**Minute of Meeting of Stepps & District Community Council**

**7.30-9.30pm, Thursday 27th August 2020**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Councillors Ken Maxwell (Chair), Sameeha Rehman (Secretary), Campbell Provan (Treasurer), Paul Brown, Craig Cowan, Tom Forrester, Marvyn Mackay, Alice Morton, Paul Noble

**Apologies:** Councillor Sheila Stuart

1. **Opening Remarks/Introductions**

1.1Chair Ken Maxwell welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the new community council and thanked them for their attendance at the meeting. Ken expressed that given the COVID-19 restrictions, virtual community council meetings would be normal practice for the foreseeable future.

**2.0 Apologies**

2.1 Apologies were received as noted above

**3.0 PAN REF 20/00783/FUL: To convert the existing community rooms and library into classrooms and for the addition of two temporary classrooms and toilets**

3.1 Councillors discussed the diagram for the above planning application. Concerns were raised regarding the length of time the application is proposed to last and it was unknown what the assembly hall was being used for.

It was noted that communication from NLC has been generally poor regarding the over-capacity issues at Stepps Primary. The fact that community rooms have been taken over without proper consultation and left the community with tooms that are not within walking distance of most of Stepps is a real concern.

Ken noted that it was difficult to reject the application without knowing the other options for dealing with the over-capacity issues.

Action Points:

* Make a neutral submission from SDCC, noting that the duration of the application is longer than the works and that the community rooms needs to be reinstated as soon as possible.
* Consider plans to a make a formal FOI request to find out what NLC’s options are for Stepps Primary.

**4.0 Finances**

4.1 Treasurer Campbell Provan confirmed that the annual SDCC accounts had been approved by Feely & Co. in Wishaw.

The annual accounts were approved unanimously. Proposed by Marvyn Mackay and seconded by Tom Forrester.

4.2 Campbell noted there had been issues in changing the bank signatories at RBS. Marvyn had sent a mandate to the bank and it was refused because the same signatory had been used twice. The mandate has been resubmitted with two different signatures.

**5.0 Community Boards**

The Local Area Partnership meetings have been replaced with nine new community boards.

There was a meeting of NLC in March where councillors voted for Ward 5 and 6 to be in the same board. However, this was reviewed again over the lockdown period and NLC agreed that Ward 5 should be represented on its own board.

Marvyn Mackay is the SDCC representative for the Board and attended the first meeting on 17th August. Cllr John McLaren chaired this initial meeting but it was agreed that there would be a rolling chair for future meetings. Concerns were raised regarding the split of Ward 5 and 6, however Cllr McLaren stated that this decision could not be appealed for the first six months.

The meeting focussed on setting up the board and the work that would be carried out. Meetings will take place quarterly.

It was agreed amongst community councillors that we should be prepared to appeal the ward decision. Marvyn will speak to councillors and John Wilson to look into the petition process.

**6.0 Newsletter**

Alice Morn reported that as there has been no direct communications with the community since March due to COVID-19, the Comms team had considered doing a newsletter.

It was agreed that a one-page news page would feature in SOTL to provide an update on the word of SDCC. The cost would be £100 and this was considered appropriate as there has been no expense for room bookings or admin costs over the lockdown period.

SOTL are keen to keep the community council on board and have discussed a sponsored banner, regular newsletters or a package deal. These will be discussed further by SDCC in due course.

**7.0 Website**

Sameeha Rehman gave a virtual tour of the new website and highlighted that it had been popular thus far with 534 visits and 46 subscribers to e-newsletters.

She noted that Paul Brown had agreed to help in keeping the website updated.

**8.0 Volunteer Roles**

Sameeha said that there was a lot of work being carried out by a few members of the community council and that this was not sustainable. Two volunteers roles were offered: an editor role and an environmental role. Any community councillor interested in pursuing either of these were told to contact Sameeha directly after the meeting.

**9.0 Save Stepps Greenbelt and Planning**

Alice raised the matter of the Scottish Government’s consultation regarding changes to planning policy. The need for this was highlighted in the case at the Court of Session brought by Gladman Development Ltd against the Scottish Ministers, with regards to proposed development on greenbelt in Kilmacolm.

Following Gladman’s success, the Scottish Government now have to address the loopholes in planning policy which are being exploited by developers.

All of the issues raised in the consultation were already brought by SDCC to Fulton MacGregor MSP, but he failed to take any action. Now, the Scottish Government has recognised all of these problems.

Alice has been working with Planning Aid Scotland and Planning Democracy on a response to the consultation and urges everyone to get involved.

Ken, Marvyn and Paul Noble are happy to help Alice with the consultation response.

**10.0 AOCB**

Sameeha informed everyone that Steven Bonnar MP would like to have a meeting with Save Stepps Greenbelt. Alice agreed to be the liaison and assist in organising a date for this.

**11.0 Next meeting**

Zoom meeting to be held on 24th September