

**Minute of Meeting of Steps & District Community Council held in public on
Monday 18th May 2015 in the Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Steps.**

- Present:** Councillors Ken Maxwell (Chair), Rob Stuart (Vice-Chair), Marvyn Mackay (Secretary), Stewart Donald, Grenfell Lang, Frances McAveety and Iain MacGregor.
- Public:** 13 persons
- Apologies:** Councillors Edoardo Ceresa, Ewan and Carol Graham; Cllrs Brian Wallace and Frances McGlinchey, NLC; Siobhan Dickson, Police Scotland; Clare Adamson, Elaine Smith, Margaret Mitchell, Shiohan McMahon and John Wilson, MSP's.

1.0 Opening Remarks /Introductions

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

2.0 Apologies

- 2.1 Marvyn Mackay advised that apologies had been received as noted above.

3.0 Minutes of previous meetings: 20th April 2015

Minutes of meeting held on 20th April 2015 were approved, proposed by Rob Stuart and seconded by Grenfell Lang.

4.0 Community Policing

- 4.1 In the absence of representatives from Police Scotland there was no Crime Report for the last month.
- 4.2 Marvyn Mackay advised that he had received two reports of a well-dressed woman appearing at people's door, or more worryingly inside people's homes claiming to be looking for a relative or friend allegedly living next door and that she had come to or entered the wrong house by mistake. This was obviously an opportunistic thief who was taking advantage of unlocked premises or unsuspecting residents. It was also noted that this woman may have a male accomplice who had been seen loitering in the same area. Iain MacGregor suggested that the Council used its monthly advertisement in Steps on the Level to remind local residents to guard against opportunistic crime by ensuring doors are locked and valuables such as car keys are not left lying about for easy pickings.

5.0 Matters Arising

- 5.1 Item 5.1: Sports Facility St Andrews Way: Irene McGeorge reported on the meeting with Jennifer Lees, NLC on 21st April which Rob Stuart attended as representative from the Council. The various issues of concern for many years were discussed again and in particular the misuse of the pitch and lack of management, light pollution assessment, the height of the perimeter fence and the distance of the facility from the neighbouring properties. Jennifer Lees agreed that previous assessments were wrong and required to be redone. Rob Stuart confirmed that he had sent a follow-up letter from the Council raising a number of these concerns and in addition raising again the installation of soft padding and putting up notices describing the limitations on use etc. He had not raised the issue of the lighting but would do a further letter to include this. Rob Stuart went on to say that he had also raised the issue regarding the location and access to the replacement pitch which was a condition of planning approval for the school.
- 5.2 Item 5.2: Footpaths around Steps Primary School and Hockey Park: No update.

- 5.3 Item 5.3: Flooding on roads and highways: Most of the original list of sites prone to flooding given to John Ashcroft, Roads Engineer, NLC had now been repaired and the problem resolved. However, new sites were appearing and these needed to be identified and raised with NLC. Stewart Donald said he would be speaking with John Ashcroft.
- 5.4 Item 5.4: Beautiful North Lanarkshire: No update available as no one is currently responsible for taking this matter forward. It was agreed to keep it on the Agenda as there was still an interest in pursuing this linking with St Joseph's Community Garden and Station upkeep by Steps & District Floral Society.
- 5.5 Item 5.5: Frankfield Loch Nature Reserve and Wildlife Park: Rob Stuart advised that NLC has still to make a decision on the planning application from Taylor Wimpey on transfer of ownership to the Council.
- 5.6 Item 5.6: Community Council Noticeboard Rob Stuart advised that he has submitted a specification to a local manufacturer for costing of the provision of a noticeboard although he had still not heard anything formal from NLC.
- 5.7 Item 5.8: Safety Barrier at Park Entrance on Blenheim Avenue Marvyn Mackay noted that Cllr Brian Wallace had agreed to take up this matter with a senior roads engineer but he had no information on the outcome.
- 5.9 Item 5.9: Fence on Mount Harriet Drive Stewart Donald advised that work would commence shortly on the installation of the fence at this location.

6.0 Treasurer's report

- 6.1 The Treasurer's Report showed that the balance in account was £2,828.67p with all outstanding invoices having been paid. The Accounts for year to 31st March 2015 had been submitted to the Auditors on 16th April 2015 and had subsequently been approved. The Council should therefore soon receive its grant from NLC for 2015/16.

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 a copy of his May 2015 Newsletter in which he outlines his opposition to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- 7.3 Letter from Alzheimer Scotland enclosing a copy of their Spring 2015 Newsletter. Noted.
- 7.4 e-mail from North Lanarkshire Council giving information about Saving Energy, Saving Money which involves their Energy Team providing independent advice and assistance to North Lanarkshire residents. Noted as a useful and helpful service.
- 7.5 e-mail from Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire inviting the Council to attend the inaugural meeting of the NL Voluntary Sector Dementia Network on Thursday 26th June 2015 in Wellwynd Social Enterprise Centre, Airdrie. Marvyn Mackay said he would normally attend such a meeting but he would be on holiday that day. No one else indicated that they would be able to attend. Noted.

8.0 Planning Matters

- 8.1 Rob Stuart submitted a list of outstanding planning applications up to 18th May 2015. 7 new applications lodged viz. two additional bridge works; two more garage conversions; a single storey rear extension; a change of use from office to nursery at Buchanan Business Park and a new house and garage at 115 Cumbernauld Road. A similar application for this last site had been previously approved and again the concerns were about the external finishes and compatibility with neighbouring properties. Rob said he would need to look more closely at the plans and advise if comment was appropriate. No objections to garage conversions, bridge works and extension.

- 8.2 Frankfield Loch Phase 2B Amended: Ken Maxwell advised that there was nothing further in the public domain but preparatory work was continuing on the site. A local resident reported that there is a new site plan which he had seen in the local office and this did not include road access from Cumbernauld Road and instead of townhouses in the gap site, the builders had substituted a row of semi-detached houses. In addition, the current work is causing disturbance to local residents but this is being taken up by the residents who wish to deal directly with Taylor Wimpey on this issue. In response to a question, Ken Maxwell advised that planning approval expires after five years if no start on the site but this would not apply as the builders were on site.
- 8.3 Local Development Plan: Representatives from the Council had attended local consultation forums on the Main Issues Report and Rob Stuart had submitted an initial holding letter. Closing date for submission of comments was 29th May 2015 and Ken Maxwell said he and Rob Stuart would liaise on the submission of the Council's comments prior to the closing date. At present these comments could only be general as it was more for a strategic overview at this stage rather than comments on individual sites.
- 8.5 75 Cumbernauld Road: Noted that the Hearing of the NLC application for Breach of Planning Conditions had still to go to Court and this was not expected until late June/July 2015. In the meantime, local residents continue to monitor the situation.
- 9.0 Report from Northern Corridor Community Forum**
- 9.1 Marvyn Mackay reported that the next meeting of the Forum was on Tuesday 26th May 2015 at 7.30pm in Chryston Cultural Centre and it would be the Annual General Meeting.
- 10.0 Any other business**
- 10.1 War Memorial Booklet in follow-up to decision at last meeting to fund the printing of copies of the updated Booklet, it was reported that the cost of printing 50 copies would be £155.00 + Vat. This estimate was accepted and the expenditure approved.
- 10.2 Ground to rear of Mathieson Crescent A local resident raised an issue relating to access to this location from Dorlin Road which had been opened up by Greenbelt which had undertaken work to eradicate Japanese Knotweed at the site. Since access was now open the site was being used for fly-tipping and undesirable persons were gathering there and indulging in anti-social behaviour including breaking windows of houses in Mathieson Crescent. However, having opened up access and done the work, Greenbelt was now saying it was not their property and they were not responsible for re-instating the fence. In the first instance, it was recommended that the local residents contact local Councillors, NLC and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, all of whom had an interest or a responsibility for dealing with these matters.
- 11.0 Date of next meeting**
- 11.1 Monday 15th June 2015 at 7.30pm in Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Stepps.
- 12.0 The meeting closed with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.