

**Minute of Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council held in public on
Monday 21st May 2018 in the Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Stepps.**

- Present:** Councillors Ken Maxwell (Chair), Rob Stuart (Vice-Chair), Marvyn Mackay (Secretary) Stewart Donald and Iain MacGregor
- In Attendance** Cllrs. Lynne Anderson, NLC and Eddie McLaughlin, Virgin Media
- Public:** 20 persons
- Apologies:** Councillors Edoardo Ceresa, Ewan and Carol Graham, Grenfell Lang and Frances McAveety; Cllrs John McLaren and Stephen Goldsack, NLC; Elaine Smith, Monica Lennon, Margaret Mitchell and Fulton MacGregor MSPs, Hugh Gaffney, MP; Alyn Smith and Catherine Stihler, MEPs and Community Police Officers.

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 as noted above.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th April 2018 were approved, proposed by Stewart Donald and seconded by Rob Stuart.

4.0 Virgin Media

- 4.1 Ken Maxwell welcomed Eddie McLaughlin from Virgin Media who was attending the meeting to advise the Council and local residents about the current work programme being undertaken by the company to install a superfast broadband infrastructure in the area. Eddie McLaughlin advised that the works have gone well in Stepps and the programme is just about complete. Residents should be able to connect to service by the end of June when the contractors would be moving on to Chryston and Muirhead. Eddie answered some questions regarding particular streets saying that in private roads the agreement of all home owners was required for the work to be undertaken. Similarly, residents of multi-occupancy buildings required the factor's agreement or again the consent of all the residents. Private roads also required to have suitable surfaces and finishes to enable the work to be undertaken successfully and this might be a problem in some areas. In general, there were a number of favourable comments made regarding the quality of the work being undertaken and how the workers were friendly and accommodating to local residents. Eddie said he was pleased to hear this as Virgin was using a new contractor and this was their first programme. Eddie was thanked for his attendance and he left contact information for any subsequent enquiries.

5.0 Community Police

- 5.1 Marvyn Mackay reported that he had received a Report from Sgt Stephen Shanks on behalf of PC Mark Smith, Community Police Officer for the period 16th April to 9th May 2018 as follows.

86 calls to the Police of which 8 crime reports were raised:-

3 Road Traffic offences including damage to parked vehicle in Mossview Road and other incidents on M80.

1 Common Assault stemming from youths congregating in Clayhouse Road.

1 Theft by housebreaking , Mount Harriet Drive, front door forced open.

1 Theft by shoplifting from Co-op.

1 Wilful, fire-raising of vehicle near Wester Gadloch Farm

1 Theft of motor vehicle from Lochearnhead Road.

All these crimes were undetected by the time of the Report, 19th May 2018.

- 5.2 The May Surgery will be on Wednesday 30th May from 7.00pm to 8.00pm in Chryston Cultural Centre.
- 5.3 Cllr Lynne Anderson reported that she had received information from the Police regarding a speed check which had been carried out at the top of Lenzie Road at its junction with Mt Harriet Drive. In a half an hour period the Police stopped 5 cars. 4 drivers were given warnings and 1 was given a fixed penalty notice (3 points £100) for speeding. Out of the drivers stopped 3 were over 40mph. When the Community Police have the equipment from traffic they will do another check and let residents know the outcome because it's a busy wee road.
- 5.4 In subsequent discussion it was suggested that NLC be asked to install a Flashing Speed warning sign at this location on Lenzie Road. However, Cllr Lynne Anderson said that only had a temporary impact and what she was asking Roads to do was to build a chicane feature on Lenzie Road where it enters Stepps which would certainly cause drivers to slow down given there would be only one lane open at any point in time at this location.
- 5.5 A local resident drew attention to recent occasions when a van had been seen on the streets of Stepps and calling at various houses offering a block paving cleaning service. However, whilst this may be in breach of local licensing regulations, it was not a police matter unless some other behaviour was criminal. Any one who had concerns could check with NLC Trading Standards Service as to whether or not they were licenced.

6.0 Matters Arising

- 6.1 Flooding, Drain and Road Repairs: Stewart Donald reported that following an incident of near miss to a car exiting the Blenheim Avenue Car Park onto St Andrews Way, he had contacted Roads Department to request that the give way line be repainted and a Give Way sign be erected. NLC Roads initially advised that the Council did not own this Car Park and could not do the work, but later the give way line was repainted. However, it was not clear that a Give Way sign would be erected as it was maybe not appropriate at such a location. He had asked for clarification of this.

A couple of local residents raised concerns regarding driving and parking on the pavement outside the shops on Cumbernauld Road, Stepps. This was mainly delivery vehicles but also private cars. They described incidents where there had been hazardous driving which had caused panic and alarm to pedestrians who had had to dodge out of the way of vehicles driving along the pavement. There had also been a confrontation with a truck driver who had been abusive when spoken to about inconsiderate driving and parking when he had forced someone to dodge out of his way and then parked such that the pavement was blocked. A number of these incidents occurred early in the morning when parents were taking children to school and nursery so it was a real health and safety issue. Stewart Donald advised that NLC had agreed to place more bollards at this location and the work was due to be done in March but had not yet begun. It was agreed that Stewart would contact NLC Roads for an update.

Another concern was the unsightly appearance of the cable end of the Day Today shop but it was not clear what could be done about this as it was private property.

Another matter raised by a local resident was the need for the hedgerows in Whitehill Farm Road to be cut back as they were beginning to cause an obstruction. Stewart to raise this with NLC.

- 6.2 Fence along railway – Nicolson Court: Marvyn Mackay reported that the correspondence between the Council, the Factors and Network Rail had resumed in the past month and that there seemed to be a recognition that work needed to be done on the fence.

- 6.3 Mining Heritage Project: Due to other commitments, Marvyn Mackay advised that he had not yet been able to set up a meeting for interested local parties but would do so as soon as time permitted.
- 6.4 Engagement with Children and Young People: Still an outstanding matter for the Council once there is more time and capacity to take this forward via local schools and youth organisations.
- 6.5 Environmental Action Team referrals: In Grenfell Lang's absence there was no update on these issues but it was noted from visual observation that no work had been undertaken to address these referrals.
- 6.6 Seven Lochs Wetlands Park: Secretary advised that he had invited someone from the Seven Lochs Wetlands Park Team to attend either this meeting or next month's meeting. As he had not heard he assumed this evening was not suitable.
- 6.7 Community Conversations: - Marvyn Mackay reported that there had been a good response to the first Community Conversations event on Tuesday 15th May. The conversations had been very positive and a number of issues were identified as important to building a more cohesive community identity and bringing the community together. Briefly these were: -
1. Easier access to facilities by affordable public transport
 2. Information on local activities such as a directory, website, Facebook page,
 3. Gala Day/Community event day

All local residents are encouraged to attend the next session on Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 7.30pm in Stepps Cultural Centre when further conversations might determine how to take forward these matters.

7.0 Treasurer's Report

- 7.1 In the absence of the Treasurer, Marvyn Mackay reported that the current balance in account was £1,387.84 a reduction of £294.12 from last month as a result of two cheque payments totalling £294.28 for hall rentals and stationery, plus £0.14 interest received.

8.0 Secretary's report

- 8.1 Marvyn Mackay reported on correspondence received since the last meeting: -
- 8.2 e-mail from NLC giving information that the Cumbernauld 10k, which won the award for being Scotland's 10k of the Year, is to be held this year on Sunday 16th September 2018.
- 8.3 letter from NHS Lanarkshire advising that the recent application for a new Pharmaceutical Contract to be located in Dorlin Road had been refused and enclosing a copy of the minute of the Hearing which outlined the reasons for refusal. Noted.
- 8.4 letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission advising that it was recommending to Scottish Ministers that the area of Crowwood Grange currently within Glasgow City be transferred to North Lanarkshire and that the boundary be redrawn to effect this change. Interested parties had 6 weeks in which to submit any comments on the Report after which Scottish Ministers would make their decision

9.0 Planning Matters

- 9.1 New and Pending Applications. Rob Stuart distributed the list of planning applications updated to 20th May 2018. There were three new applications, one for a two storey extension at 1 Almond Road, another for raised decking at 6 Alexandra Avenue, and the third for a single-story extension at 1 Mathieson Drive, none of which required action by the Council. Of the previous applications, the more recent application for 75 Cumbernauld Road had been refused by NLC. A local resident advised that the meeting of Planning Committee which considered this application had been controversial with one

local Councillor and the objectors being called racist and the SNP Group apparently voting as a group in favour of the application. Cllr Lynne Anderson, who was unable to attend the meeting, advised that it is contrary to NLC procedures for political parties to vote along party political lines in planning matters and that as a member of the Planning Committee she could not give her views on particular applications other than at the Planning Committee. However, she could listen to local residents and their concerns which she took into account when voting. She asked those concerned about what had happened to speak to her after the meeting or come to her surgery. A local resident advised that on recent occasion 15 persons had been seen attending an event at 75 Cumbernauld Road and enquired about enforcement of Planning Conditions. It was noted that there are only two enforcement officers for North Lanarkshire so their ability to attend to all premises was limited and particularly when these incidents were out of hours. Another concern which was raised at this point was about the number of persons visiting 53 Cumbernauld Road at specific times but it was noted that anyone could invite any number of guests to their home without requiring planning permission, so there was not an issue.

- 9.2 Gateside Farm: Ken Maxwell reported that the S75 negotiations between NLC and the developers' Agents were continuing and although the latest deadline had passed there was no information on the current status or outcome. Marvyn Mackay raised concerns about the content of the most recent publication on the DPEA website giving details of the status of the negotiations which appeared to suggest the outcome might be less positive than originally thought with a possible divergence from the policy agreed by NLC on 29th March in regard to the retention of the Community facilities at Stepps Primary School. First the amount being offered by the developers had been redacted in the published correspondence, second NLC had agreed to accept this amount in principle rather than await the outcome of the feasibility study on the actual costs of classroom extensions at St Joseph's and Stepps Primary schools. This appeared to favour the developers interests in bringing forward the conclusion of the negotiations based on notional costings rather than actual costings. Thirdly, there was an agreement to extend the period of payback from the normal 10 to 15 years should the proposed educational facilities not be built which could imply that the additional educational facilities might not be built and alternative options might be considered such as the conversion of the community facilities. The Secretary was asked to write to local Councillors raising these concerns and asking for clarification of the Council's position.
- 9.3 Whitehill Farm and Mount Harriet Drive: Ken Maxwell advised that no date had yet been set by the Agents for Caledonian Properties in respect of Whitehill Farm and Mount Harriet Drive PAN's for the public consultation meetings. A question was asked about the timescales for consultation and it appeared there is no timescale other than the developer cannot submit a formal application for any development before having and reporting on the Public Consultation. Clarification was sought about this given that the public record stated that there was a 12-week period for such a consultation to be held after the Council registered the PPP notification
- 9.4 Local Development Plan: Ken Maxwell reported that although North Lanarkshire Council were now working again on the Local Development Plan, no information was yet available about the timetable for publication and further consultation. However, there was a suggestion that it would be published in September 2018.

10.0 Northern Corridor Community Forum and Local Area Partnership

- 10.1 Marvyn Mackay reported that the next meeting of the Northern Corridor Community Forum would be on Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7.30pm in Chryston Cultural Centre. The date of the next Local Area Partnership had not yet been published but there was one due. There had been an Open Day for the North Locality Activity Fund Consortium in Chryston Cultural Centre on 15th May which had been poorly attended and he suggested

that local groups could be missing out on funding opportunities by not engaging with these forums.

11.0 Any other business

11.1 Co-option of new Councillor: Ken Maxwell advised that there was a person who wished to volunteer to become a member of the Community Council which the Council could do by co-option. The person he wished to nominate was Samina Rob Stuart proposed and Marvyn Mackay seconded the nomination. Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Samina a member of the Council.

12.0 Date of next Meeting

12.1 The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 18th June 2018 at 7.30pm in Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Blenheim Avenue, Stepps.

13.0 Close: The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.