

**Stepps & District Community Council**  
**Minute of Meeting**  
**Thursday 19th September 2024 at 19.30**  
**in**  
**Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrew's Way, Stepps**

**Present** - Community Councillors - Ken Maxwell (Chair), Campbell Provan (Vice Chair), Craig Cowan (Treasurer), Muriel McDade (Secretary) Alice Morton and Thomas Stones

**Elected Members** - Councillor Claire Williams

**Apologies** - Police Scotland, Shona Thomson (CCM), Andrew McPherson (NLC), Cllr John McLaren, Stewart Donald, Tracy Kennedy and Paul Noble

**Public** - 6 attendees

### **1.0 Opening Remarks/Introductions**

Ken Maxwell (Chair) opened meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance

### **2.0 Apologies**

Apologies received as noted above

### **3.0 Minute of previous Meeting 20.6.24**

Proposed by Alice Morton

Seconded by Thomas Stones

### **4.0 Office Bearers Report**

#### **Treasurer Report**

As at 3rd September 2024 the Community Council has an account balance of £3422.00 Since the last treasurer report there have been no cheques cashed in relation to expenditure.

Three cheques have been raised but have yet to be presented to the bank for the following:

-room bookings (£16.80)

-USB stick (£8)

-secretary expenses (£80.27)

Two cheques previously raised and totaling £87.20 have not yet been presented to the bank.

Deposits totaling £834.54 have been into the Community Council account by North Lanarkshire

Council for the annual grant (£827) and quarterly interest (£7.54).

Craig will approach the Bank to enquire about making payments electronically.

### **Secretary Report**

I am responsible for the Secretary mailbox and anyone wishing a copy of the approved Minute for the 20 June meeting can contact me by email. The approved Minute for the May 2024 meeting is available in Stepps library.

There will be a verbal report available at the Agenda item tonight re Northern Corridor Community Board and anyone wishing a copy of the draft Minute of the August meeting can also contact me by email. The approved Minute will not be available until November.

### **5.0 Community Police Report**

OFFICIAL      September 2024 Report

Below are the crime numbers from the period **18/05/2024 to 18/06/2024**.

In total, there were 37 calls in total made to Police, 8 of which resulted in crime.

The only incident of note to make you aware of is:

- Theft by housebreaking – McGoldrick Place, Cardowan (enquiries remain ongoing)

The remainder refer to various crimes which do not present a wider risk or threat to the community.

### **6.0 Environmental Report**

- Flower containers on railings at School Road now removed by NLC.
- Grass Cutting Update for A80 Cumbernauld Road, Stepps and Muirhead/Chryston – work complete.
- Japanese Knotweed reported to NLC.
- Road signs - Paul Mahoney NLC reports this is in process
- Cardowan MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) now open
- Cllr McLaren liaising with NLC cemeteries regarding maintenance work at Stepps War Memorial.

- Cllr McLaren arranging NLC tidy up and maintenance work at Mining Memorial.
- Water voles - Bluebell Play Park habitats protected. Thanks to NLC biodiversity officer
- Double yellow lines and cycle lane signs on Cumbernauld Road repainted
- Clothing Point bin removed by NLC (was being used for fly-tipping)
- Pavement Parking **Secretary to action**
- Flower Beds at War Memorial
- Loch Road (is this road adopted by NLC?) **Secretary to action**

## 7.0 Planning Matters

7.1 Ken Maxwell spoke to this item. **Local Place Plans** are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. NL Planning has previously invited Community Bodies to register an interest in preparing a Local Place Plan. Our website contains information on Local Place Plans and the definition of a Community Body. If you are interested in learning more, we are holding an information and advice event on Local Place Plans.

Details of the information event:

When: Wednesday 9 October

Time: 18:00 – 19:30

Where: Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life

The event will cover:

- An overview of Local Place Plans
- Opportunities for community involvement
- Q&A session

7.2 Alice Morton spoke to correspondence received about **NLC North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2**. She encouraged the meeting to consider giving feedback on topic papers. The link can be obtained by emailing the Secretary.

The fourth batch of topic papers and surveys on the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 are available on our web site - [North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 \(NLLDP2\) - Topic Paper Consultation | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

These cover the policy topics of green belts, sustainable transport and quality homes.

The closing date for feedback on these papers is 25 October 2024.

North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 is an important document that sets out the policies and proposals for land use and development in North Lanarkshire. It will set out the future for development, for example, where new housing, business, and infrastructure will be located.

## 8.0 Ward 5 Elected Members Briefing Report

Cllr Claire William's Report

### *School Buses*

All three ward councillors are concerned about road safety at Dewar Road and still deem the walking route to school unsafe.

Talks took place with First Bus but solutions will take time to implement

### *Petitions*

There seems to be a lack of clarity on where petitions shall be heard and who has the authority to make a decision on them.

The Cemeteries Petition was heard at the Northern Corridor Community Board – it elicited officer responses but no decision. It is now likely to be heard at the Environment and Climate Change Committee, it is still unclear what the decision-making process looks like. I will be looking at the commitment to mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting which allows residents to make decisions of a local nature such as these, as I think this is an example of where the Northern Corridor Community Board on behalf of residents and communities could make a decision to retain staffing levels at a council facility if this is what is important to them.

## 9.0 Official Opening of Stepps Library

Alice Morton reported that Community Councillors were pleased to celebrate the official opening of the library. She said the library offered a warm, welcoming and vibrant space. It is an excellent resource which brings many benefits across all generations and which will help our community to grow and flourish. She reported that she spoke at the opening and thanked all involved in making the day happen and, in particular, Russell Brown Community Libraries Manager and his excellent team of librarians. She also encouraged everyone to use the library or risk losing it. Footfall is a measure of use and success. Finally, she said that the opening hours were the same as before.

Day	Opening Hours
Monday	10am-5pm
Tuesday	10am-5pm
Wednesday	10am-5pm
Thursday	2pm-7pm
Friday	10am-2pm
Saturday	10am-1pm

## **10.0 Stepps Community Facilities - Daytime Access**

Alice Morton reported that there were still ongoing issues which included door security, storage of resources and kitchen furnishings. She said the community was promised the full reinstatement of the four spaces community hall, community kitchen and two community rooms

## **11.0 Northern Corridor Community Board (NCCB)**

Campbell Provan and Muriel McDade attended the above NCCB meeting at Chryston Church on 21st August 2024. Detailed below are points relevant to Stepps and District area.

### **School Buses**

Diane Delaney (Stepps Primary School rep) shared concerns over the lack of school transport for pupils from Stepps, Cardowan and Millerston who attend Chryston High. Children are crying, upset and do not want to go to school. They are terrified of crossing the junction at Dewar Road due to the volume and speed of the traffic. Lack of space and large numbers of pupils in the middle of the junction is resulting in some children being pushed onto the road into oncoming traffic. The weather has also been horrendous since the school term started, resulting in pupils wearing wet clothing and carrying wet bags. The journey can take up to one hour and, with all of the risks mentioned above, there is likely to be an accident. The 38C First Bus is available, however the service is not frequent enough to accommodate pupils and members of the public who are also commuting.

Andrew McPherson NLC said it was a Scottish Government decision to amend the distance from 2 miles to 3, meaning that some pupils are no longer eligible to receive free transport. Ultimately, parents are responsible for getting their children to and from school.

NLC believes that the route is a safe walking route, but according to pupils and their families it is not. Children were never involved in the initial discussions about the walking route.

Diane Delaney to meet with the two members of Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) to discuss the above.

### **Dewar Road**

Shona Thomson, representing Cardowan Community Meadow, was invited to attend our meeting to update us on the purchase of land at Crowwood Grange and Dewar Road. Unfortunately, she was on holiday and unable to be present however, is hoping to attend our October meeting.

## **Bedlay Cemetery**

Meeting was held on 25th July 2024. 1700 signatures were collected to petition against changes to the management and maintenance of the cemetery. Cemetery representative Vicky from NLC advised that the workforce has been removed and centralised due to lack of internments. Staff are now moved around in groups to different cemeteries within NLC based on need. New equipment purchased will improve the grass cutting. Vicky advised that, come Autumn, shrubs will be tidied and paths will be reblazed. Strimming, cutting, levelling and reseeding have already been actioned. The requirement for an extension to the cemetery was mentioned although this has not yet been approved.

**Date of next NCCB meeting 20th November 2024 - Chryston Parish Church, Main Street 19.00 - 21.00**

## **12.0 Northern Corridor Community Forum (NCCF)**

Next meeting TBC

## **13.0 AOCB**

- General Election 2024, Scottish Labour Party candidate Katrina Laidlaw Murray has been elected to serve as a Member of the UK Parliament in the Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch constituency, following the election on Thursday 4 July 2024.
- Coshneukmuir House, Millerston: Datestone  
Marriage 1883. Lieutenant George Harry Miller R.N., age 29 married Caroline Frances Graham Stirling, age 26 in Edinburgh on 10 January 1883  
NLC is proposing to develop approximately 17 housing units for social rent at Coshneuk Road, Millerston. It is to be hoped that the datestone can be carefully taken down and incorporated into the new build.
- Community Council Facebook reach and engagements update on numbers
- Penalty Charge increase notice from £60 to £100
- Cllr Williams - email still to be received re 1700 petition signed by people in Moodiesburn re Bedlay Cemetery
- Would it be possible for us to advertise on FB to see if we could have a hybrid meeting in here? What technology would be needed and how do we manage that? Wifi is available and we could purchase a camera. Something we could look into in future, possibly beginning of the year. Craig Cowan to explore this.
- Could there be a MUGA built at Dunalastair park to cover the swampy ground?

- There is an issue with the lack of chevrons/hatching lines at the junction of Cumbernauld Road and Comrie Road. These appear to have been missed when repainting was done and it is causing confusion at the junctions. There should be a directional arrow too which was there previously before it wore away over time.  
**Secretary to action**
- Jacqueline Wilson (resident) has offered to take over the S&DCC website and to be co-opted as a Community Councillor. Ken Maxwell (Chair) proposed this and the meeting seconded it. NLC to be notified. **S&DCC to action**
- It was suggested that a notice should be posted on S&DCC Facebook page to encourage residents to become co-opted members. **S&DCC to action**
- It was also suggested that a notice should be displayed on the noticeboard advertising the Community Council Facebook. **S&DCC to action**
- Cllr McLaren has contacted S&DCC to advise that he is hoping to have the War Memorial cleaned before Remembrance Sunday although this does not include tidying up grass/flower beds in the surrounding area. This was already mentioned to Cllr Cairns in February and it still hasn't been done.
- Chryston High School extension - Cllr Williams commented that water voles have been found in and around CHS extension area and NLC has applied for a licence to relocate them.
- Craig Cowan was asked if he would go onto a sub group for Digital. The sub group is looking for someone to represent the Northern Corridor as a representative of S&DCC. An action plan will be put in place within the next 2/3 weeks. Terms of reference are available if anyone is interested.  
This is being rolled out to all areas in NC as to exactly how digital is used and how au fait residents are with it. The group could represent CCs etc. and they will share their experiences, issues and any funding opportunities that may be available. We can use this facility but it may not be the case with other areas. In the meantime, Craig would like to link with other communities and he will bring any opportunities to our meetings for discussion in future. Craig also said it could be possible for us to have hybrid monthly meetings. He would need to look into what technology would be needed and how it could be managed. Wifi is available and we could purchase a camera. Something we could possibly do in future, perhaps at the beginning of the year. Craig to look into this.
- Question was raised re a survey being done to monitor the children walking to Chryston High School. Cllr Williams said that NLC would probably not do such a survey. Seemingly, there has already been an accident involving a pupil sustaining a broken ankle after being hit by a car in Lindsaybeg Road, outside the school. There has been a meeting with FirstBus and they did agree to move the time of

the bus by 10 minutes to ensure the children got to the school on time. SPT has to grant permission to agree to this but it could take some time. An extra bus stop at Dewar Road has also been suggested to assist the children who live in Crowwood Grange.

**13.0 Date and time of next meeting -**

Thursday 24th October 2024 Stepps Cultural Centre at 19.30

Vote of thanks to the Chair.