**Stepps & District Community Council**

**Minute of Meeting Thursday 18 January 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrew’s Way**

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| **Present:** | Councillors Kenneth Maxwell (Chair), Campbell Provan (Vice Chair), Craig Cowan (Treasurer), Muriel McDade, Paul Noble, Steward Donald, Alice Morton and Thomas Stones |
| **Elected Members:** | None present |
| **Apologies:** | Tracy Kennedy (Secretary), Andrew McPherson and Lorraine Kerr |
| **Public:** | 4 attendees |

1. **Opening Remarks/Introductions**

1.1 Chair Ken Maxwell welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

**2.0 Apologies**

2.1 Apologies were received as noted previously.

**3.0 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

3.1 Minute of 30 November 2023 was approved with one amendment at *‘Peter McNally. Councillor Josh Cairns had no update’* Proposed by Alice Morton Seconded by Paul Noble

3.2 Minute of Inaugural Meeting 26 October 2023 was approved Proposed by Craig Cowan Seconded by Muriel McDade

**4.0 Community Police**

4.1 PC John Fleming reported*, ‘I am sad to inform you that there has been a slight change in the team and Calvin will no longer be the community officer for Stepps. However, PC Alison Thomson will now be working alongside myself and is a great addition to the area. She looks forward to meeting you all in person at the next meeting.’*

***ACTION 1- Secretary to forward an expression of thanks to PC Calvin Lake and a note of welcome to PC Alison Thomson.***

4.2 Crime Statistics

During the dates from 16/12/23 to 16/1/24 there were a total of 53 calls reported to the Police from Stepps.

The following shows a breakdown of the crimes recorded as a result of these reported incidents Assault x 2, Road Traffic Related x 4, Other crime x 4. There was a rise in drink/ drug drivers from the previous month which is a usual trend in the festive period.

The ‘other crime’ relates to 2 crimes of disorder and 2 crimes of Fraud. To be aware one of the Frauds relate to persons phoning purporting to be the bank and requesting money transferred. The other is in relation to persons selling items online and receiving doctored emails that they had been paid, in turn sending items without ever receiving payment.

4.3 School Engagement

Officers continue to have numerous issues in and around school parking particularly Stepps Primary. We will continue to monitor issue by being more of a presence and educating parents. If issue fails to stop, officers will be forced to issue fixed penalty notices.

**5.0 Office Bearers Report**

5.1 Chair/Secretary Report

* NLC budgets – risk to services
* communities asked to prioritise services via survey
* online budget meetings

In response to this, Community Councillor Alice Morton reported that she had attended an NLC online budget engagement session comprising 20 attendees and competently led by Andrew McPherson (NLC Deputy Chief Executive). She also reported that NLC has to make at least £60m in cuts to services over the next 3 years. The session outlined how changes to statutory services (required by law) is limited but there are discretionary services which don’t have to be provided. NLC has to make savings from these discretionary services by changing them or delivering them in a different way. Attendees were encouraged to speak about services and their future delivery. She encouraged the meeting to take this opportunity to participate in the online budget survey to express their views. A brief discussion followed.

5.2 Treasurer Report

* A bank statement for December 2023 in the amount of £2322.52 has been received.
* Two cheques previously written and totalling £87.20 have not been presented to the bank or have been presented since the most recent statement was issued.
* No new cheques have been written since the last report although a cheque requires to be written for payment for use of Stepps Parish Church meeting room (£15).
* The Community Council cheque book and recent bank statements have now been passed to the new Treasurer and the forms to progress adding the new office bearer signatories to the account will be sent to RBS following this meeting.

**6.0 Environmental Report**

Community Councillor Stewart Donald spoke to the following points:

* The ground at the car wash site is contaminated and the question was raised as to why this wasn’t this picked up initially? JB Tyres previously had full planning permission but they cannot move in now. Planning approval lasts 5 years however no one knows what or where the contamination is located.
* Dog poo bag dispensers (Auchinloch Community Council have two sited in the village) at a cost of £200 per cabinet. Who is going to be responsible for emptying/maintaining these bins? This can be checked with Auchinloch Community Council
* Dog defecation bags deposited by dog owners on hedge at Dunalistair/Lochearnhead, Millerston. Could we offer help and speak to residents to see if we can put up posters? (Community Councillor Alice Morton to work with Stewart on this)
* External Defibrillator posters. These cost £15 plus VAT for 6 and it was suggested this would be sufficient as there are already some in place (Community Councillor Alice Morton to work with Stewart on this)
* Roads & potholes. Mount Harriet Avenue will be resurfaced soon. Signs are already in place
* Road markings at Hornshill roundabout
* White lines to be renewed at Key Store where parking area was upgraded
* Burnt out car and fly-tipping on Lenzie Road
* Disabled parking notice at Pharmacy carpark is now visible. Refuse bins have been removed to allow car parking in disabled spaces.
* Parking on Cumbernauld Road at BT (Open Reach) building. Between 7.50am and 9.00am cars are parking on that stretch which is causing problems. Could Community Council put up a sign on the wall to discourage this? Cost would be £140 plus VAT. Who would be responsible for payment?
* Collins the Butcher signage erected on NLC railings at Moor Park, Muirhead. Cllr Claire Williams has been asked to look into this to ascertain if permission has been agreed with NLC. If not, banners will/should be removed

***ACTION 2 - Secretary to contact Councillor Claire Williams about signage.***

**7.0 Planning Mattes**

Community Councillor Paul Noble reported as follows:

7.1 January 2024.

Approved applications:

23/01204/FUL

Applied 14th November, validated 23rd November. Two storey extension to an office building, 7 Gartferry Rd, Chryston. Approved 9/01/24.

Validated

23/01188/PRN- No update.

Applied 7th November, validated 9th November. Removal and replacement of 6No existing antenna with 3 new antennas, Woodhead Rd, Chryston.

24/0002/FUL

Applied 9th January 24, validated 11th January 24. Land at Grayston Manor, Chryston.

Proposed feeling of three trees and works to five other trees.

7.2 Gateside Farm Update

30 affordable homes completed on the 30th June 23, by Barratt

House types:4 x 1 Bedroom Cottage Flats8 x 2 Bedroom Cottage Flats10 x 2 Bedroom Houses8 x 3 Bedroom Houses. Project cost-£4.8m, Gov grant-£2.376

Originally, all trees on Hornshill Road plus beech hedges along Cumbernauld Road, were to be removed. Because of the Community Council involvement, these were allowed to remain. A further 20 trees have since been planted on the corner near roundabout. The importance of biodiversity enhancement via nature-based solutions was noted (NPF 4 - Policy 3).

7.3 Local Development Plan (LDP) 2

The final development plan scheme and participation statement was presented to the planning committee on the 23rd November 23. This was subsequent to a 6-week public consultation, in Sept/Oct 23, 163 comments received. Significantly, comments received on housing land calculations and consultees. Timescale, consultation on the LDP 2, first quarter of 26, adoption 28.

The two responses highlighted were the request for the addition of older people as the key groups to be consulted, and comments regarding land calculations.

It was noted that the Community Council should keep an eye on the progress of the LDP2.

Also reported:

* There is no approval to take the HV cable for the lorry park up Hornshill Farm track.
* Volume housebuilders operations on hold

7.4 Planning Democracy - Webinars

Community Councillor Kenneth Maxwell reported on the Winter Webinar Series and that he had attended *Greenbelts and NPF4*. There was attendance from community organisation across Scotland and very interesting discussions aired. For anyone unable to attend the webinars, recordings are available post event on the Planning Democracy website.

7.5 Planning Democracy Scottish – Event at Scottish Parliament

Community Councillor Alice Morton reported on the *event 'National Planning Framework 4 Is It*

*Working for People and Planet?’*, Tuesday February 20th 6-8pm in the Fleming Room at the Scottish Parliament.

Sponsored by Ariane Burgess MSP this event will be attended by the new Planning Improvement Champion, the Scottish Government NPF4 monitoring officer (confirmed) and hopefully the Minister and MSPs.

The aim of the event is to highlight, how the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) has affected the way planning decisions have been made during the first year since its adoption. The NPF4 is a progressive planning document, which has been applauded for its prioritisation of the climate and biodiversity crises. This event will provide MSPs with a clear picture of the impact on the ground and help inform them as to whether NPF4 is delivering and whether further guidance and monitoring needs to be carried out to ensure it achieves its statutory outcomes.

This event will provide an opportunity for community representatives to speak directly to politicians about their on-the-ground experience.

Attendees will have an opportunity to give their views as to whether, from a community perspective, NPF4 is on track to make sure Scotland’s planning system delivers plan led, planet friendly development.

**8.0 Stepps Community Facilities – Daytime Access**

8.1 Community Councillor Alice Morton reported on this item subsequent to the NLC meeting of the 13 December 2023. She advised that, when facilities are re-opened, the community need to make full use of them. In addition, the re-opening should be advertised widely and regularly to both the wider community and educational establishments. Use of Stepps on the Level publication for publicity was suggested.

* 1. New Library
* It is proposed that works will commence on Monday 12 February 2024 and be completed by Wednesday 13 March 2024.The dates are indicative, subject to receipt of a purchase order.
* The library will then to be fitted out with furniture, shelving etc. Library Services will discuss the layout and operations with the Community Council, Stepps Parent Council and the school. Opening hours will be confirmed.
* Publicity required to encourage community use of this facility

8.3 Community Rooms

* These include hall, kitchen and the two multipurpose rooms.
* Upgrade to the toilets for the community hall should be complete by 15th December 2023.
* The remaining works to complete the daytime access to the community hall have been proposed to start in February 2024. Programme of works will be provided.
* The works to provide external access to the multipurpose rooms at the front of the school have been proposed to start in February 2024.
* During daytime lets the library toilet is the provision for the community rooms.

**9.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing Report**

No briefing reports available.

**10.0 Community Meetings**

* Northern Corridor Community Board 21 February, 7-9pm in Chryston Cultural Centre
* Northern Corridor Community Forum - TBC
* Cumbernauld and North Locality Consortium - TBC

**11.0 AOCB**

11.1 Community Councillor Campbell Provan spoke to:

* the new signpost and right of way to Auchinloch/Stepps
* statistics for S&DCC website viz 89 visitors last 30 days, 339 visitors last 90 days, 1364 visitors 365 days. Community Councillor Alice Morton caretaker at this time.
* statistics for S&DCC fb page viz 1734 followers,435 engagement last 28 days. Community Councillor Campbell Provan caretaker at this time.

11.2 Resident issues/actions raised/discussed included:

* 38C bus and why its destination was now limited to the city centre
* Position of refuse bin at bus stop on Cumbernauld Road
* Filter lane at lights at Bannatyne’s
* NLC school transport provision
* FOI re ground/drainage issues at Dunalastair playpark

11.3 Dates of Future Meetings

Due to time constraints the item, dates of future meetings, was held over until February meeting.

**12.0 Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7.30pm in Stepps Cultural Centre

Thanks to Kenneth Maxwell for Chairing the meeting.