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

**7.30-9.30pm, Monday 20th January 2020**

**Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way**

**Present:** Councillors Ken Maxwell (Chair), Campbell Provan (Treasurer), Gerard Campbell, Craig Cowan, Tom Forrester, Marvyn Mackay, Alice Morton and Paul Noble.

**In attendance;** Lorraine Kerr, Parents’ Council, Stepps Primary School.

**Public:** 12 persons

**Apologies:** Councillors Paul Brown, Ewan Graham and Carol Graham, Iain MacGregor, Sheila Stuart, Sameeha Rehman; NLC Cllrs Lynne Anderson and John McLaren, Problem Solving Officer, Police Scotland.

1. **Opening Remarks/Introductions**

1.1Chair Ken Maxwell 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 of Previous Meeting**

3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, subject to the addition of Cllr. Sheila Stuart to those Present and the correction of a spelling error in Para 4.1 end of second line to ‘been’, proposed by Paul Noble, seconded by Craig Cowan.

**4.0 Community Police**

4.1 There were no Problem-Solving Officers in attendance, but Ken Maxwell noted that PC Mark Smith had resumed duties in Ward 5 and he hoped to attend the next meeting. In the meantime, a Crime Report had been provided by Sgt Shanks as follows: - In the period 17th Dec to 17th Jan there had been 80 Incident Reports to the Police of which 38 were assessed as not being Police matters. There was the usual variety of domestic and public space crimes reported of which the most significant was a double house break-in at the same address.

4.2 There were no other matters raised for passing on to the Police.

**5.0 Immediate Concerns - Stepps Primary School Temporary Move**

5.1 Ken Maxwell expressed his acute disappointment that despite assurances that Council Officers from North Lanarkshire Council and staff from NL Culture and Leisure would be attending this evening’s meeting, no one had turned up nor had there been any communication from NLC to advise no one would be attending or to give apologies. The was particularly frustrating and discourteous given the previous history of poor and confusing communications from the Council and its Agencies regarding the issue of the temporary closure of Stepps Primary School and the proposals to build temporary modular classrooms on Stepps Hockey Park.

5.2 In addition, there were several local people attending the meeting who had come specifically to hear from NLC. Cllr. Paul Noble noted that this meant the Council had failed to comply with the assurances given to representatives of the Community Council who met with representatives of NLC in December 2019 as detailed in the minutes of the previous meeting.

5.3 Lorraine Kerr said she had no update as the Parents’ Council did not meet until 3rd February. Cllr. Gerry Campbell advised that he had delivered a personal letter to NLC on 6th January but no response. A member of the public stated that he had met with Council Officers and NL Culture and Leisure last Friday and he was assured that they would be attending the meeting this evening.

5.4 It was agreed that the Secretary should contact NLC Chief Executive expressing the Council’s acute disappointment and frustration that no one from the Council or its agencies had attended the meeting nor advised they would not be attending.

**6.0 Other Matters Arising**

6.1 Planning Applications Update: Ken Maxwell referred to the spreadsheet, distributed at the meeting, which he had drawn up showing the current status of the major applications outstanding at this time. These included the Site at Dorlin Road which was still at Proposal of Application Notice; similarly, Whitehill Farm and two sites off Mount Harriet Drive were still at the same stage. Ken would update the list each month, but only include major or unusual applications rather than home extensions/conservatories etc. unless raised as a concern by someone who had received a neighbour notification.

6.2 Gateside Farm, he briefly outlined the history of this application up to current time where the developers are considering a submission of a revised detailed planning application following the refusal of the last one by NLC which was upheld by the Reporter. He, Paul Noble and Alice Morton had met with NLC Planning Officers where they had raised a number of issues regarding the lack of scrutiny by the Planning and Place Service in regard to the previous detailed planning application and the finding by the second Reporter upholding most of the comments and issues raised by the Community Council. They were advised that the Council would be in future be more proactive in its scrutiny of detailed plans for this and other similar sites given the events of the Hearing and the Reporter’s findings.

6.3 Ken Maxwell went on to say that the developers had requested a meeting with the Community Council to hear more about the objections raised by the Community Council. Despite reservations about compromising the Council’s position, he Paul and Alice had met with representatives of Cala and Barratt Homes and advised them what the community’s objections were to the design, size and landscaping of the area. In addition, they made it clear that the community still objected in principle to any development on the greenbelt. The developers did not give very much information about their revised plans for the site but said they would keep in contact with the Council and when new plans were ready, they would like to come to a meeting of the Council. This suggestion was firmly rejected by the Council. Cllr Alice Morton advised the meeting of her statement as follows to the developers leaving them in no doubt as to the strength of opposition to this development: - ‘Stepps does not want this development and will continue to resist it in any new shape or form. The community will be steadfast and vocal in its opposition and will take every available opportunity to challenge any future planning submission.’

6.4 Local Development Plan: The Community Council asked for a meeting with NLC Planning Officers to discuss progress on completion of the LDP which has been ongoing for 4/5 years now and is not yet near adoption. At the meeting, the Council representatives were advised that the LDP has still to go to the Reporter and it was expected this would be done in early February 2020. This stage of the process could take up to a year during which all parties including developers, the Community Council and individuals will be able to submit comments to the Reporter. Ken raised with NLC that all the responses to the consultation stage had not yet been published on the NLC website and he was assured this would be done by the end of January. These comments would give an indication of the areas which developers wished to be designated for housing. Until such time as there is an adopted LDP, developers will continue to submit planning applications hoping that they might win them on Appeal.

 The question was asked whether there is a legal requirement on Councils to have a Local Plan adopted every 5 years, to which no one could give a definitive answer. Ken Maxwell said he would make enquiries and get an answer.

6.5 Car Wash on Cumbernauld Rd: Ken Maxwell advised that a Planning Application in retrospect had just been posted on the NLC website. Alice Morton gave a considered assessment of the plans in which she highlighted issues of access near Loch Road and the Co-op, but also expressing concerns about the quality and finished appearance of the site which she felt could be improved to fit better with the location. The Council did not take a formal position on the application but encouraged individuals to look at the application and make their own comments to NLC on the website.

6.6 Roads, Parking, Flooding and Drainage: A local resident reported as delegated by the Council on his contacts with NLC and work undertaken since the last meeting. The drains on Lenzie Road had been cleared and he had been advised that further work would be undertaken when the road was being re-surfaced in next year’s maintenance programme. Also drains on School Road have been cleared. Concerns were raised about the state of road surfaces at several locations viz Cardowan Road from Cumbernauld Road to first roundabout, Mount Harriet Drive and Whitehill Farm Road. These concerns to be raised with NLC Roads.

**7.0 Community Council Reports**

7.1 Communications Strategy Team

Craig Cowan reported that the group has not yet met again but hoping to look at the website to see how it could work better for the Council in terms of communicating with local people and setting up an opt-in email link to receive news and information updates from the Council.

7.2 Treasurer’s Report

Current Bank balance is **£1,248**. Ewan Graham and Campbell Provan are in the process of handing over records and arranging for change of signatories for the bank account.

7.3 Secretary’s Report – Ken Maxwell reported

 Email from NLC: temporary road closure on Lenzie Road at Whitehill Farm Road on Thursday, 23rd January 2020.

 Frankfield Loch Neighbourhood Watch Group: Has 40 members and would like to meet with the Community Council.

 George Buchanan Architects on behalf of Bellway Homes: Proposal of Application Notice for development at Gartferry Road, Moodiesburn. Public Consultation at Auchengeich Miners’ Club, on 23rd January 2020, 4.00pm to 8.00pm.

8.0 **Northern Corridor Community Forum and Local Area Partnership**

Marvyn Mackay reported that the date of the next NCCF is Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7.00pm in Chryston Cultural Centre. No date has been set for the next meeting of the Local Area Partnership – Community Matters and this is of concern to the Community Forum and is being raised with NLC.

9.0 **Any other competent business**

9.1 Cllr Tom Forrester advised of Government funding which was still available in North Lanarkshire for energy saving measures for Cavity Wall and Under Floor and Loft insulation at no cost. If you qualify for these you will automatically qualify for Boiler replacement, although not necessarily free, if your boiler is more than 7 years old.

Homeowners may qualify if

* They have disposable Income of £200 per week or less (evidence of this is not required, verbal assurance is acceptable).
* Medical conditions including Cardiovascular, Mental Health, Asthma, diabetes, pregnancy and long-term illness.
* Age over 65
* Children under 16 or in full time education.
* Qualify for Pension Guarantee
* Qualify for Council Tax Reduction.

If you do not qualify under any one of these, you may still be able to claim under individual house construction

North Lanarkshire Council operates this in partnership with Ecosave Installations Ltd in Clydebank, telephone No 0141 952 9004

There is no obligation to accept a quote and if unhappy with the quote; homeowners perfectly entitled to walk away.

Information is also available on the website at ecosaveinstallations.co.uk

**8.0 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 17th February 2020 at 7.30pm in Stepps Cultural Centre, St Andrews Way, Blenheim Avenue**