

Minute of the Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council held in public on Monday 15th September 2008 in the Cultural Centre, Blenheim Avenue, Stepps.

Councillors Present: Rob Stuart (Chair); Harry Erentz; Marvyn Mackay; Alex Gibson; Frances McAveety; and Ken Maxwell joined the meeting later.

Public: 3 Persons

Apologies: Louise Pender; Carol Graham; Jennifer Cloggie; Tom Clarke MP; Elaine Smith MSP and PC Chris McLeish Strathclyde Police.

1.0 Remarks / Introductions

1.1 Rob Stuart welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new session.

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Apologies received from Louise Pender; Carol Graham; Jennifer Cloggie; Tom Clarke MP; Elaine Smith MSP and PC Chris McLeish Strathclyde Police.

3.0 Minutes of the previous meetings 16th June 2008

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th June 2008 approved subject to the addition of Frances McAveety to the councillors present, proposed by Harry Erentz and seconded by Frances McAveety.

4.0 Community Policing

4.1 There were no police representatives present and no report received.

4.2 It was noted that there had been an assault in St Joseph's RC Church car park. The area had now been fenced off by the church.

4.3 There was nothing to report regarding action being taken in relation to speeding along Cumbernauld Road and Mount Harriet Drive.

5.0 Matters arising from previous meeting

5.1 Item 5.1 It was noted that to date there had been no problems reported from the changeover to alternate weekly bin collections.

5.2 Item 5.2 There was nothing to report on the matter of replacing the boundary fence on the north side of Mt Harriet Drive. Secretary to write again to Savills Property Management Agents.

5.3 Item 5.3 There was still nothing to report on new parliamentary regulations which might be applied to deal with the overflow from the station car park.

5.4 Item 5.4 Rob Stuart reported that he was awaiting a response from Steve Bulloch in the Parks Department regarding the storage of the fuel and burner equipment for the Millennium Beacon. He will contact Mr Bulloch again.

5.5 Item 5.5 A directional sign to Glasgow at the junction of Lenzie Road with Cumbernauld Road had still to be erected by the Roads Department.

5.6 Item 5.6 There was nothing further to report on the planning application by Clyde Valley Housing Association for a development of socially rented housing on the site of the former Stepps Primary School. The application had not been to committee.

5.7 Item 5.7 There was no update of the Local Plan.

5.8 Item 5.8 Rob Stuart reported that NLC Planning Committee had decided to undertake a site visit to 75 Cumbernauld Road. A revised change of use application had been submitted to a place for religious worship.

5.9 Item 5.9 There was nothing further to report on the application for a further housing development at Crowwood Grange east of Dewar Road. As this may be some time in the future after approval of the local plan it was agreed to drop from the agenda in the meantime.

- 5.10 Item 5.10 It was noted that the former Guide Hut was now being used for boxing training and no problems had been reported.
- 5.11 Item 5.11 The street lights at the entrance to the new Stepps Primary School were now working and the landscaping had been completed over the summer.
- 5.12 Item 5.12 There was no update on the water seepage at the rear of Parkview Drive.
- 5.13 Item 5.13 It was noted that neither nor the footpath beside Loch Road was open but the road was still closed.
- 5.14 Item 5.14 The automatic doors for the Cultural Centre had been fitted. There was no further information regarding the re-location of the brass War Memorial and other artefacts being mounted inside the Cultural Centre.
- 5.15 Item 5.15 Rob Stuart reported that he had made enquiries with the Planning Department regarding the large number of cars parked at 2 Cumbernauld Road and the premises being used as a business. This would be investigated by one of the Planning Officers.
- 5.16 Item 5.16 Rob Stuart reported that the Planning Department would be reviewing the drawings in the planning application to ensure that the buildings at the Pear Tree Caravan site had been built to the approved plans.
- 5.17 Item 5.17 There was no report from Carol Graham regarding a Freedom of Information request in respect of the decision making process leading to the sale of the site of the former Stepps Primary School.
- 5.18 Item 5.18 Frances McAveety reported that she had spoken to the Network Rail Manager for the area when he and colleagues were doing a site visit to Stepps station. He undertook to have the fence along the railway to the south of Crowwood Grange repaired as soon as possible.
- 5.19 Item 6.2.1 Rob Stuart advised that there had been no action taken to date on the planning application for a motorway service station at Hornshill Farm.
- 5.20 Item 10.1 Marvyn Mackay advised that he had not yet had time to review the minutes for the last year and draw up a list of outstanding issues. He would try to do this for the next meeting.

6.0 Planning Matters

- 6.1 Rob Stuart referred to the list of new planning applications which he circulated to the meeting. He noted that there was nothing contentious in these applications.
- 6.2 He added that he had reviewed the planning applications for the Brewers Fayre/Premier Inn and there was nothing contentious in these proposals to extend the hotel and create a new reception area and additional car parking spaces.

7.0 Treasurer's Report

- 7.1 Ken Maxwell, Treasurer, reported that there was a balance in account of £2004.65p.
- 7.2 Rob Stuart reported that he had spoken to the property management company for the school regarding the cost of purchasing a storage cupboard to be located in the Cultural Centre for the use of the Council. The manager felt there was inadequate space for another cupboard and suggested that the library might be able to assist. Rob had followed up this line and enquiry and received a favourable response. It was agreed after further discussion to pursue the library option.

8.0 Secretary's Report

- 8.1 Marvyn Mackay reported on correspondence received since the last meeting.
- 8.2 Letter from Learning & Leisure Services, NLC enclosing letting permit for meetings of the Council for the next year. All meetings would be in one of the meeting rooms with the exception of the AGM in April 2009 which would be in the hall.
- 8.3 Letter from the Scottish Government advising that the government was consulting on proposals to safeguard and improve rural schools. Noted.

- 8.4 Letter from Head of Protective Services, NLC advising that the council was undertaking a review of its Pest Control Service and inviting interested parties to a consultation event which was held on 21st August 2008. No one had attended this event due to the summer recess.
- 8.5 Letter from Head of Central Services, NLC enclosing a copy of the Post Office Area Plan Consultation. The secretary had reviewed this and noted that there were no proposals affecting Stepps or Millerston Post Offices. No action required.
- 8.6 Letter from Head of Planning and Development, NLC enclosing a brochure for Lanarkshire's Doors Open Day which had been on 13–14 September. Noted.
- 8.7 Letter from Oliver Allan, Secretary Cumbernauld Village Community Council advising that he had been nominated and elected as the local representative to the Association of Scottish Community Councils. He asked for the council's support and that he would support the work of the council through his participation on ASCC. Noted.
- 8.8 Newsletters from three MSP's John Wilson; Hugh O'Donnell; and Margaret Mitchell. Noted.
- 8.9 Letter from Clerk to the Licensing Board, NLC advising of an application from Somerfield Stores Lts, Cumbernauld Road, Stepps to renew and amend their Licence as required by the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. The main change was to extend the hours for sale of alcohol on a Sunday by starting at 10.00am. The council decided to take no action
- 8.10 Letter from Executive Director, Housing and Social Work Services, NLC advising that the council had approved the introduction of a new housing allocation policy which would come into effect later this year. A 'frequently asked questions' leaflet was enclosed and a summary of the new policy would be sent out in due course. Noted.
- 8.11 Letter from the Association of Scottish Community Councils enclosing latest newsletter. Noted.
- 8.12 Letter Chief Executive, NLC inviting attendance at launch of the council's Performance Report and North Lanarkshire Partnership's Performance Report 2007-2008 on 24th September. No one indicated that they wished to attend this meeting.
- 8.13 Letter from DigitalUK advising of the switchover to digital broadcasting between 2008 and 2011. A series of seminars had been arranged during October to explain the process and offer help with the switchover. No one indicated a desire to attend one of these seminars.
- 8.14 Letter from Property Officer – Energy, NLC advising that the council was keen to alleviate fuel poverty and to this end had a designated Fuel Poverty Liaison Officer. This person was available to attend local meetings to give a presentation on how to make homes more energy efficient and could also arrange for an Energy Assessor to complete an energy audit and make a fastrack referral to social work for an income maximisation check to be undertaken. It was agreed to request such a presentation at a future meeting which would be appropriately advertised.

9.0 Northern Corridor Community Forum

- 9.1 Marvyn Mackay reported that the forum was still pursuing the matter of support and a base with NLC. There had been some progress but a further report was awaited from NLC. There had been a recent consultation event on how to make the work and involvement of the Community Forums more effective and Marvyn had attended on behalf of the NCCF. No firm proposals were made by the council, but the debate and suggestions made at the event would form part of a report to the relevant council committee in due course.

10.0 Councillor's Verbal Reports

- 10.1 Frances McAveety reported that the Fire and Rescue Service were willing to undertake home safety assessments and these could be arranged by contacting the service.
- 10.2 Marvyn Mackay suggested that the NLC be approached regarding naming the road to the new Stepps Primary School as the school address as 10 Blenheim Avenue did not

help strangers to the area finding the school. Rob Stuart advised that the Les Marches Twinning Association had previously suggested this but it had not been taken up. He agreed to pursue the matter again on behalf of the council.

11.0 Any other business

11.1 There was no other business.

12.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

13.1 The next meeting of Stepps and District Community Council will be held on Monday 20th October 2008 at 7.30pm in the Stepps Cultural Centre, Blenheim Avenue, Stepps.

Marvyn Mackay
Secretary