STEPPS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING
WED 21ST OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.30PM, ROOM GF025
STEPPS CULTURAL CENTRE, ST ANDREWS WAY, STEPPS

Present: Andrew Thomsen (Chair), Campbell Provan (Vice Chair), Muriel McDade (Secretary), Alice Morton (Treasurer), Paul Noble, Thomas Stones, Ken Maxwell, Jacqueline Wilson, Karen McDade.

Elected Members: Cllr John McLaren

Public: 6

1.0 Opening remarks/introductions

1.1 Andrew Thomsen, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2.0 Apologies - Tracy Kennedy, Police Scotland, Jean Pollachi

3.0 Approval of Minute 17th September 2026

3.1 Proposed: A Morton Seconded: J Wilson

4.0 Co-opted Member Welcome

Confirmation has been received from NLC that Karen McDade has been added to Stepps & District Community Council's membership list as a co-opted member. The Community Council is pleased to welcome Karen and looks forward to working with her in the future.

5.0 Office Bearers' Report

5.1 Secretary's Report

- Admin and correspondence as required. Action points dealt with or are being dealt with.
- Met with Ms Gardiner at Stepps School to discuss use of the smart board. She is going to investigate.
- Attended a meeting with David & Gary Thorn and Greg Mitchell re Xmas lights. Report to follow in AOCB.
- Emails sent to our three local councillors encouraging their attendance at our monthly meetings
- Emailed NHS to complain about winter vaccinations in that we cannot use the new Chryston Clinic. Report to follow. Residents being sent to Coatbridge or Cumbernauld.
- FOI information email being sent to Scottish Water regarding sewage work that is being carried out in the field near Garnkirk Burn. Action 1: Secretary to check for response from Scottish Water

5.2 Treasurer's Report

As at 29 September 2026 bank statement shows an account balance of £3,171.84

Transactions include:

- Debit of £42.60 for printing of LPP Launch posters
- Interest of £5.61

6.0 Community Police

CRIME STATISTICS

From 14th September to 16th October 2026, there were a total of 73 incidents reported to Police within the Stepps area.

CATEGORY	September/October
Assault	3
Assisting Public	10
False Calls	2
Bogus Caller	0
Vandalism	1
Housebreaking	0
Theft	3
Anti-Social Behaviour	5
Drugs	1
Road Traffic related	8
Communication Offences	1
Other	39
Grand Total	**73**

The following table shows a breakdown of the crimes recorded as a result of reported incidents;

CATEGORY	September/October
Assault	3
Threating Behaviour	9
Bogus Caller	0
Vandalism	2
Housebreaking	0
Theft	2
Theft by Shoplifting	1
Drugs	0
Road Traffic related	10
Communication Offences	1
Other	9
Grand Total	**37**

IDENTIFIED LOCAL ISSUES

As per previous months, reports regarding speeding in the area have continued to be made to Police. In response to this, traffic officers have been in attendance where possible to conduct checks in the area. This will continue depending on their availability.

UPDATES

PCs McBain and Robertson have been away from core duties within the last month due to training courses and various deployments, however are now back and available within the community. As always, if there are any identified issues, then please don't hesitate to get in contact.

PC Laura Robertson and PC Neil McBain
Wards 5 & 6, Community Policing Team

7.0 Environmental Report

- Graffiti on lock ups at Clayhouse Road - reported and cleaned within 2 days
- Graffiti on BT Junction Box Cardowan Rd/Frankfield - reported but not actioned
- Graffiti on underpass at Lenzie Road - reported by resident but not actioned
- Blocked drain at Victoria Road and Whitehill Avenue - reported and cleared
- Sewage inspection works in the field off Lenzie Road
- A number of mature trees (possibly diseased) have been cut down along the Garnkirk Burn
- Suspected badger sighting off Lenzie Road
- Replacement planters on the Cumbernauld Road. Roll out took place w/b 19 October.
- No update from the Ranger re failed aspen tree in the Bluebell Park
- Five rowan trees at West Avenue Action 2: Secretary to contact Aileen McKean (NLC) asking her to investigate trees
- Multi-agency graffiti team - no update
- Cardowan Mining Memorial - Clean up requested
- Barrel off Dewar Road that was full of dog waste has been removed

8.0 Stepps & District Local Place Plan

- Meeting with Rev Robbie Hamilton to discuss the church's support for LPP
- Distribution of LPP to local businesses
- Promotion of LPP in church newsletter
- Meeting with local businessmen about supporting community activities

For follow up:

- Attend Chief Planner workshop review session on the LPP process
- Email the office of Katrina Murray MP about the join up with local community engagement
- Email NLC planning for session on how LPP will inform NLLDP2
- Progress working group promoting social events and new opportunities for community connections

9.0 Planning Matters

9.01 Whitehill Farm Buildings, Update Ecologist Survey NLC Biodiversity Officer has reviewed the Ecological Survey and is satisfied that the appropriate procedures were followed in relation to protected species and that the survey was undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance and recognised best practice. Permission was not granted to share the survey with the community council.

9.02 Gate Check Documents (DPEA) North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (NLLDP2) - Evidence Report for Gate Check Examination and Document 070 and NLC Green Belt Review were noted as were the references to Stepps & District Local Place Plan contained in both documents.

Also noted was *'Taylor Wimpey is promoting land for release from the green belt and allocation for residential development at Whitehill Farm, Stepps.'* A discussion followed.

9.03 Planning - Call for Sites. This will close on 30 October 2026. Any suggestions or proposals should be submitted timeously.

9.04 Customer & Stakeholder Survey / Planning Services This offers an opportunity to complete the Customer and Stakeholder Survey and help to improve planning services. The survey will run from 1 October until 8 January 2027.

9.05 Meeting with Senior Planning Officer (Strategy & Policy) Revisit the possibility of a meeting, once the Gate Check process has concluded and the approach to site assessment and evidence gathering has been finalised. At that point, Planning will be in a better position to provide an update on LPP.

10.0 History Board The NLC board was ready to be erected however several mistakes were on it. A new board is being prepared.

11.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing Cllr McLaren reported on the undernoted items and a discussion followed.

- NHS Lanarkshire, seasonal vaccination arrangements for 2026
- Commercial bins on the Cumbernauld Road, report provided
- Traffic Management
- Lanarkshire North and South amalgamation and consultation

Action 3: Community Council to engage directly with local businesses to discuss LPP priorities to improve the aesthetics of Cumbernauld Road including the storing of commercial bins off the pavement.

12.0 Northern Corridor Community Board - the next meeting will be held on 18th November 2026

13.0 AOCB

13.01 Festive Decorations - community councillors met with local businessmen to explore the possibility of festive decorations. It is planned to contact NLC and arrange a meeting to progress this matter.

13.02 A message from **Colin Green, Secretary, Garnkirk United Club (GUC)** was shared with the meeting. This listed the benefits of access to the pavilion, activities viz arts and crafts, a litter pick, fund raising of £2,000 for child cancer awareness and presently trying to get a local community Christmas event arranged with local businessmen willing to contribute money. Promotion of the work of GUC would be appreciated.

13.03 The meeting with **Paul Cathcart, Deacon Peripatetic Missions Worker, Presbytery of Glasgow, Church of Scotland** was noted. Paul is supporting the congregation of Garthamlock, Craigend and Ruchazie linked with Stepps. The Church is keen to understand the community better, to know how they can better engage with the community around the Church and how the buildings might be used to benefit the community.

13.04 Contact information for local political representatives is displayed on the CC noticeboard and flyers were made available to meeting attendees.

13.05 Pavement parking at the car wash on the Cumbernauld Road was raised. Action 4 - Secretary to contact Sandy Carle (NLC)

13.06 The Community Council invitation from **SP Energy Networks** to attend a community winter preparedness webinar was noted.

13.07 Community Council Review Scheme Cllr Cairns has been asked to enquire about an update. No reply at present.

13.08 The opening of the new **Gartcosh Community Hub** was noted and that Gartcosh Development Trust has applied to North Lanarkshire Council to bring the old school and community hall into community ownership. The group plans to transform the buildings into the Gartcosh Links Centre: a hub with a community café, space for children, young people and families, and health and wellbeing services.

13.09 The future of the **Iain Nicolson Sports Centre** was noted and a proposed community asset transfer.

13.10 Remembrance Sunday - Stepps & District War Memorial 8th November 2026 at 10.50am. A red cord will secure the wreaths which will prevent them being blown away by the wind as happened last year.

14.00 Date and time of next meeting, Thursday **19th November 2026** in Stepps Cultural Centre

No December meeting

Vote of thanks to the Chair

—END—