



MINUTES OF A.G.M. HELD AT YORKSHIRE HOUSE  
TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2008

PRESENT: Jeff Mitchell (Chair), Harold Burnip (Vice Chair), Stewart McCann (Secretary), Elia Stojanovic (Treasurer), June Mitchell, George Croft, Elsie Croft, Doreen Benson, Sue Austin, Tina Burton, Colin Hustler, Margaret Hamilton, Mary Hartley

STAFF: Helen Cowton (Tenant Involvement Adviser), Tom Clinton (Tenant Involvement Adviser)

APOLOGIES: Paul Morrow, Brian Tedstone, Sally Kendrick (Policy & Delivery Manager)

ABSENT: None

MINUTES OF LAST A.G.M. (27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2007) Proposed as correct by C Hustler, seconded by T Burton.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES: There were no matters arising.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (28<sup>th</sup> March 2008) Proposed as correct by M Hamilton, seconded by D Benson.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES: There were no matters arising.

TREASURERS REPORT: The treasurer reported that the Focus Group's financial status at this point was £2,434.83. The total consisted of £2,205.83 in the bank and £229 petty cash. He also informed everyone that he was in the process of appointing the same auditor he had used last year, but if any member wanted a copy of the financial statements of the account he would make them available to them. HB asked HC to confirm that new rules now allow tenant groups to produce their financial projections to Yorkshire Housing when applying for their administration grants and therefore don't have to wait until their AGMs to present their accounts. HC said that this was indeed the case and that in practice it could also avoid some delay and any overspill. ES said he thought this was a good idea and he would take advantage of it starting next year when he would arrange for the accounts to be done in February or March instead of waiting for the AGM in April.

MH asked if it was an under spend in focus group finances which has led to a reduced grant of £1000 this year, and was it a means to penalise. HC said this was definitely not the case. She explained that it was agreed to reduce some of this year's budgets in some areas because it was simply common sense to shift resources around a little because in some cases circumstances might have prevented some planned projects from getting off the ground. She also reminded members that this would also allow for budgets to be reviewed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: HC presided over the election. She scrutinised the ballot papers that were returned and confirmed that proper procedure had been followed in the elections. It was announced that by majority consensus four names had been nominated to fill the officers positions on the Focus Group. Each person was then proposed and seconded by a show of hands to serve as officers on the YHTFG committee for a term of three years.

The following people were elected as officers of the Focus Group:

		<u>Term</u>	<u>End of Term</u>
Chair:	Jeff Mitchell	3 Years	2011
Vice Chair:	Harold Burnip	3 Years	2011
Secretary:	Stewart McCann	3 Years	2011
Treasurer:	Elia Stojanovic	3 Years	2011

The following people were selected/re-selected as members of the Focus Group:

		<u>Term</u>	<u>End of Term</u>
George Croft	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Elsie Croft	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
June Mitchell	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Doreen Benson	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Margaret Hamilton	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Mary Hartley	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Colin Hustler	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Sue Austin	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Tina Burton	(Re/Sel)	3 Years	2011
Paul Morrow	(Sel)	3 Years	2011
Brian Tedstone	(Sel)	3 Years	2011

OPEN DISCUSSION: The Chair suggested that we should stick to planned meeting dates up until June, which were, of course, arranged by the previous secretary. Everyone agreed. The Chair also said that we ought to be monitoring absenteeism from committee meetings more closely. CH said we should be thinking about publishing our programme of walkabouts pretty soon. George Croft echoed this sentiment saying he hoped this could be done as soon as possible. DB said she would like to arrange a visit for the committee to the newly developed sheltered complex at Garth Court in York. She suggested that we could perhaps put on a light lunch or buffet there for some of the residents and hear some of their views. ES said that if this went ahead another one or two other areas in York could also be visited on the day.

HC thought that tailing on to a recent visit to Garth Court might be a bit too soon. She said that maybe we should try and visit areas that we don't normally go to. By doing this she said we might be able to collate more information on what other people are doing and how they approach things. She said that a joint approach to promoting the focus group, and it's aims and objectives, is the way forward. She thought that perhaps we should try and help CH to get an umbrella group off the ground at Brunel. TC agreed that this type of approach would give a higher profile to the focus group

not only among tenants but also Yorkshire Housing staff as well. He said that other methods of communication could also be used to raise the profile of the YHTFG, when rent statements are sent out for example.

HB said that he didn't think that there was enough feedback coming back to the focus group from other areas. He says as the focus group is made up of members from different areas of Yorkshire Housing we should be thinking about making it a regular agenda item to hear brief accounts about what's going on in each other's patches. Websites were also an issue brought up by HB, he said that perhaps a joint tenants site would be a good idea and maybe even a site for the focus group itself. HC said it was her intention to show the committee the website of Ryedale's Western Area today and also discuss some of the points raised by HB, but a meeting waiting to follow our own wouldn't allow time for this so she proposed that this item be put on the next agenda.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: TC announced that a special 'Craven Tenants Forum' meeting has been called for 7<sup>th</sup> May and that all tenants in Craven have been invited. He said, while the CTF is a constitutive body, at the moment all officers and members are in acting positions at this time, but nomination forms to fill the posts for officers and members have been sent out. TC added, that he would, of course, inform members of the focus group about the outcome of elections and selections when they are resolved. He ended by telling everyone that there are also a couple of workshops in the pipeline for tenant reps and housing officers combined.

DATE, TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
at  
Yorkshire House  
Heslington, York  
11.00am