

**Minute of Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council held in public on  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Stepps.**

**Present:** Councillors Ken Maxwell (Chair) Rob Stuart (Vice-Chair), Marvyn Mackay, Stewart Donald, Frances McAveety, Iain MacGregor, Grenfell Lang and Edoardo Ceresa.

**Public:** 14 persons

**In Attendance** Constables Derek Wilson and Jennifer Dunn, Police Scotland

**Apologies:** Councillors Ewan and Carol Graham,; Cllrs John McLaren, Frances McGlinchey and Brian Wallace, NLC; Elaine Smith; Siobhan McMahon, John Wilson MSP's and Tom Clarke, MP.

**1.0 Opening Remarks /Introductions**

1.1 Ken Maxwell, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

**2.0 Apologies**

2.1 Marvyn Mackay advised that apologies had been received from Councillors Ewan and Carol Graham; Cllrs John McLaren, Frances McGlinchey and Brian Wallace, NLC; Elaine Smith, Siobhan McMahon, John Wilson MSP's and Tom Clarke, MP.

**3.0 Minutes of previous meeting: 21.10.13**

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 were approved, proposed by Stewart Donald and seconded by Grenfell Lang.

**4.0 Community Policing**

4.1 Ken Maxwell welcomed the representatives of Police Scotland to the meeting and invited them to give their report.

4.2 PC Derek Wilson reported that there had been 150 calls in the last period. Crime related calls included theft of a car from Loch Road, again someone stealing keys from the house through an unsecured window and taking the car from outside the house; number plates from cars parked in the station car park; 3 drug related offences – all individuals for possession; a disturbance in Station Road, Millerston; road traffic related offences; suspicious persons in Cumbernauld Road and Dewar Road. He added that there is a spate of white vans driving around the area seeking opportunities for theft or other criminal activity – remember door to door traders require to have a licence from North Lanarkshire Council. On a positive note there had been no reports of street drinking or vandalism in the area and over the last quarter the crime rate in the Strathkelvin Ward had fallen by 20%. Unfortunately, the missing person spoken of at the last meeting had been found deceased in a field near his home. In response to a question, PC Wilson confirmed that a skimming device had been fixed to the Cash Machine at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Stepps and also the Clydesdale Bank in Muirhead. He advised users to be vigilant and always cover the keypad when entering their PIN as miniature cameras have also been installed above the keypad and these are virtually invisible. He advised against removing any devices discovered as this could prejudice the subsequent investigation.

4.3 There were questions about enforcement of no parking on the cycle lanes on Cumbernauld Road to which PC Wilson said the police do keep an eye on this and can warn people but as soon as the police have gone the cars reappear. All officers have been briefed to watch out for this and take appropriate action. In relation to Stepps Playpark, the police are still monitoring the situation but he was not aware of any recent incidents.

4.4 In conclusion PC Wilson reminded everyone present of the police contact numbers: 101 for non-emergency incidents and 999 for emergencies. Grenfell Lang commented that he had been kept holding on for a long time on 101 and did not get a good response whereas 999 contacts were very efficient.

4.4 Ken Maxwell thanked the police for their attendance and report.

## 5.0 Matters Arising

5.1 Item 5.1: Sports Facilities at St Andrews Way Irene McGeorge said she had nothing to report as she had received no communication from anyone about this situation since the last meeting. She understood the petition had been considered by NLC on 4/5<sup>th</sup> November but she did not know the outcome. She was exercised by the lack of communication which was very frustrating and showed a lack of respect and courtesy by elected officials and council officers. She had written to local councillors and the Chief Executive of NLC but did not always get a reply and those she did receive were not offering solutions and were not helpful.

5.2 Item 5.2: Mapping of Mineshafts. Ongoing.

5.3 Item 5.3: Footpaths around Stepps Primary School and Hockey Park Marvyn Mackay still to contact the Restorative Justice Team and ask if they could upgrade the other paths in this area.

5.4 Item 5.4: Flooding on roads and highways Stewart Donald reported that a meeting for site visits had been arranged with John Ashcroft, Roads Engineer, NLC and this would be attended by himself and Marvyn Mackay. The list of locations to be visited was confirmed and one or two added to the previous list at Station Road/Craigbarnet Crescent, Millerston and Lane from Coshneuk Road to Station Road.

5.5 Item 5.5: Beautiful North Lanarkshire No report.

5.6 Item 5.6: Fence at Mount Harriet Drive. Marvyn Mackay reported that he had tried to contact the agents for the landowners at this location but his e-mails had been returned undeliverable and phone contact had similarly been unsuccessful. Stewart Donald said he would check and resend the contact information to Marvyn Mackay.

5.7 Item 5.7: Cycle Lanes on Cumbernauld Road See Item 4.3 above.

5.8 Item 5.8: Stepps Play Park Rob Stuart reported that a local resident had been in touch but did not report any further incidents of unsocial behaviour. NLC has decided to do some additional tree planting between the back of the houses on Anniesdale Avenue and the play area.

5.9 Item 5.9: Electrification of Railway. Marvyn Mackay reported that work was ongoing and that a resident of Nicolson Court had received a letter from the factor confirming that NetworkRail had offered to fund a replacement fence along the railway but the factor was waiting until the construction work was completed and then would contact all the residents with options. It was agreed this was encouraging news but the Council considered the factor could be more proactive now and not wait until the work was completed to discuss the options as that would add delay to installation of a replacement fence and new tree planting.

5.10 Item 5.10: Frankfield Loch Nature Reserve and Wildlife Park. Nothing further to report on this matter.

5.11 Item 5.11: Community Council Noticeboard Rob Stuart still to contact Martin Dickson about the installation of a Noticeboard. Stewart Donald had confirmed that NLC own the bus shelter but the advertising is managed by agents who charge £40 per panel per fortnight which was out with the Council's resources.

5.12 Item 5.12: Bus Stop Timetables Timetables at a number of bus stops had still not been updated. Rob Stuart said he would contact SPT and Firstbus again.

## 6.0 Treasurer's report

- 6.1 The Treasurer's report showed that the account balance as per the most recent bank statement of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013 was £2,191.10 with no significant transactions or movement since then.
- 7.0 Secretary's report**
- 7.1 Marvyn Mackay reported on correspondence received since the last meeting.
- 7.2 Letter from John Wilson, MSP enclosing poster advertising his forthcoming surgeries.
- 7.3 Letter from War Memorials Trust encouraging communities to ensure local councils maintain and repair War Memorials and giving information about possible funding for such work. Noted that NLC have undertaken the required work at Stepps War Memorial and more work to upgrade the surrounding area was scheduled in the next year.
- 7.4 e-mail from Scottish Government regarding launch of Consultation on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. Views invited by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- 8.0 Planning report**
- 8.1 Rob Stuart presented the list of Planning Applications to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 on which there were three new applications, one of which was non-contentious but the other two related to 10 Alexandra Avenue and 44a\Z Cardowan Drive. Rob brought these to the attention of the Council due to the size of the extension in the case of 10 Alexandra Avenue and the extent of the development of 44 Cardowan Drive of which this was the third in the last two years. After some discussion it was agreed that there were insufficient grounds for objections to be lodged unless other information came to light in looking at the plans.
- 8.2 Rob Stuart stated that a revised planning application for Phase 2 of Frankfield Loch had still not been submitted. He had now received a response from NLC in response to his letter regarding the revised plans, a copy of an earlier response which he had not received. However, it does not cover all the points raised and suggests the answers will not be forthcoming until the full planning application is submitted.
- 9.0 Report from Northern Corridor Community Forum**
- 9.1 Marvyn Mackay reported on the Family Health Event held at Chryston High School on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Although number attending had been disappointing those who did attend enjoyed the wide range of healthy activities, eating, drinking etc. which were available at the event with many giving the opportunity to sample them. Entry and participation in the activities was free. The facilities afforded by Chryston High School were excellent and it is a great community resource for the area as well an excellent educational resource for local children and young people
- 10.0 Any other competent business**
- 10.1 Wildlife Garden Stewart Donald said he had further information from the local resident wanting to explore the possibility of setting up a wildlife Garden off Loch Road. He would pass the information to the Secretary for a meeting to be arranged.
- 10.2 Ken Maxwell advised that an application had been lodged for a Touring Caravan Park on Woodhead Road part of the area previously subject of a residential homes development which was rejected by NLC after the Reporter's recommendation that the area should remain greenbelt. It was out with our area but was worth noting.
- 10.3 Millerston Nursery A group of parents, staff and local residents raised the issue of the almost certain closure of the Nursery due to the withdrawal of funding by NLC following a review and tendering procedure by the council. The Nursery had scored less than was required to meet the council criteria for continued funding and this would cease from the end of the current year. So far the staff and parents had not been advised as to why the Nursery has failed to come up to the mark and they were not sure on what

grounds to appeal which it seemed had to be lodged within 15 days. The parents were seeking advice as to what options they had and asking for advice. There was a lengthy discussion in which advice and options were given and ways to take action were suggested. The parents said they would be forming an Action Group and would keep the Council informed and come back for further discussion as required.

- 10.4 A local resident raised the possibility of play park in Millerston similar to that recently constructed in Stepps. He was advised of how this was done and advised to speak to members of the Friends of Stepps Playpark for advice and information about sources of funding.
- 10.5 Marvyn Mackay drew attention to the fact that Scotrail had developed a scheme for funding local grants for environmental improvement and that Stepps on the Level had been approached by Scotrail to advertise the Adopt a Station Scheme. He suggested and it was agreed that the Council take the initiative on this and link it with the Beautiful North Lanarkshire project so as to improve the appearance of the station. This was agreed and Secretary to make further enquires and report to a later meeting.
- 12.0 Date of next meeting**
- 12.1 Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.30pm in Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Stepps.
- 13.0** The meeting closed with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.