

Minute of Meeting of Stepps and District Community Council
Thursday 12 May 2022 at 7.30pm
Stepps Cultural Centre, St. Andrew's Way

Present: Community Councillors Alice Morton (Chair), Campbell Provan (Treasurer), Gerry Campbell, Tom Forrester, Iain MacGregor, Paul Noble, and Marvyn Mackay.

Cllr Josh Cairns NLC, Cllr Claire Williams NLC
Lorraine Kerr and Diane Delaney, Stepps Parent Council

Apologies: Ken Maxwell, Craig Cowan, Sheila Stuart, Sameeha Rehman, Eddie Ceresa, Maureen McCallum, Cllr John McLaren NLC, Community Police Officers John Fleming and Calvin Lake

Public: 12 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 Iain MacGregor. Seconded by Gerry Campbell.

4.0 Executive Report

4.1 Treasurer's Report

Papers were prepared and sent to the auditors, Feely and Company, Wishaw, on Thursday 14 April 2022. All cheques written previously have now been cleared by the bank. No new cheques have been written since the last report. A new cheque book was ordered and delivered on 27 April 2022.

4.2 Addition to Chair's Report

Alice reported on Fulton MacGregor MSP speaking at the Scottish Parliament on behalf of the communities of the Northern Corridor. This was at the Scottish Parliament Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Debate: National Planning Framework 4 on the 19 April 2022.

He spoke about the villages of Northern Corridor, the endless list of planning applications, the fierce scale of housing developments, the increase in population, the loss of asset – greenspace, woodland, over-capacity issues in local schools, health care struggling to meet demand and transport difficulties. He reiterated NCCF's request for a face-to face meeting with Shona Robison (Cabinet Secretary for Social justice, Housing and Local Government) and

Tom Arthur (Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth and an independent enquiry/scrutiny into Northern Corridor issues

5.0 Community Police

5.1 Both officers were planning to attend the meeting but had to pass on their apologies. The May report included 83 calls in total of which 22 have been reported as criminal enquiries. Currently 7 of these crimes have been detected with persons charged for same.

It would appear Acquisitive crimes are on the rise with a number of Thefts/ Attempt thefts of motor vehicles. The breakdown of crimes are as follows

5 Anti-social behaviour offences, 4 Vandalisms, 4 Assaults, 5 Thefts, 1 Extortion

1 Bogus Workman Fraud, 1 Breach of Bail, 1 Impersonation of a Police officer

Alice commented on the recent successful Community Police Surgery held at the Garfield House Hotel and that it was well-attended.

6.0 Actions/Matters arising from previous minutes

6.1 Environmental Issues/Report – Community Councillor Tom Forrester

DOG WASTE - NLC supplied “No dog Fouling – Enough is Enough” and “No Fly-Tipping” notices for distribution to anyone wishing to display one.

LITTER BINS - 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. No response so far. I also reported, at the request of a resident, an overflowing litter bin at Potters Court which appears to be being missed at collection time.

POTHoles - reported potholes in Whitehill Farm Road, Mount Harriet Drive and Church Avenue. Mount Harriet and Church Ave have since been repaired.

Community Councillor Paul Noble remarked that as many people as possible should report the pot hole issue.

HIGH RETAINING WALL AT CO-OP - reported water seepage through the above wall and have received word that a works order has been issued for its repair.

DEVELOPMENT AT WALLACEWELL FARM SITE - have been told that Collins Publishers are closing their 3 sites in the Bishopbriggs area into one large warehouse facility in the field next to the Wallacewell Farm Restaurant.

Community Councillor Marvyn Mackay remarked on the noise from the piling that was being carried out.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS - North Lanarkshire Council are intending to introduce “No waiting Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm” regulations at Blenheim Avenue, Cumbernauld Road and Cardowan Road at areas near the schools as a child safety measure.

WATER SEEPAGE - from Steppshill Terrace onto Cumbernauld Road. Suggest this be investigated by Scottish Water as maybe a leak in the mains.

LITTER BIN - the waste bin on School Road was removed and not replaced causing increased litter at this local area.

LITTER AT "KEY STORE" SITE - no further information.

STEPS STATION - Local resident Gary Rankin has been in touch. He has freshened up the planting at Steps Station to introduce brighter colours to the planters.

LOCH ROAD - Taylor Wimpey advise that the road should hopefully be reopened to traffic and pedestrians by the end of this month. However, it is still likely there will be works to be completed at this stage. Therefore, there will be temporary traffic management in place to allow vehicles and pedestrians to travel through this road safely. This road has not yet been adopted by North Lanarkshire Council and is still the responsibility of Taylor Wimpey.

BULK TIPPERS CUMBERNAULD ROAD – There was a report of a significant amount of bulk tippers using Cumbernauld Rd in last 10 days or so, carrying top soil westbound, returning empty. They were often travelling in pairs at speeds in excess of 30mph little regard for residents and pedestrians. About 15-25 bulk tippers each way per hour.

The police will be contacted to consider setting up regular speed checks to deter this behaviour. Speeding in general is an issue every day, especially in evenings though, so any action would be good.

RUBBISH AT HOCKEY PARK - NLC do not own the land. There is a strip of private land between the properties on Garfield Place and the school, and the land at 20 goes all the way back to the school boundary fence. Removal of rubbish not responsibility of NLC. If food debris was involved an environmental notice would be issued.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - Alice reported on the Local Development Programme projects being presented to the NCCB. She spoke, in particular, to the Steps Cultural Centre Pathways and there had been a meeting with NLC officers. Next week there would be consultation sessions with the ECO committee pupils at Steps and St. Joseph's Primary Schools to get their views/ideas on the project proposal.

Diane Delaney commented that the parents would be supportive of this and would welcome the opportunity for the children to enjoy a new outdoor space adjacent to the school.

GATESIDE DEVELOPMENT: Meeting 5 May 2022 with Barratt and Cala. Issues under discussion included the tree protection plan, pollution Garnkirk Burn and Bluebell Dell, involvement of NLC Biodiversity Officer, Construction traffic – Scapa Way, single lane restrictions on Cumbernauld Road, residents' complaints, housing sales interest, development completion date.

Community Councillor Paul Noble spoke to the tree protection plan and that some progress had been made but it remains unfinished. He added that the developers were willing to meet regularly with the community council and were receptive to resolving issues as raised.

Community Councillor Campbell Provan reported on the following;

- Development completion date end of 2024

- Great interest in house sales
- Single lane restrictions on Cumbernauld Road. The licence for the lane closures will end 6 June. Work still needs to be carried out on gas main, cabling and installation of traffic lights. A new permit may need to be applied for.
- A resident in Scapa Way had raised concerns about construction traffic coming from the Crowwood roundabout coming as far as Bannatyne's and turning down Cardowan Road, round the mini roundabout and continuing back along Cumbernauld Road to access the Gateside site.
- CC agreed to ask the NL biodiversity officer to visit the Bluebell Dell.
- More workers will be employed on the site in the coming weeks. Parking will be provided on site.
- The pollution of the Garnkirk Burn had been stopped by the construction of 13 holding ponds and the overflow being pumped into a drainage manhole.
- When the site is completed, a SUDS will have been formed at the north east corner of the site and the overflow into the Garnkirk burn should be no more than previous when the site was a field.

Community Councillor Marvyn Mackay reported that the burn is flowing clear and that deer have returned to the area.

6.2 Stepps PS and Stepps Community Campus Report

Community Councillor Campbell Provan reported that the mobile library will no longer visit Stepps on a Monday. It's going to Auchinloch. It will visit Stepps fortnightly starting Wednesday 4 May.

Lorraine Kerr, Chair of Stepps Parent Council reported that issues were still ongoing at the school. She spoke about trying to organise a social event for pupils and in particular P1&2 who had not experienced such an event as yet.

She went on to comment on the use of the large assembly hall by a private after school let and the storage of equipment in the hall. Pupils had no access to the hall for face-to-face assemblies and suggested this might be due to a health and safety issue related to storage of the equipment. Also, after hours activities were not available. Lorraine also spoke about the painting redecoration where pupils' work, which had taken a long time to display, was removed without prior notification.

She added that the community facilities consultation remained pending and that this was supposed to be finalised and in place for August 2022.

Alice spoke to the reinstatement of the community facilities and the lack of NLC community communication and consultation. She stated that she had written to Gerard Mclaughlin NLC Education and Families asking for the details of the school roll and class formation for session 2022-2023 and the designation of each space/area with the campus buildings. No reply had been received.

Lorraine reported that there will be 15 classes next year and that 47 pupils will leave and that 60 enrolled.

Alice noted that a critical juncture had been reached and with the agreement of Stepps Parent Council she would now write to the three elected councillors asking that they contact key officers at Education and Families, the Community Facilities Team and the Northern Corridor Community Champion to arrange an urgent face-to-face meeting to discuss both the educational and community facilities issues. This action was agreed by Stepps Parent Council.

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1 ROADSIDE SERVICES AREA, HORNSHILL INTERCHANGE (JUNCTION 3 M80), STEPPS. Alice reported that this had been approved at committee on the 22 April. She thanked Community Councillor Paul Noble for his work and contribution to this. She also thanked Cllr John McLaren for his strong representation at the planning committee on behalf of the community. She reported that a lobbying email had been sent to councillors ahead of the planning committee meeting.

7.2 PLANNING APPLICATION 22/00261/FUL | Change of use to film studio (Class 5 Buchanan Tower Buchanan Business Park Cumbernauld Road Stepps North Lanarkshire G33 6HZ.

- Application by Pioneer Film Studios Ltd for a change of use of Buchanan Tower to a Film studio.
- A neighbouring resident raised concerns about the implication of a change of use from class 6 to class 5.
- Local councillors will check the implications with NL planning officials.

8.0 Future Meetings

- Northern Corridor Community Board. Next meeting Wednesday 25th May 2022, 6.30 – 8.30pm. Available to view on NLC YouTube channel.
Email communitymatters@northlan.gov.uk for details
- Northern Corridor Community Forum. Next meeting Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 7pm, Chryston Cultural Centre (Main Hall)
- Cumbernauld and North Locality Consortium. Dates of meetings
Thursday, June 9th 2022 at 11am and Thursday, July 7th 2022 at 11am

9.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing

9.1 Alice introduced this item on the agenda as an opportunity for elected members to report to the community council. She welcomed Cllr Josh Cairns and Cllr Claire Williams to the meeting and congratulated them on their election. Both councillors introduced themselves.

9.2 The local council election results for the Northern Corridor

Ward 5 Stepps, Chryston and Muirhead
Josh Cairns, Scottish National Party (SNP)

John McLaren, Scottish Labour Party
Claire Louise Williams, Scottish Greens - Think Global Act Local

Ward 6 Gartcosh, Glenboig and Moodiesburn
Joanne Katy Keltie, Scottish National Party (SNP)
Greg Lennon, Scottish National Party (SNP)
Michael McPake, Scottish Labour Party

10.0 AOCB

10.1 Congratulations to Sameeha on receiving her Young Scot Award for *Enhancing Education*.

10.2 Forthcoming AGM 2 June 2022 at 7.30pm. Demit/Election of office bearers.

10.3 Booking cancelled for the 2 June by NLC due to public holiday. New venue to be announced.

10.4 Community Councillor Paul Noble raised a question about the insertion of the relocation of the Beacon appearing on the Local Development Programme.

10.5 Community Councillor Iain MacGregor raised the possibility of having owl boxes, funded by the community council, at the renewed pathway. Cllr Claire Williams will check with Drumpellier Country Park where boxes have been installed.

10.6 Vote of thanks to the Chair

11.0 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Thursday 2 June at 7.30pm. Venue to be announced.
