

Minute of Annual General Meeting
Steps and District Community Council 7.30-
9.30pm, Thursday 2 June 2022
Stepps Parish Church, Lesser Hall

Present: Councillors Alice Morton (Chair), Sameeha Rehman (Secretary), Campbell Provan (Treasurer), Eddie Ceresa, Craig Cowan, Tom Forrester, Iain MacGregor, Ken Maxwell, Paul Noble

Apologies: Sheila Stuart

Public: 17 persons

Chaired by Cllr John McLaren

1.0 Opening Remarks/Introductions

1.1 Chair Alice Morton welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance to the first face-to-face meeting of the community council since February 2020.

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Apologies were received as noted above.

3.0 Minute of AGM 7th October 2021

3.1 Proposed by Campbell Provan. Seconded by Tom Forrester.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Office Bearers' Annual Reports:

Chairperson:

This past year has continued to be challenging for us all despite the gradual lowering in severity of Covid-19 cases. Society has slowly emerged from hibernation and we can now meet face-to-face with family and friends and the wider community.

The Zoom software purchased earlier to help carry on with our meetings digitally is fast becoming a memory. On the other hand, keeping the community updated via its social media website, Facebook and Twitter and also by way of articles in our local magazine Steps on the Level is still ongoing. This has allowed the community council to increase its outreach and communicate and respond to concerns quickly.

Due to a successful application to NLC's digital fund the community council purchased two laptops, a printer and data projector – all of which have already been well used. Over this period, we continued to monitor and respond to planning applications. In April the proposal for a roadside service was approved by the planning committee.

The installation of a telecommunications mast on the Cumbernauld Road offered no opportunity for community comment and is now installed outside the Co-op.

On the 13 October 2021 the appeal for the greenbelt site at Dorlin Road was dismissed by the DPEA Reporter. Despite this successful outcome, we remain vigilant and will continue to represent community views on the long-term future of greenbelt sites surrounding the Ward 5.

The work is underway at the Gateside Farm site and we have met regularly with the housing developers and brought many community issues to their attention e.g. pollution of the SINC, absence of tree protections and the ongoing use of local roads by heavy construction vehicles. The provision of education at Stepps Primary School and the reinstatement of our community facilities remains an ongoing matter.

A more recent successful outcome was the reinstatement and improvement of the area at the hockey park and pavilion which was previously used by Luddon as a compound during the remedial drainage works to Stepps Primary School.

Over the past year, we have responded to a wide range of residents' concerns, reported on environmental issues and liaised with North Lanarkshire Council on various matters. The introduction of new larger capacity litter bins has not been without its teething problems.

In addition, we have been active participants in the Northern Corridor Community Board, the Northern Corridor Community Forum and the Cumbernauld and North Locality Consortium. Individuals were encouraged to consider joining a sub-group related to the Northern Corridor Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which has 6 priorities. These include Health Inequalities, Children and Young People, Social Integration and Inclusion, Community Transport, Moodiesburn West and Building Local Relationships, Trust and Communication.

Following PC Simon Findlay's departure we welcomed our two new Community Police Officers, PC John Fleming and PC Calvin Lake, both of whom cover both Wards 5 and 6. The officers have been very keen to support the community and hear from residents about ongoing and long-standing issues.

In April the officers held a police surgery at the Garfield House Hotel which was well attended by residents.

As a result of the local elections on 5 May 2022 the three elected members for Ward 5 Stepps, Chryston and Muirhead are Josh Cairns, Scottish National Party (SNP), John McLaren, Scottish Labour Party and Claire Louise Williams, Scottish Greens - Think Global Act Local. We hope to build positive working relationships with them and look forward to

their attendance at our monthly meetings and in particular the Councillor Briefing agenda item.

We have endeavoured to strengthen our connections and communications with our parliamentarians Mr Steven Bonnar, MP and Mr Fulton MacGregor, MSP. We acknowledge their support for and commitment to our area. Particular thanks go to Mr MacGregor who raised the Northern Corridor issues at the Scottish Parliament Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Debate: National Planning Framework 4 on the 19 April 2022.

He highlighted the concerns of the villages of Northern Corridor - the endless list of planning applications, the fierce scale of housing developments, the increase in population, the loss of asset – greenspace, woodland, schools over-capacity pressures, health care struggling to meet demand, transport and infrastructure difficulties.

He relayed the NCCF's request for a meeting with meeting with Shona Robison (Cabinet Secretary for Social justice, Housing and Local Government) or Tom Arthur (Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth). We have achieved much over the last year - all of which would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of my fellow community councillors and to all of whom I offer my sincere thanks.

Alice Morton, Chair

4.2 Secretary

Once again, Stepps and District Community Council has had a very successful year in voicing the pertinent concerns of residents across the community. We have been incredibly resilient through the covid-era and ensured that despite the pandemic, we have carried out our statutory duty and held monthly meetings.

Our community councillors have worked hard to ensure the opinions of local residents have been raised through responses to planning applications, engagement with North Lanarkshire Council officers and consistent correspondence with our elected members.

As we welcome a new year and with the upcoming Community Council Elections in 2023, we look forward to engaging new members to our meetings and to diversify the existing council. Finally, I'd like to thank all my fellow community councillors for their continued friendship and support.

Sameeha Rehman, Secretary

4.3 Treasurer's submission of Balance Sheet and Annual Accounts

The Community Council accounts were sent to Feely and Co, Chartered Accountants, Wishaw, for auditing on 14 April 2022. They were returned audited and certified as correct on 5 May 2022.

Copies were signed by the CC chairperson and treasurer and one copy returned to Feely on 15 May 2022 for onward transmission to North Lanarkshire Council. The grant for this year will be processed by NLC and sent to the CC bank account. The accounts are audited to 31 March 2022.

I have a bank statement dated 10 May 2022 in the amount of £3070.45 of which £998 is mining memorial money. No new cheques have been written since this statement.

Campbell Provan, Treasurer

5.0 Re-election of office bearers

5.1 Cllr McLaren took over as Chair for this part of the meeting.

Alice Morton, Sameeha Rehman, Campbell Provan Eddie Ceresa are duly elected as Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Chair respectively.

6.0 Motions

6.1 None received.

7.0 AOCB

7.1 None

8.0 Date of Next AGM

8.1 A date in June 2023 to be confirmed.