

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
ROTHERHAM FEDERATION OF TENANTS & RESIDENTS**

**Monday 8 March 2010
At Springwell Gardens Community Centre**

Present: Peter Collins (Chair) PC
 Derek Corkell (Vice Chair) DC
 Andrew Roddison (Company Secretary) AR
 Ann Hitchens (Director) AH
 Mary Jacques (Director) MJ
 Linda Sales (Director) LS
 Lilian Shears (Director) LSh
 Stuart Mayo (Director) SM
 Kevin Sanderson (Director) KS

Officers: Steve Ruffle (RotherFed) SR
 Joyce Chatterton (RotherFed) JC
 Alan Goy (RotherFed) AG
 Julie Sanders JS
 Sneh Soni (2010 Rotherham) SS
 Lynne Rowan (2010 Rotherham) LR
 Angela O'Neill (Anchor Staying Put) AON

Kevin Taylor KT
 Norman Taylor NT
 David Dobbs DD

		Action
014:10	<p>Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>PC thanked everyone for attending and welcomed visitors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Val Baldwin, Christina Hammond, Romney Bell, Jayne Holbrook and Jayne Davies Haire.</p> <p>JS, Youth Engagement Officer explained about her work on the Community Art Project which is being done to support young people in the community. It will be a large collage which will displayed at the Rotherham Show. JS thanked members of the Board for all their help. PC thanked her for the work she has done to date.</p> <p>JS is also working with Rosehill School with regard to anti-social behaviour. She also gave a brief overview of the volunteer who is working with her on the project. MJ asked how TARAs could get involved in the art work, JS said to just get in touch with and she will give them all the information.</p>	

015:10	<p>Minutes from 8 February 2010 PC proposed and AR seconded the minutes as a true record.</p> <p>Matters Arising There was one amendment to the minutes.</p> <p>Environmental Group. <i>DD reported that he had spoke to Neil Everest and he had informed him that the Action Group had folded. He will inform RotherFed when the Environmental Group is next to meet.</i></p> <p>Empty Homes Service Improvement Group: MJ and AH attended. MJ said she was surprised at how much they have to spend. These meetings will be held every 3 months.</p> <p>Transport Strategy: This is a 10 year plan – some of the discussion relates to the future of First buses. They said they will address people’s concerns. PC said that there was a lot of dissatisfaction by the three local authorities over First buses.</p> <p>Take Part Workshop: SM attended and said there will be a follow up visit to Parliament on 9 March.</p> <p>Steering Group: SS gave an update. Tenant Advocates elected are Winnie Billups, Ann Hitchens, Ben Carvallo and Derrick Warndby. SR said that the steering group is an open group if anyone wishes to be involved.</p> <p>Key Choices: A special board meeting was organised and Sandra Wardle outlined how Key Choices worked. MJ attended and said that it was a good meeting. It was agreed to send a thankyou letter to Sandra for attending.</p>	JC
016:10	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defend Council Housing – Conference • Doncaster Unity in the Community on Saturday 13 March 2010 • TSA Conference on 20 April 2010 • Community Matters – Newsletter • BBC Roadshow – MJ said that she had attended and had been interviewed. 	
017:10	<p>Reports Development Manager’s Report SR’s report was available.</p>	

SR said that this was the last Board meeting before the AGM. SR thanked the Board and members of staff for all their hard work. Budget for the new year. The budget for the new year gave a 2% increase. SR said that this is largely due to the good work of RotherFed board, staff and members over the last year.

Training during February was not successful except for the IT courses which are going very well. SR said that we need to look at how training is delivered in the future. AR suggested liaising with Trafford Hall and attending their courses.

SR said that Connecting Communities are working with RMBC to engage with white communities. JS, LR and JH are working with Birks Holt TARA on this project.

Rotherham Housing Strategy, this is linked in with Voluntary Action Rotherham who are holding a workshop on Tuesday 30 March 2010 at the Unity Centre starting at 9.30 till 4.30.

SR said as 2010 Tenant Reps attend our Board meeting we should send a representative to attend their meetings as an observer. It was proposed to have a rota of attendance. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 31 March at 3.30pm. SR said that the main purpose for attending would be to report back on what 2010 are doing. PC and SR to attend the March meeting and report back.

SR said that JS had completed her probationary period and is doing excellent work.

Member Development Officers Report

AG's report was available.

AG reported that the IT training was going very well and hopes that there is money in the budget to progress to the next level.

Judging has taken place for the Quality Awards and AG thanked SS for her help.

AG is still in talks with the Rockingham group who wishes to join RotherFed.

AR had attended the Flanderwell meeting with AG and offered suggestions to the group which they found helpful.

AG is working with 3 groups from Chevin Housing

Thorpe Hesley Forum is interested in joining RotherFed.

Company Secretary's Report

AR apologised for not submitting a written report.

AR has attended various meetings and is working with JS on a

	<p>project at Thrybergh School.</p> <p>RotherFed's AGM will take place on Tuesday 23 March. Posters are available.</p> <p>AR expressed concern over the attendance number at the Board meetings and suggested bringing in sanctions for non attenders. This will be looked at after the AGM.</p> <p>AR has been speaking to Nic Marshall who is overseeing the elections and said that he has been doing a very professional job and everything is going well.</p> <p>Fair Trade Event, AR said that he had been networking on behalf of RotherFed, which prompted the question should RotherFed be purchasing fair trade items as Rotherham is a Fair Trade town.</p> <p>I Love Rotherham Day, AR had attended Blackburn TARA Love and said that it was a very positive event.</p> <p>Holiday Aid event, AR had attended this event which sends disadvantaged children on holiday.</p> <p>BBC Radio Sheffield Roadshow, had attended and talked with Andy Kershaw. AR asked if there was a possibility of doing a Publicity Workshop in conjunction with Andy Kershaw.</p> <p>AR said he had attended a Rotherham Council meeting and thought that we should be attending these as well as 2010 Rotherham. The next one will take place in 4 weeks time at the Bailey Suite.</p>	Finance Cttee
018:10	<p>Subcommittees</p> <p>Finance The minutes were available. Amendment to the minutes. <i>AOB: Steve asked if the child minding payment could be raised from £10 to £30. Peter moved and Jayne seconded. Andrew had declared a financial interest.</i></p> <p>USB sticks, this relates to a previous discussion about putting all RotherFed's information onto a stick for Board members.</p> <p>Events LS said that there were no minutes but that they had been helping JS with her events. The next event will take place in April.</p> <p>Mem & Arts SR said that they will be meeting in a few weeks.</p>	
019:10	New Members	

	<p>AG proposed 2 new members.</p> <p>Bakersfield Court Residents Association - Herringthorpe Delegate: Ron Roberts</p> <p>Potteries Court Tenants Association - Swinton Delegate: June Calland</p> <p>The new members were approved.</p>	
020:10	<p>Approval of Policies</p> <p>Paternity Policy This policy was agreed</p> <p>Volunteer Policy Small changes had been made to this policy. This policy was agreed.</p>	
021.10	<p>Anchor Staying Put PC welcomed Angela O'Neill who gave an overview of the work Anchor Staying Put does.</p> <p>The project was established in 2007 and has a 3 year contract with RMBC. Their vision is to help elderly, disabled and vulnerable people to stay in their homes. They have been given a grant to provide free items to all qualifying tenants and residents, such as door and window alarms and locks, smoke alarms, key safes, etc. The grant has to be spent by the end of March.</p> <p>They also provide secured loans and run a small repairs service which charges £10 per hour.</p> <p>It was asked about the timescale for repairs. 6 to 8 weeks from start to finish depending on the repairs.</p> <p>PC thanked Angela for attending and outlining the work she does.</p>	
022:10	<p>Rotherham's Housing Strategy SR outline the 5 key points Community Matters Vision for Neighbourhoods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Buildings in every neighbourhood 2. More lottery funding 3. National Network of Community Neighbours 4. Strong Voice. 5. Less bureaucratic operating environment <p>What RotheFed is calling for:</p>	

	<p>1. Right to Rent</p> <p>2. Support for TARAs and Community Buildings</p> <p>3. Involving everyone</p> <p>4. Supporting vulnerable groups</p> <p>RotherFed is taking a lead in Youth Engagement.</p> <p>There is now a third draft of the housing strategy which is going out to consultation. Community engagement is the most important part of the strategy. SR had met with VAR and Anchor Staying Put and proposes to hold a joint workshop on Tuesday 30 March at the Unity Centre at 9.30 – 1.30. MJ, SM and KS said that they would attend.</p> <p>SR said that the consultation will be ongoing throughout the Spring and should be in place by the Summer.</p> <p>AR thinks that this is one of the most important things RotherFed will be doing this year. Information should be sent out to all Chairs of the AHPs. There has been limited consultation with partners but that time is the issue as the final draft will be available in June/July. All board members are encouraged to attend the workshop.</p>	SR to contact all Board
023:10	AOB There was no other business	
024:10	Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday 12 April 2010 at 11.00am at Springwell Gardens Community Centre.	

Signed Date