

**Minute of Online Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council
7.30-9.30pm, Thursday 2nd September 2021**

Present: Councillors Alice Morton (Chair), Sameeha Rehman (Secretary), Campbell Provan (Treasurer), Eddie Ceresa, Craig Cowan and Sheila Stuart

Elected Members: Cllr McLaren

Apologies: Councillors Tom Forrester, Ken Maxwell and Paul Noble

Public: 15 persons

1.0 Opening Remarks/Introductions

1.1 Chair Alice Morton welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance to the first meeting after summer recess.

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Apologies were received as noted above.

3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Proposed by Campbell Provan. Seconded by Eddie Ceresa.

4.0 Executive Report

4.1 No questions raised.

5.0 Community Police

5.1 PC Findlay was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report:

Figures from 1/7/21 until 18/8/21

24 crime reports including

5x Road traffic offences

10x Anti-social related crimes

1x Drug offence 8x Other crimes (internet fraud, Taxi frauds etc.)

There was a total of 161 calls to police in the Stepps area over this time frame.

ACTION: Sameeha to contact PC Findlay to enquire about surgeries (Eddie has offered the use of the pharmacy car park), further info on the crimes and provide details of incidents that will be sent in by members of the public.

6.0 Actions/Matters arising from previous minutes

6.1 Steps PS Overcapacity

- The Community Council has worked hard to ensure information regarding the Mobile Library was released to ensure residents were aware of the changes.
- There has been no more information received regarding the lets of the former community rooms.
- NLC have agreed to replace the community council blue display board and carry case.

6.2 Environmental Issues

See attached report.

- The drains will be cleared as part of a cyclic scheduled exercise later this year.
- The wall at Stepps Pharmacy was knocked down but has now been repaired.
- A notice has been released regarding the reconstruction of Loch Road.

ACTION: Tom has been asked to get an update on the clearing of drains on Mount Harriet.

ACTION: Alice to enquire about the mess reported from contractors working in the Cardowan area.

7.0 Millennium Beacon Project

7.1 Eddie reported that the Beacon sub-group had been working hard over the summer period to advance the project, with an aim of completion by March 2022. Eddie is now seeking local support and the contribution of ideas and funding for this project.

8.0 Planning Matters

8.1 An application for Roadside Services Area at the Hornhill Interchange has been submitted with a response enquiry deadline of 7th September.

8.2 The DPEA target date for the Dorlin Road Non-determination appeal is 15th September. Thanks to the community council members who have worked hard to put forward first-class representations.

8.3 The demolition of Gateside Farm

9.0 Northern Corridor Community Board

9.1 The meeting is available to watch on the NLC YouTube channel.

10.0 Northern Corridor Community Forum

10.1 The next meeting will be held on 9th September at 7pm.

11.0 Cumbernauld and North Locality Consortium

11.1 Next meeting TBC.

12.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing – Cllr McLaren

12.1 Cllr McLaren congratulated the Community Council for all their work on planning. He noted he issued complaints to the Reporter that a non-determination at Dorlin Road was being used to bypass democracy.

He suggested that the Beacon project group appeal to the Community Board for funding.

Cllr McLaren noted that the parking issues on Cumbernauld Road seem to be improving.

He noted that the repairs at Loch Road were being conducted by the developer and if they are done so to a high standard, NLC will adopt the road.

He has reported hedges at Clayhouse Road for being overgrown and has arranged for someone to come out and look at this.

Cllr noted that weeds were a mess across the ward and this was brought to the full council meeting. It was agreed that they will return to using better weed killer that will actually rectify the issues.

The substation at Comedie Road has been reported.

It was noted that funding is in place to renew Dunalistair and Steppshill Park.

Finally, Cllr McLaren noted that the community should remain vigilant and take safety measures as there have been 900 cases in the Northern Corridor.

13.0 Stepps Hockey Club

Douglas Simpson noted that Stepps Hockey Club has been around since 1913 and they are now at a point of struggling to find pitches to play on. Cllr McLaren noted that the pavilion could be a great opportunity for the club to use.

14.0 AOCB

14.1 Sameeha noted she had spoken with Father Kenny at St Josephs and he had kindly offered free use of the Church Hall for community council meetings. It was agreed that the next meeting of the community council would be a physical meeting within the Church Hall.

ACTION: Sameeha to contact Father Kenny and confirm hall booking.

NOTE: Eddie Ceresa and Sheila Stuart give apologies ahead of the next meeting

- 14.2 The next meeting of the community council will be on Thursday 7th October at 7.30pm and include the Annual General Meeting of Stepps and District Community Council.
- 14.3 There is a Stepps Engagement Party Event on 4th September and there will be a Heritage Stall, Beacon Project Stall and a Community Council Stall.
- 14.4 Sameeha reported that there was a New Flexible Digital Fund offered by NLC to apply for funding to cover the costs of IT equipment for the community council. Sameeha has applied on behalf of the community council and will report back on the result of the application.
- 14.5 Sameeha reported that the Scotland Loves Local funding opportunity was available again and the original sub-group of the community council will consider applying.
- 14.6 Sameeha announced that she has taken over ownership of Stepps on the Level magazine.
- 14.7 The Scottish Government has announced changes to Fire Safety Laws. The community council are attempting to organise a talk from Watch Commander Stuart Whiteside to discuss the changes.
- 14.8 Presently a transfer of leisure assets back to NLC is taking place along with an accompanying need to review all such assets. Consequently, NLC are taking the opportunity to undertake an Open Space/Pitch Strategy over the coming year. This strategic review will consider the condition, usability and accessibility of all open space/pitches within the asset portfolio. A report will be sent to NLC in due course. Until the overall review of NLC assets is made within the context of the Pitch Strategy, NLC is unable to make decisions on future availability of such pitches. The results of the Open Space/Pitch Strategy will determine future investment decisions.
- 14.9 There is an idea from Eddie Ceresa to make changes to the car parking at Blenheim Avenue/Cumbernauld Road. Will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- 14.10 There was a meeting with the Community Champion at the Co-op and they have agreed to display a community council banner.
- 14.11 The community council met with Steven Bonnar MP on 14th August to thank him for his work and ongoing support.
- 14.12 Sameeha reported that she attended the AGM of Les Marches Twinning Association. She noted that they are in need of support and new membership. She has invited them to the next meeting to present their group.
- 15.0 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Thursday 7th October 2021, at 7.30pm in St Josephs Church Hall