbc.</p> <p><b>Forthcoming meetings for 2025</b> Wed 8 Oct at 10am &amp; Wed 3 Dec at 10am – Via Zoom</p>	
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Date	dd-mmm-yy
Proposed	MD
Seconded	AMK