STEPPS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF ORDINARY MEETING FOLLOWING AGM
THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.30PM
STEPPS CULTURAL CENTRE, ST ANDREWS WAY, STEPPS

Present: Andrew Thomsen (Chair), Campbell Provan (Vice Chair), Muriel McDade (Secretary), Alice Morton (Treasurer), Thomas Stones, Jacqueline Wilson, Tracy Kennedy

Elected Members: Nil

Public: 8 (including PC Neil McBain)

1.00 Opening remarks/introductions

1.01 Andrew Thomsen, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2.00 Apologies - Ken Maxwell, Paul Noble, Tom Forrester

3.00 Approval of Minute 17th June 2026

3.01 Proposed: Campbell Provan Seconded: Thomas Stones

4.00 Office Bearers' Reports

4.01 **Secretary's Report**

- Admin and correspondence as required.
- Corresponding with Kirsty Mooney, Biodiversity Officer re demolition of Whitehill Farm building and the impact this will have on migratory birds and bats. An ecology statement was requested twice but this was not received.
- Contacted Cllr Claire Williams re barrel which was dumped near the pavement on Dewar Road. Dog walkers have been using it to dispose of waste and as it does not belong to NLC it will not be emptied. Cllr Williams is going to look into this on our behalf.
- Contacted Aileen McKean, Ranger NLC re dead replacement tree in Bluebell Park. She visited the site and said she would replace the tree. ***ACTION 1 - SECRETARY***
- Ordered Poppy Wreath for Remembrance service on 8th November
- Volunteered to tidy flower beds and planters near War Memorial on 31st August

4.02 **Treasurer's Report**

As at 29 August 2026 bank statement shows an account balance of £3,208.83 which includes NLC Admin Grant of £827 for 2026-27. Expenses over recent months included costs for:

- Room hire
- Postage
- Printing of LPP booklets
- WIX website
- Poppy wreath

5.00 Community Police

CRIME STATISTICS

During the last month 85 incidents were reported to Police in the Stepps area. The following table shows a breakdown of the 19 crimes recorded as a result of these reported incidents;

Category September 2026
Assault 1, Bogus Caller 0, Vandalism 1, Housebreaking 1, Theft 4. Drugs 0, Road Traffic related 4, Communications 0, Threatening Behaviour 3, Other Crime 5 **Total 19**

IDENTIFIED LOCAL ISSUES
Following continued issues with speeding and dangerous driving. Traffic officers have been carrying out additional patrols in and around Stepps with a combination of marked and un-marked vehicles whilst also utilising the speed gun in problem areas.There has been an increase in shoplifting at the CO-OP. Enquiries are on-going in relation to these with assistance from Police Scotland's retail crime task force and the Retailers Against Crime (RAC) Group.
CURRENT CRIME TRENDS
Across Lanarkshire there has been an increase in high value vehicle thefts. Residents are reminded to ensure that all doors and windows are secured in their properties. Specialist officers are continuing enquiries and are carrying out plain clothes patrols during the hours of darkness.
SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT
Community officers attended Stepps Primary School in relation to complaints regarding parking. Although parking enforcement is carried out by North Lanarkshire Council, officers provided advice and assisted with bus parking.
PC Neil McBain & PC Laura Robertson - Northern Corridor Community Policing Team

6.00 Environmental Report
Burn at Stepps Primary - Cllr McLaren progressed - tree cuttings, logs and trunks now removed
Resurfacing Roads - Work has taken place on Lenzie Road and the north end of Blenheim Avenue. Also, a series of repairs undertaken on Loch Road including work on pavements, repairs to speed bumps, manholes and damaged kerbs.
Works on Loch Road - A series of repairs has been undertaken on Loch Road, from the houses south of the Loch to the junction of Cumbernauld Road. This includes work pavement, repairs to speed bumps, manholes and prep for work on damaged kerbs.
Solar Lights, Bluebell Park - Lights have been embedded into the path in the Bluebell Park. These are the same sort of lights that have already been added to Frankfield Park and Dunalastair Play Park. Questions were raised as to why solar lights were not installed in all the paths around the park. Seemingly, other surfaces are not suitable for installation of lights.
Stepps Station - New Signage - Scotrail gave permission for Seven Lochs to repair their posters at Stepps Station. The same contractors have been commissioned to install them. The boards do not replace the Perspex (it's just another element to break) but the boards are high pressure laminate so it should be possible to easily wipe off graffiti. They are also burn resistant
Fly-tipping on Cumbernauld Road - Reported to NLC and removed.
Barrell on Dewar Road - NLC Environmental Protection Officer has been advised by Redpath Bruce, Estate Management Co for Buchanan Gate, that it has instructed its grounds contractor to remove the barrel. Hopefully this will be done soon.
Failed Aspen Tree in Stepps Park - Ranger visited the Bluebell park to see how the trees were coping. Unfortunately, the Aspen tree has failed and she would like to get this replaced. ***ACTION 2 - SECRETARY***
Fence at Hornshill Farm Road - This has been repaired once more using metal this time
Rowan Trees at West Avenue - All of these trees appear to have died. All other trees planted at the same time along Cumbernauld Road have survived. Aileen McKean, Ranger to visit site.
ACTION 3 - SECRETARY
NLC tackling graffiti - Graffiti is an increasing problem in our communities. NLC is setting up a multi-agency group to address the problem through a programme of enforcement and education. Namely, relevant council services, Police Scotland, public utility providers and community organisations to identify ways to tackle the problem. S&DCC submitted and agenda item to the NCCB that community groups should be invited to the multi-agency group.

Residents can report graffiti on council-owned property to the council by phoning 0345 143 0015 or online at Graffiti and vandalism | North Lanarkshire Council. This web page includes information on how to report graffiti on public utility boxes.

Flower Bed tidy up at War Memorial 30th August 2026 - Huge thanks to the volunteers who tidied up the planters and flower beds. Daffodil bulbs, cyclamen and heathers were planted. The wildflower meadow will be strimmed back in September and additional seeds sown.

Replacement Planters on Cumbernauld Road - NLC contacted us to advise that it was willing to replace all planters on Cumbernauld Road on a like for like basis. They will remove original planters and re-use some or all of the existing plants. ***ACTION 4 - SECRETARY***

Bins blocking pavements on Cumbernauld Road - Local shops on Cumbernauld Road have been leaving their bins out permanently even after they have been emptied.

Works off Lenzie Road - Field flooding * Problems at several manholes * Possible upgrade of the sewer. Workmen will begin inspecting the main sewer that runs beside the Garnkirk Burn on Whitehill Farm

ACTION 5 - SECRETARY TO CONTACT SCOTTISH WATER UNDER FOI ACT TO ENQUIRE

7.00 Stepps & District Local Place Plan - Launched 2nd Sept 2026

- Thanks to everyone for their support.
- Distribution of booklets locally.
- Visit S&DCC website to 'Register Your Interest' in the priorities https://www.steppscc.com .
- Contact groups/organisations directly and ask to speak at meetings e.g. Primary School Parent Councils & PTAs.
- Katrina Murray MP has offered to promote LPP and S&DCC at local constituency events and newsletters.

7.01 **Green Network Sites** At the LPP launch clarification was sought regarding green network sites. Four sites are shown on NL LDP Promote Map.7.2. Our LPP proposes the retention of these four sites and the identification of three additional sites. In general, green network sites may Include:

- **Greenspaces:** Parks, urban woodlands, community gardens, meadows, and open public areas.
- **Active Travel Routes:** Safe, off-road walking, cycling, and wheeling paths that connect neighborhoods to local amenities and the countryside.
- **Wildlife Corridors:** Rivers, wetlands, and restored habitats that allow animals and plants to move freely through urban and rural landscapes without being blocked by buildings or roads.

8.00 Planning Matters

8.01 **Euro Garages** Service area now open - Co-op, Greggs, Starbucks and petrol station

8.02 **Dog Field at Dewar Road** is now open and appears to be very well used. Access - convex Mirror!!!

8.03 **Whitehill Farm Building** Scottish Building Warrant Summary 26/00691/NLC. Demolition of Farm Building, Whitehill Farm, Whitehill Farm Road Stepps - Warrant Granted 14/06/26

Ecologist Survey The applicant is aware of the protection covering both nesting birds and bats. Following advice from an ecologist, the applicant has arranged appropriate surveys for the buildings to be demolished as part of the demolition warrant application.

Request on the 23rd of June to ask if it would be possible to share these surveys with us and unfortunately, they are not willing to do so. Police (Wildlife Liaison Officer) visited the premises recently and are now satisfied that the correct procedures have been followed.

8.04 **Intention to Install Fixed Line Broadband Apparatus** Works to be carried out at various places in Cardowan - namely, Comedie Road, Clayhouse Road and Frankfield Road. This will involve new telegraph poles and Broadband apparatus being erected/installed. Where possible, the use the existing network will be used.

8.05 **Planning Applications** LPPs are now cited in applications under 'Constraints'. S&DCC LPP was cited in NLC Gate Check documents sent to Scottish Government i.e. Green Belt Review and Evidence Report, Consultation and Engagement Summary

8.06 Planning is aiming to close the Call for Sites during October 2026 (provisional, pending Scottish Government feedback. Following consultation with key partners, all sites for inclusion in the next Local Development Plan (NLLDP2) will be made publicly available on NLC web site. Specific timescales will depend on the number of sites submitted. At the end of the Call for Sites process, planning will publish a map showing the site identification number and site name (as issued by Planning), the name, organisation, and the proposed use of the land.

9.00 History Board - Vice Chair will be notified when the board is ready to be erected. This will be sited on the wall on what is now Coshneuk Crescent.

10.00 Ward 5 Councillor Briefing Report - N/A (no-one in attendance)

11.00 Northern Corridor Community Board (Chair, Brandon Williams)
Next meeting - 18th November 2026 – All welcome to attend.
Transport Progress Update First Glasgow has agreed to reroute service 38c to include Cardowan. The proposed start date has been delayed until October 2026. The service will include Cardowan Road then Gartcosh. It will also possibly extend to The Fort shopping centre. NLC is currently progressing the design for the new bus clearway at Cardowan Road, including the required road markings and signage. Re Crowwood Estate, First Glasgow has no plans at present for the area but it may be a future consideration. Sub-group members ask for a new bus stop at the bottom of Dewar Road to support services to Glasgow. SPT and First Glasgow to investigate.
Dewar Road Update Members received an update on progress regarding the adoption of the road. It was noted that NLC continues to engage with the National House Building Council (NHBC) in relation to the road bond, which will provide the funding required to undertake the necessary remedial works to bring the road up to an adoptable standard. Members noted the progress being made and welcomed the ongoing discussions aimed at securing the resources required to complete the works and progress road adoption.

12.00 AOCB
12.01 **Tour de 4 Cycle -** Event took place on Sunday 6th September 2026.
12.02 **Invitation from Rev. Robbie Hamilton**, Stepps Parish Church is celebrating Community Service at Stepps on Sunday 4th October a 10.a.m to which everyone is welcome. BB taking part in the service. Filled rolls available after the service.
12.03 **Coffee morning** to raise funds for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month taking place on 19th September at Hockey Pavillion 10am until 2pm. Promoted by Garnkirk United Community Football Club.
12.04 **Sports Camps** - Various sports and activities across North Lanarkshire being held during September weekend and School October week.
12.05 **Northern Corridor Priorities Planning** for the next 10 years - Have your say. Consultation closes 1st October 2026
12.06 **Community Council Scheme Review -** Issuing of a public notice of the proposal to amend the North Lanarkshire Council Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils to align with the Communities Committee Scottish Government Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils 2023 and associated governance documents.
Commencing a statutory consultation process, inviting comments and representations from community councils, elected members, community organisations and members of the public.
12.07 **Remembrance Sunday** service is being held on Sunday 8th November at the war memorial 10.50am. NLC will tidy the surrounding area prior to the service.
12.08 **Flu/Covid Vaccines -** Concerns raised by the public that people, particularly our senior citizens, are being asked to travel to Cumbernauld or Coatbridge to have their seasonal vaccines. For those without transport, these locations are particularly difficult to reach. Questions were asked why the Muirhead Clinic on Cumbernauld Road is closing and why the new Health Clinic at the Chryston Community Hub is not being used.
Councillor Claire Williams has been in touch with Jackie Smith, Service Manager North Locality who is looking into the above. ***ACTION 6 – SECRETARY***

12.09 The importance of hearing from our **local councillors** directly at our meetings was raised.
ACTION 7 -SECRETARY
12.10 Information about local councillors' **surgery arrangements** for those who don't go online or use social media was raised ***ACTION 8 – AM (use CC noticeboard to display)***

13.00 Upcoming Meetings - Wednesday 21st October 2026 and Thursday 19th November 2026 at Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Stepps. Please note there will be no December meeting.

With thanks to new Chairperson

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