

**Minute of the Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council held in public on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in the Community Centre, Cardowan Drive, Stepps.**

**Councillors Present:** Rob Stuart (Chair); Harry Erentz; Marvyn Mackay; Ken Maxwell; Frances McAveety, Alex Gibson and Carol Graham

**In Attendance:** Cllr Brian Wallace (NLC); PC C McGladdery, Strathclyde Police

**Public:** 10 persons

**Apologies:** Louise Pender, Emma Kirk and Eddie Ceresa.

**1.0 Remarks / Introductions**

1.1 Rob Stuart opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, particularly the representative from Strathclyde Police, to the meeting.

**2.0 Apologies**

2.1 Apologies had been received from Louise Pender, Emma Kirk and Eddie Ceresa

**3.0 Minutes of the previous meetings (19<sup>th</sup> February 2007)**

3.1 The minute of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 was adopted, proposed by Ken Maxwell and seconded by Harry Erentz.

**4.0 Community Policing**

4.1 PC C McGladdery gave a report on the crime noted in the area in the last 4 weeks which at 30 reported incidents was considerably lower than the previous period. The crimes were 2 housebreakings at Stepps Primary School and Inchgower Road; 1 serious assault in Station Road, Millerston; 12 vandalism; 5 drinking in public places; 2 breach of the peace; 3 other assaults and Road Traffic Act offences. As much of the criminal activity was in the Station Road/Coshneuk Road area of Millerston, extra police had been out on the beat last weekend which was much quieter. The local office has been allocated an unmarked vehicle. There being no questions for PC McGladdery, Rob Stuart thanked her for her attendance and report.

**5.0 Matters arising from previous meeting**

5.1 It is now thought that the double decker bus using Cardowan Drive is a school bus for pupils going to Cumbernauld and uses the Drive to turn and go back to Cumbernauld. This would be a legitimate use of the public highway.

5.2 In respect of Cardowan Drive being the main diversion route for vehicles unable to use Cardowan Road Railway Bridge, Cllr Wallace had raised this with the Roads Department and he had been sent a plan showing why this was necessary. He had not brought the plan with him but would do so for the next meeting. Although a replacement bridge was being considered, it could be four years before this would be done. Loch Road will not be upgraded until the Frankfield Loch housing development was constructed.

5.3 The repainting of the yellow lines on Cardowan Drive and Cumbernauld Road was on the schedule which had been delayed by the inclement weather. Further concerns were expressed regarding vehicles parking fully on the pavement in Cumbernauld Road, Stepps, and Cllr Wallace suggested a site meeting with representatives of the Council to consider possible solutions for consideration by the Roads Department. This offer was accepted and meeting to be arranged.

5.4 Rob Stuart advised that he had nothing further to report on the possibility of the Playgroup leasing the Hockey Pavilion. He was still waiting for a response to his enquiries with North Lanarkshire Council. Cllr Wallace advised that in respect of the Tennis Clubhouse he had met with Property Services which was now considering this and other representations, but he did not expect an early response. It was suggested and agreed that the Council should write formally to North Lanarkshire Council on this matter.

5.5 Rob Stuart reported that he and Marvyn Mackay had attended the last meeting of the Northern Corridor Community Forum at which the affiliation of the Council to the Forum was noted. However, the meeting itself had been rather disappointing with poor

attendance and a concern about continuing support for the Forum from NLC and the possibility of being obliged to join the North Area Community Forum. The meeting felt that Forum was dominated by Cumbernauld issues to the exclusion of issues from other areas. Having been strongly encouraged to create the Forum by NLC, there was a feeling of despair that this support might now be withdrawn and the Forum be obliged to join the much larger and more remote North Area Forum.

- 5.6 Cllr Wallace reported that the tree planting programme in Stepps Park would begin by the end of March according to the parks Manager, John Whittaker. Concern was expressed regarding the trees along the north side of Cumbernauld Road at the hockey field due to them being constantly waterlogged. It was recognised that better drainage was needed, but there was no obvious route for drainage pipes to be laid and the drainage system for the new school was not designed for this extra water flow.
- 5.7 Cllr Wallace to report on matter of pavement repairs on Cumbernauld Road, Stepps.
- 5.8 Cllr Wallace to report on enquiries he was making with Environmental Services regarding responsibility for removal of leaves.
- 5.9 Rob Stuart had nothing further to report on the future of the e-democracy group.
- 5.10 Marvyn Mackay reported that Cllr Wallace has arranged a Public Meeting for the residents of Nicolson Court on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm at which Tom Peebles, Area Roads Engineer would be in attendance to discuss proposals regarding the problem of overspill car parking from Stepps Station Car Park.

## **6.0 Planning Matters**

- 6.1 In relation to outstanding applications, Rob Stuart updated these as follows:-
- Motorway Service Station at Hornshill Farm is still under consideration and no date had been set for a site visit or committee.
  - The housing development at Frankfield Loch is still under consideration and no date set for site visit or committee.
  - In regard to the level pedestrian access from Nicolson Court to Station Road, there had still not been any action by NLC or the owner. Cllr Wallace added that there appears to be correspondence going between Planning and Legal Services of NLC as to whether or not the council agreed to enforcement action.
  - Scottish Water Emergency Plan – still no reply from Scottish Water.
  - AWG sign application still to be determined by North Lanarkshire Council but Rob Stuart has written a letter to NLC indicating that approval should only be given subject to the removal of all other advertising hoardings on the site and that the developer tidied up and landscaped the frontage as the area forms a prominent entry to Stepps – copy attached to Agenda.
  - 26-28 Ballaig Crescent is going to Committee for approval
  - 141-149 Cumbernauld Road does not appear to have been dropped as the developer appears to be pursuing the wrongful erection of fences on the site.
  - Rob advised that he had written to the NLC regarding the proposed dwelling house between 115 and 117 Cumbernauld Road in the terms discussed at the last meeting. A copy was attached to the Agenda. The Planning Committee had decided to do a site visit but would probably approve the application with conditions.
- 6.2 In regard to new applications (see list attached to Agenda) there was nothing contentious which warranted intervention by the Council.
- 6.3 Concerns were raised regarding the state of the trees and surrounding grounds on the north side of Mount Harriet Drive which were subject to a tree preservation order and in the care of the Woodland Trust since the building of the Stepps by-pass. It was agreed that the Council should write to the Trust expressing these concerns and seeking remedial action.
- ## **7.0 Treasurer's Report**
- 7.1 Ken Maxwell reported that the balance in account was £1,844 following the payment of a bill for £11. Other expenditure would be incurred as proposals from the Interim Meeting were progressed.

## **8.0 Secretary's Report**

- 8.1 Marvyn Mackay reported on the correspondence received since the last meeting
- 8.2 Letter from Association of Scottish Community Councils inviting the Council to renew its membership of ASSC for a further year at a cost of £15. Rob Stuart noted that the ASSC is currently going through a difficult patch with significant changes in the office bearers and he suggested this be held over to see if the situation stabilises or not.
- 8.3 Letter from Community Co-ordinator, Revival Radio, seeking to engage with the Council to ascertain if the station can assist the Council in its task. Noted.
- 8.4 Letter from Scottish Executive enclosing copies of a leaflet entitled 'National Planning Framework – Small Country Big Plans'. Distributed to Councillors for information.
- 8.5 Letter from Scottish Executive enclosing a flyer on the Scottish Parliament entitled 'Working for You' summarising the work of the parliament over the last four years. Noted.
- 8.6 Letter from the Scottish Executive enclosing a variety of information on the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 including Advice Note on Community Engagement; a brief Guide to the Act etc. Marvyn Mackay suggested that a further copy be obtained of the Advice Note 81 and the Community Engagement Booklet for Rob Stuart and Emma Kirk and for all Councillors, a copy of the brief Guide to the Act. Agreed

## **9.0 Councillor's Verbal Reports**

- 9.1 Rob Stuart advised the meeting of the discussions which had taken place at the Interim Meeting and in particular the proposed items of expenditure i.e. a printer/copier/scanner; a digital camera; and that a quotation be obtained for a Community Notice Board. These proposals were agreed.
- 9.2 Harry Erentz expressed concern about rumours circulating that the dental practice in Stepps might be going fully private and no longer undertake NHS work. If this were true it would be a concern since alternative NHS dental services were some distance away at Ruchazie and Springburn.
- 9.3 Alex Gibson felt that now that the new school was well underway, efforts should be made to have the 'Beacon' relocated and be properly connected. Rob Stuart advised that this would not be acceptable to the PPP contractor and the cost would have to be found from elsewhere, e.g. Lottery Funding which he would investigate.
- 9.4 Marvyn Mackay expressed his disappointment that the Council had not been invited to send a representative to the recent rededication and fortieth anniversary of Stepps Fire Station which had been so well served by many local people. Indeed two former senior fire officers who were invited had asked him why the Council was not represented and he had to advise them that the Council was not invited. He felt Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Service ought to have been more aware of the Council's position in the community and invited representation at the event. These views were endorsed.

## **10.0 Any other business**

- 10.1 A member of the public asked for a progress report on the new Stepps Primary School and was advised that although there was no recent newsletter, some information was on the NLC website. It is expected that the school will be finished in November.
- 10.2 Recent severe flooding in Blenheim Avenue Car Park was raised by a member of the public and Rob Stuart advised that new drains were being put in this week by the PPP contractor for the school.

## **11.0 Annual General Meeting**

- 11.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 7.30pm in Stepps Community Centre, Cardowan Drive, Stepps.

## **12.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

- 12.1 The next meeting of Stepps and District Community Council will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007 immediately following the Annual General Meeting in the Community Centre, Cardowan Drive, Stepps.