

Minute of Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council
Thursday 7th April 2022 at 7.30pm
Stepps Cultural Centre, St. Andrew's Way

Present: Community Councillors Alice Morton (Chair), Sameeha Rehman (Secretary), Campbell Provan (Treasurer), Gerry Campbell, Eddie Ceresa, Tom Forrester, Iain Macgregor, Ken Maxwell, Paul Noble,

Cllr John McLaren, NLC

Diane Delaney, Stepps Parent Council

Apologies: Lorraine Kerr

Marvyn Mackay

Maureen McCallum

Sheila Stuart

Public: 18 persons

1.0 Opening Remarks/Introductions

1.1 Chair Alice Morton welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Apologies were received as noted above.

3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Proposed by Eddie Ceresa. Seconded by Tom Forrester.

4.0 Executive Report

4.1 No questions were raised

4.2 Treasurer's Report

I have received a bank statement containing details up to 30 March amounting to £4084.80. Two cheques have been cleared by the bank since the last report. One for the required Community Council insurance and one to North Lanarkshire for room hire. These amount to £132.04. The cheque written to renew the Zoom account amounting to £143.88 has not been cleared by the bank. A cheque was written on 29 March in the amount of £811.49 for digital equipment from the grant of £962.99 obtained by the secretary. This has not gone through the banking system. The Mining Memorial fund stands at £998

5.0 Community Police

5.1 PC Fleming was unable to attend but has provided the following report:

1/3/22 to 29/3/22 are as follows.

61 calls in total made from the Stepps area. Of the 61 calls, 8 have been reported as criminal enquiries.

Currently 2 of these crimes have been detected with persons charged for same offence.

The breakdown of crimes are as follows.

2 Thefts

2 crimes under sexual offences Act

1 Vandalism

1 Assault (Stand up fight)

1 Fraud

1 Anti-Social Behaviour offence

The result of the Community Police Surgery poll was to have an evening meeting. The first of these surgeries will be held on Tuesday 12th April between 7-8.30pm at the Garfield House hotel. All residents are welcome to attend and encouraged to do so.

6.0 Actions/Matters arising from previous minutes

6.1 Environmental Issues/Report – Community Councillor Tom Forrester

The Steps Community Development Trust had a litter pick last Friday near the Steps Train Station. There was an amazing turnout with support from the local Scouts, Steps Fire Station crew, Cardowan Community Meadow and Steps & District Community Council. Within an hour, over 20 bags of rubbish were collected.

The period of restrictions on Loch Road has been extended to the 31st May.

The consultation for the playpark at Dunalistair Drive declared the preference is for wooden play equipment so the budget has been increased to allow for this. The project is still in the tender process and there will be further updates as we go along.

NLC Councillors have backed a radio station scheme to increase lighting in public parks.

One of the NLC Team will investigate the fly-tipping incident at the Hockey Park. They are still to determine whether it is Council land. The work to clear this has begun.

The area adjacent to Steps shops with the litter has now been reported by Tom twice to NLC. He has been informed that this has been passed to Land Management for investigation and they will get back in due course.

Tom wrote to NLC to ask if we could have posters on how to report dog fouling and fly tipping and these have been given. Dog wardens have had their name changed to Animal Welfare wardens.

If you spot a driver throwing litter out of a moving car window, they can be recorded and reported, with a fine being issued. However, there is no issue with a passenger doing so. The driver is not responsible for the behaviour of the passenger.

The issue of flooding in Cardowan Road has now been passed from NLC to Scottish Water for further investigation.

The drain cleaner has been seen working on Mount Harriet Drive on 13th February and would appear to have been operated on behalf of the builders working on the playing field site. The drains were cleared Alexandra Avenue on 30th March.

If there is a requirement to have a traffic warden present, this can be requested by NLC.

The Stepps school crossing patroller is still indisposed. A replacement patroller is in place at present and NLC have promised to keep the school informed on any changes.

There is no further information on the dog waste bin in Church Lane. Tom has asked NLC if they could supply him with notices for distribution for anyone to display.

Tom has reported the lack of litter bin facility in the areas of the War Memorial, Frankfield at the play area and Loch Road at the public information board site.

Cllr Goldsack has been contacted regarding the fly tipping at the school/hockey park triangle and he has agreed to attend to it.

The roads survey is a work in progress. Community Councillor Paul Noble has produced a map of the area showing known potholes which will be forwarded to NLC Roads when completed. Diane Delaney added that there had been issues previously with potholes in the roads outside of Stepps Primary School.

Traffic volumes and speed surveys undertaken on Lenzie Road for a seven-day period in January have recorded speeds of 43mph and have now been passed to Police Scotland's Roads Policing Division for further action.

NLC workers have been seen on Cumbernauld Road at the High Wall near the Co-op eradicating gutter and pavement weeds on 25th March. Ken noted that there is a lot of water running down from the wall onto the road.

NLC workers have been seen installing drop kerbs at road junctions in Steppshill on 26th March.

A resident asked whether the street sweepers were still operating as there have been leaves on Church Avenue uncleared for a year. This will be taken forward by Tom.

A notice has been given by NLC for a Traffic Regulation Order to implement waiting and loading restrictions in order to improve road safety throughout schools in North Lanarkshire on the following roads:

New single yellow lines-No Waiting Monday to Friday 8am-4pm – Blenheim Avenue, St Andrew's Way, Kilpatrick Drive, Cardowan Road and Cumbernauld Road

6.2 Gateside Site

There was a Meeting with Barratt and Cala on 31st March 2022 where the issues of tree protection, construction traffic on the Hornhill Farm Road track and the pollution to the Garnkirk burn were raised.

Barratt and Cala have said they would improve their communications with residents. There is another meeting in a month and Alice will provide an update on this.

6.3 Stepps PS and Stepps Community Campus Report

Lorraine Kerr, Chair of Stepps Parent Council, was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report:

From a Parent Council perspective, we are continuing our communication with the Authority regarding staffing levels and the school playground. We are in the process of contacting the candidates for local elections with a view to meet with them to discuss education with them.

As you will have seen re MELM - Labour voted against discussion at the last full Council meeting before the election. The Chryston parent group has gained media coverage and hope to keep the pressure on NLC.

We, as Stepps Primary Parent Council, are awaiting a further response from Gerard McLaughlin regarding additional concerns we have raised on the back of his response to our original email.

We understand there is an open 'consultation' with parents of Chryston Primary, but as a feeder school we have not been involved, despite us being clear we should be and NLC stating there would be consultation with stakeholders. I am continuing to liaise and communicate with Chryston Primary Parent Council and will offer any support possible. You may also have seen Argyll and Bute Council are trying to introduce something similar and they are facing the same push back with very little support. The Unions do not support the model either.

Diane Delaney, Secretary of Stepps Parent Council, added it is the same situation in Fife Council and there is opposition there also. She noted there is a real concern about local democracy about what is happening in Chryston and discussion is being shut down. It has been refused at Full Council meetings but the voice of residents is still not being considered. Diane stated that she was at a NL Collaborative meeting last week and was not allowed to raise the issues, and was told it was not an appropriate forum. She notes there is a bigger question as to how we as citizens hold our representatives to account.

Cllr McLaren noted that MELM was passed in 2020 and it is currently being deemed incompetent. He is in support of a separate headship at primary and secondary level.

6.4 Dunlop Street Residents Campaign to be transferred into NLC Catchment Area. Correspondence was received from Alison Reid as follows:

I spoke to the community council a while back about the Dunlop residents' campaign to be moved into NLC catchment. We have pushed on with our media coverage so we had a story on STV last Monday (March 21) and also in the Daily Record. I need to chase up the Herald.

We have also finalised a complaint letter which households are individually submitting (we did this instead of a group complaint as then they could say they have only received one complaint).

I have received my first stage response but they narrowed the focus simply to the Chryston Primary boundary when the complaint was much wider ranging so I have said I am not satisfied with the response and would like it escalated to stage 2. We'll let you know of any further developments.

6.5 Reinstatement of Stepps Library, meeting rooms and community kitchen

There was an update from Andrew McPherson, Northern Corridor Community Champion that he has spoken with the team doing the consultation and they have advised that the consultation with local community groups will start shortly after the Easter break.

The Community Champion was asked to inform/remind the consultation team of the commitment made by Cllr Frank McNally at Education and Families Committee Meeting 23 February 2021:

- to retain a permanent presence on campus that the community can access on the same terms effective as present.
- There will be full access to these community groups who use the facilities at present, on the exact same terms, on the same site. There will be further extensive dialogue with all the key partners.
- Two modular units are not 'on the same terms as present'.
- Inform the team that the expectation of Stepps community is that the consultation framework will encompass the reinstatement of all community facilities i.e. community library (and all its facilities), two community meeting rooms and community kitchen.
- Forward the name of the team involved in the consultation and the council officer leading the team.

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1 The schedule of planning committee meeting is not available yet, so it is unknown when the Roadside Services Area application will be reconsidered.

Community Councillor Paul Noble noted that the drawings showed that a number of buildings were reduced in size and there was some increased landscaping around the perimeter.

However, the buildings are still over 5 meters in height, with one at 6.5 meters high, so the visual impact has not been significantly reduced and were inappropriate for that site.

7.2 S&DCC have given a response to NPF4 Consultation.

7.3 Community Councillor Iain MacGregor noted a news article that found that around half of planning bids go to the DPEA Reporter to overturn the Council decisions.

8.0 Northern Corridor Community Board

8.1 Next meeting TBC

8.2 There has been a review of the community partnership team. For the Northern Corridor, we have Peter McNally, Community Partnership Officer and Christine Boyle, Assistant Community Partnership Manager.

9.0 Northern Corridor Community Forum

9.1 Next meeting is Wednesday 11th May 2022.

10.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing

10.1 Cllr McLaren reported has contacted Taylor Wimpey to make the footpath accessible, particularly in light of rising water levels. Taylor Wimpey is required to make it a suitable standard before the Council adopts it.

He is to contact Scottish Water to get a fence around the SUDS pond.

He will contact the roads department to get street sweepers out in Stepps.

Margaret-Anne Shaw, the candidate for Scottish Labour, introduced herself.

11.0 AOCB

11.1 Campbell announced that Sameeha was a finalist for the Glasgow Times Scotswoman of the Year award.

11.2 Farmer Chris Jackson has passed away.

12.0 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Thursday 12th May 2022 at 7.30pm
