

Minute of Online Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council
7.30-9.30pm, Monday 15th February 2021

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

Elected Members: Cllr Anderson

Apologies: Community Councillors Paul Brown, Gerry Campbell and Marvyn Mackay
Cllr McLaren

1.0 Opening Remarks/Introductions

1.1 Chair Alice Morton welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance to the meeting

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Apologies were received as noted above.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 The minutes of 18/01/2021 were approved. Proposed by Campbell Provan, seconded by Iain MacGregor.

A retrospective amendment for the minutes of the 22/10/2020 meeting was agreed as recorded as verbatim.

4.0 Executive Report

Emailed to all prior to the meeting. No questions were raised.

5.0 Community Police

5.1 No report was received.

6.0 Matters arising from previous meetings

6.1 Stepps PS overcapacity and requisitioning of community facilities

Cllr Anderson reported that she was invited to attend a meeting with James McKinstry, Mark McBride and representatives from NLC Education at 1pm on 15/02/2021 where she raised the continuing issue of a lack of communication between the council and community groups. Mark McBride offered to show Cllr Anderson the drawing plans for the school campus, but these could not be emailed over for security reasons.

The Greek Theatre will be removed and replaced with two modular buildings. The library will be converted into three classrooms. TSNL have reneged on their offer to pay £130,000 to fit out

and then £5000 per month to rent Buchanan Gate for the new library. As a result, the community centre/library will exist in a modular building. James McKinstry told Cllr Anderson that he has looked at the existing lets and most will be able to go forward under the new building plans.

A general discussion regarding the Report being presented to the Education and Families Committee on 23 February took place. Serious concerns were raised about the poor standard of communication and community engagement by North Lanarkshire Council and also the absence of community consultation prior to Report's publication and the decisions for approval therein.

In the year 2021, NLC was offering in the interim, a mobile library to replace current provision. This was regarded as a regressive state of affairs. It was of concern that there were plans to offer modular units as a library. However, it was noted that, in the future NLC will requisition these units for educational purposes if required. Stepps facilities was one of the busiest cultural centres in North Lanarkshire Council.

ACTION: It was agreed by the meeting that community councillors should attend the meeting offered by James McKinstry on the 18 February 2021. Alice will organise a pre-meeting on the 17 February to discuss what should be put forward on the 18 February and who should attend. It was agreed to invite L. Kerr (Stepps Parent Forum) to the meeting on the 17 February. BOTH MEETINGS COMPLETED

6.2 FOI Request re Stepps PS

Sameeha submitted the request on behalf of the Community Council on 25th January 2021 and has not yet received a response. **PENDING**

6.3 Sub Group Reports

i) Scotland Loves Local

Sameeha reported that she met with Campbell and Sheila to discuss plans for use of the fund. The Zoom account for the community council has been purchased. Campbell is in contact with Minuteman Press in Kirkintilloch to get prices for banners for the CC and SSGB. The subgroup is working on a leaflet to highlight the historical sites of interest in Stepps. **REPORT TO FOLLOW**

ii) Comms Ward 5 Councillors

Craig, Alice and Ken met with Cllr Anderson and Cllr McLaren to discuss increased communication methods between the community council and the ward councillors. Cllr Goldsack was invited but gave his apologies. Craig contacted the councillors for a report prior to the CC meeting and collated this into a briefing. This is to be done prior to every meeting going forward and shared on the CC website and social media channels. Thanks to Councillors for their support and input. **FEBRUARY BRIEFING UPLOADED TO CC WEBSITE AND COUNCILLORS INFORMED**

6.4 Remedial drainage works

Paul Noble said that the site set-up to the Compound should have started at the end of January but this has not taken place and no update on this has been received.

6.5 Environmental Report

Tom's report was sent prior to the meeting. No questions raised.

6.6 Steven Bonnar MP Update

Sameeha reported that the Office of Steven Bonnar had sent out further correspondence to Derek Brown and Gerard McLaughlin with regards to Stepps Primary School and Cultural Centre. A letter has also been sent to Fulton MacGregor MSP to ask when the roundtable would be taking place for the greenbelt discussion.

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1 Following a meeting with Barratt and Cala, the community council received a document from the developers which detailed plans for the land behind Gateside at Hornhill Farm, at Mount Harriet Drive and beyond the motorway. Concerns were raised that loss of this greenbelt land it would be hugely detrimental to the entire community.

7.2 Alice attended the North Lanarkshire Council's Town Visions Project Workshop on 26th January. This was to inform residents of the content of the draft Town Visions for eight towns and to gather thoughts on the proposals.

8.0 Northern Corridor Community Board

8.1 The next meeting of the Northern Corridor Community Board is on 22nd February 2021 at 6.30pm. Alice and Sameeha will be in attendance. If any community councillor will like to join, they can contact Alice, or alternatively, watch the meeting on the NLC YouTube Channel. **COMPLETED-MEETING CAN BE VIEWED ON NLC YOUTUBE**

9.0 Northern Corridor Community Forum Meeting

9.1 The next meeting of the Forum will be on Tuesday 16th February 2021 to prepare for NCCB meeting on 22nd February.

10.0 AOCB

10.1 Sameeha received a resident enquiry regarding the poor standard of play parks in Crowwood Grange Estate.

ACTION: Cllr Anderson said she has raised this previously and would seek an update from NLC.

10.2 Sheila now has the two boxes of Community Council documents that Mark McBride had previously been asked to store at Buchanan Gate. The CC cabinet is to be removed with the library resources. The storage place is unknown at present. Alice will pursue this information for CC inventory purposes. **PENDING**

10.3 Sameeha delivered website training to Campbell and Alice. Both are now website administrators. **COMPLETED**

10.4 Sameeha raised the need to open the CC virtual meetings to the public/residents.

ACTION: Sameeha to arrange a comms meeting to discuss the procedure for public meetings to take place from meeting on April 19th. COMPLETED – REPORT AT NEXT CC MEETING

11.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next virtual meeting of SDCC to be held on Monday 15th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

Vote of thanks to the Chair, Alice Morton.