**Stepps & District Community Council**

**Minute of Meeting Thursday 30th November 2023 at 7.30pm**

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

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| **Present:** | Councillors Ken Maxwell (Chair), Campbell Provan (Vice Chair), Tracy Kennedy (Secretary) Muriel McDade, Paul Noble, Steward Donald |
| **Elected Members:** | None present |
| **Apologies:** | Thomas Stones, Andrew McPherson, Craig Cowan (Treasurer), Alice Morton, Diane Delaney |
| **Public:** | 9 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 above.

**3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

3.1 Proposed by Paul Noble Seconded by Campbell Provan

**4.0 Community Police**

4.1 Calvin Lake from the community police shared that there were:

* 75 calls to police from the Stepps area
* 45 of the calls were community related (8 motorway; 2 planned shoots; 20 abandoned/duplicate)

From these incidents no wider threat or concern to the community.

Crime recording has changed, previously crimes committed would be grouped under one crime number if they had been committed in the same incident – so one crime number could have one crime, or multiple crimes attached to it. Now, each crime has its own number. For example, three crimes from one incident - driver without licence, insurance and S178 RTA

11 Crimes from 28th October – 28th November

Of note from the police update:

* Unknown person trying door handles on Frankfield Road, Stepps
* Unknown person trying door handles on Cumbernauld Road, Stepps
* Theft of tools from van on Whitehill Avenue, Stepps
* Police recommend doors and windows are locked as a precaution
* Dealing drugs in Millerston -15k of drugs recovered appeal for information two charges of possession. If anyone sees anything untoward with neighbours, please report it.

Lorraine brought up that school parking is horrendous everywhere and recently a child was hit by a car at the junction of Cardowan Road and Cumbernauld Road. When Police are present at schools there are usually no incidents. Same applies when Police are checking for speeding cars - they always slow down when they see Police presence.

An ongoing issue raised by residents is that kids are gathering at the back of the Scout Hall in Cardowan Road. They are smoking cannabis and causing vandalism

**Questions posed to the community police officer**

**Q. Is there an update on the new parking legislation?**

A. Pavement parking is illegal and a press release will be issued in the next couple of weeks

Only two traffic wardens are in place in NLC. Members of the public can send registrations and pictures of the cars to the police

**Q Is it an offence to park on a corner?**

A. Yes, it is an offence, you can park within 30 feet of the corner. Police can only move motorists on. They do not have the power to charge.

**5.0 Office Bearers Report**

5.1 Chair report

Ken introduced the new community councillors and discussed the role of community council.

He covered Looking ahead - council services NPF4 and local development plan - community involvement

This lays out the framework which outlines the type of development and the types of amenities and better neighbourhoods

Ideally communities will have a louder voice and people are required to contribute

Community Council meeting frequency was agreed to be every third Thursday and will send out the dates for 2024

5.2 Secretary report discussed the new parking rules which was covered by the community police discussion

5.3 Treasurer report

A bank statement for October in the amount of £2376.69 has been received.

Two cheques previously written and totalling £100.20 have not been presented

to the bank. Sameeha advised she will present the cheques.

No new cheques have been written since the last report.

The Community Council cheque book and recent bank statements will be passed to the new treasurer. Forms will need to be completed to allow new office bearer signatories to be added to the account.

**6.0 Environmental Report**

Stewart Donald advised that there are major repairs happening at Bluebell Park

There is a problem at the chemist car park regarding disabled spaces. These are covered with refuse bins and although the disabled signs are there, drivers cannot use the spaces because of the bins. Stewart will ask Eddie who actually owns the car park as they are responsible for yellow lines. This could be a breach in planning.

Drains on Lenzie Road were all cleared on 19th November.

The dog bin at Whitehill Avenue (the lane at the Church) has to be reinstated.

Fly tipping at the hockey pavilion has been reported.

Bin at the bus stop opposite Bannatyne’s has been put back in place but the sign from the middle of the road is still sitting next to the bus stop on the grass.

Pavement in Whitehill Farm Road opposite the farm has been renewed

Complaint from resident re speeding in Mount Harriet Drive

Traffic lights at Bannatyne’s 6 seconds for green man and 24 seconds to cross. Some concerns over the timings being an accurate reflection.

Old lights were unsafe according to the Council

Question was raised could there be a possibility of changing the time at the end of the school day

**7.0 Planning Matters**

Paul Noble has advised that in the Gateside Farm development there are 30 affordable homes, significantly less than originally planned. It has been advised that they paid more money to offset the lack of provision.

It has been reported that Tree/shrub screening at Gateside Farm development has not been put in place. We will need to contact Cala and Barratt.

High density observed, the quality of the design does not reflect the Councils design requirements. To show the value of the comments and how the feedback affected the final design

Update re Lorry park - power cable work for this is ongoing. This development will include retail units like Asda. Paul will write asking for update

Car wash at Cumbernauld Road - JB Tyres are meant to be moving in. Fast foods unit and cafe/takeaway also but no one is sure what is happening.

There are a few motor homes on the empty ground and these could be connected to the people who rent storage at Pear Tree cafe. If change of use is required, they will have to reapply.

Nothing of any significance this month in the planning applications

It was highlighted that there is a webinar series [www.aprs.scot](http://www.aprs.scot) which gives background on how the planning process works.

**8.0 Stepps Community Facilities – Daytime Access**

Work has started on Stepps Primary but will finish next week or the week after

A meeting will outline the daytime access to be held on Wednesday 13th December at 4pm

No update on the library, there was a sense that this would start in January but not confirmed and there are concerns in the community about the library not re-opening.

**9.0 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing Report**

No update

**10.0 Community Meetings**

* Northern Corridor Community Board
* Northern Corridor Community Forum -local organisations getting together
* Cumbernauld and North Locality Consortium - local organisations getting together

**11.0 AOCB**

New signpost right of way to Auchinloch.

Bluebell Park - Decking has been replaced. New picnic tables and benches where the tree seat was.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Community Council at the Remembrance Service. The service was well attended but some residents have advised that it was difficult to hear the service.

Stewart Donald raised a request for jackets for Boys Brigades youths - it was suggested it may be more appropriate to seek out fundraising matching from alternative sources such as co-op community funds or local sponsorship

Request for information on the playpark of Dunalastair - latest update from Peter McNally. Cllr Josh Cairns had no update. The whole area requires drainage. Contractors stopped because the ground was water logged.

Lorraine advised Stepps Primary has silver accreditation for The United Nations Convention of Rights of the Child (UNCRC) They are going to aim for Gold accreditation and to do so will need to liaise with the wider community. The School will require to build links with the community and if anyone can help with connecting local business please let Lorraine know. It was agreed Stepps District and Community Council will try and help in any way that would be appropriate.

**12.0 Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7.30pm, Stepps Cultural Centre