




Largs Community Council
 Approved Minutes
 Thursday, 15 April 2021, 7pm via Zoom

Present: Cllr Phillips (Chair), Cllr Smith (Secretary), Cllr Adair, Cllr Cochrane, Cllr Stevenson, Cllr J Perman, Cllr P Perman, Cllr Murdoch, Adam Lyon (Largs & Millport Weekly News), PS Donald Fisher (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Cllr Dippie, Cllr Wood, Cllr Marshall, Calum Corral

Item	Business
1	Welcome -Chair welcomed members.
2	Apologies –As noted above. Cllr Adair advised that Cllr Wood had been admitted to hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery and will send her a get well card.
3	<p>Police Report Cllr Phillips welcomed PS Fisher to his 1st meeting of Largs Community Council. See attached report for stats and response to matters raised at last meeting ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Stevenson’s request for PS Fisher to become involved in the Dementia Friendly Largs group. Contact has now been made. • Security codes for Hawkshill Estate received and being forwarded to relevant agencies and teams. <p>PS Fisher stated that the crime reports, although they appeared to be up on this time last year, were actually in line with average activity and there was nothing specific driving this number. A number of the reports were from self-generated work rather than calls from the public. There will be additional patrols in Largs in the summer to provide a visual presence and give reassurance.</p>  <p>April 2021 Largs CC - Police Report.doc.doc</p> <p>Cllr P Perman asked if there had been any problems in Douglas Park or Anderson Park. PS Fisher stated that there had been a couple of calls about kids hanging around in groups. When the police attended there was no alcohol and the numbers were within Covid guidelines. The campus officer will emphasise to the kids at school not to make a nuisance of themselves when out and to keep the noise levels down. Cllr Cochrane also stated that there was a similar problem at Barrfields Park with youngsters gathering and making a lot of noise. PS Fisher confirmed that they had received calls about people being on the pitch and their noisy boisterous behaviour which he wants to discourage. In relation to the fraud reports, this is where there have been online offers, people have sent money but no product has arrived and the contact subsequently disappears which results in people being defrauded of the money paid. These circumstances are often reported to the police. PS Fisher was thanked for his comprehensive report.</p>
4	<p>Minutes of Meeting of 18 March 2021 Subject to the inclusion of Cllr J Perman and Cllr P Perman being noted as present as they had been inadvertently omitted from the minutes Approved Cllr Cochrane 2nd Cllr Stevenson</p>
5	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points Cllr Cochrane has emailed Gary Ennis in relation to Largs Community Council’s Social Media and is awaiting a response.</p>
6	<p>North Ayrshire Council Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactors 3 and 4 at Hunterston have been given the go ahead to restart

- Hunterson Park -Cllr Murdoch has sent a letter with a number of supporting documents to other Councillors and senior officers in relation to the incident with the ships in February and his request for an independent inquiry. Now awaiting a response
- Pavements and roads – A78 - road and pavements at Gallowgate completed. Outside Bean and Leaf and GiralDOS still to be done. Hoping the pavement outside Duff's will be completed this year.
- Pothole blitz in Largs taking place but they are only being patched up. The Roads Inspector checks the streets for potholes but Cllr Murdoch passes on information about any he identifies. Cllr Smith felt that the quieter streets had large potholes but perhaps were being missed due to a lesser volume of traffic using them. Cllr Stevenson highlighted the poor state of repair at the top of Bellesdale Avenue. Cllr Murdoch confirmed this was on the list for repair. This year's road budget will resurface Charles Street, Brisbane Street, Haco Street and Kelvin Street, no footways and only lighting in Allanpark Street. Cllr Phillips stated that there was no-one from the Council checking the standard of the resurfacing work. Cllr Adair stated that the path directly across from Sandringham is a disgrace and the road is starting to subside. Cllr Murdoch will ask the Roads Inspector to have a look at it. Cllr Adair expressed his concerns about possible accidents due to the state of the pavement. Cars are also parking on the pavement and causing damage.
- St Colms Place demolition will take place soon
- Ongoing discussions with the owner of Anaya's building to try to get something done about its condition
- Ferry traffic consultation taking place. Cllr Adair asked who had the final decision about the consultation. Cllr Murdoch stated that the data would be collated and the 4 elected Councillors would be asked for their views. Cllr Adair referred to the article in last week's local paper in which Cllr Murdoch stated he was against a one way system at Bath Street. Cllr Adair felt that as the decision had already been made, the consultation was a waste of time. The merits of a one way system or otherwise and the effects on the town were fully discussed. The parking issues were also discussed. Cllr Murdoch considered that what was required was a bigger ferry, an advanced booking system and a priority booking system. An advance booking system has been asked for and an online ticketing system is coming in later this year. Cllr Murdoch encouraged everyone to take part in the survey to have their say.
- Additional bins and emptying of them have been requested for this weekend. There are concerns about additional people being in town this weekend due to easing of some lockdown restrictions
- Bedding plants have been procured. Streetscene have not asked for volunteers this year
- A new business group has been set up and they are looking at making some changes to the town
- Still waiting for parts for the new lights along the prom
- 1st market will be on Saturday 1st May
- Grant from the Participatory Budget agreed
- Bus stop at the Crematorium has been flattened and has been reported
- Cllr Phillips asked if the toilets at the pier were going to be refurbished. Cllr Murdoch advised that they had been recently repainted and new signage put up. A total refurbishment is too expensive. Cllr Murdoch confirmed all the toilets are now open. The cycles for rent at the railway station are away and will not be replaced.
- Cllr Cochrane asked if it was true that NAC Streetscene make a charge of £30,000 from the Common Good Fund to look after Douglas Park and if so, is this value for money. The Councillors have had a meeting with NAC and renegotiated the charge from £35,000 to £24,000 per year. Cllr Murdoch has asked for a breakdown of the charge and details of the interested parties and their intentions. He is waiting to hear how the charge is spent but it is for the whole park and not just cutting the bowling green grass. Cllr Cochrane questioned whether NAC were actually seen to be doing anything in the park as other groups eg Douglas Park project have a visible presence in the park. He also considered that Largs professional gardeners could undercut the Council. It may be that the parties involved in Douglas Park may be interested in it going out to tender. Cllr Hill has been involved in Largs Green Futures and may be able to provide more information. Cllr P Perman

	<p>asked if this ever went out to tender to get the best deal for the Common Good Fund instead of the Council awarding themselves the job. Cllr Murdoch advised that until he gets a breakdown of the charge of £24,000, it is unknown if it is value for money. Some discussion took place around the makeup of the Common Good Fund.</p>
7	<p>Secretary's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All emails forwarded. An email was received today from Angus Campbell, District General Manager for SP Energy Networks, Ayrshire District stating that he understood there was a Community Council meeting this week and asking if we would like him to attend to give a brief update on the cause of the recent power failures or if a short written briefing would be more appropriate. As it was short notice, he was asked to send a brief report which he did as follows – 'I can confirm that we have carried out some targeted repairs in response to a number of power interruptions which took place earlier this year due to severe weather and faults on the electricity network, and are additionally reviewing key parts of the network through additional inspections and monitoring to minimise any future disruption risks.' <p>Cllr Stevenson considered that there may be benefit to having Angus Campbell attend a meeting as SP Energy Networks may be able to supply some additional electrical vehicle charging points in Largs – potential sites – Brooksby and Inverclyde Centre. After some discussion it was agreed to ask him to attend the next meeting. Cllr Murdoch advised that electrical vehicle charging points had been raised at the Council's budget meeting.</p> <p>Action point – Cllr Smith to send an invitation to Angus Campbell to the next meeting on 20th May</p> Cllr Smith referred to February's meeting when it had been agreed to send the future dates of the Community Council meetings to Calum Corral for inclusion in the local paper to generate some interest from the public. Could this be done? Adam Lyon advised to send an email to Calum a couple of weeks before the meeting saying when it was being held and a couple of the discussion points. <p>Action point - Cllr Smith to email Calum Corral about the next Community Council meeting</p>
8	<p>Social Media Team Report – no report</p>
9	<p>Treasurer's Report Admin Account - £424.86 with 2 outstanding cheques totalling £47.39 Project Fund - £775.85 Proposed Cllr Adair, 2nd Cllr Cochrane</p>
10	<p>Dementia Friendly Largs Report Cllr Stevenson provided an update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitution has been agreed and will be used by Cllr Hill to open a bank account with RBS. He has completed the registration forms for charitable status. Next meeting of whole group is Friday 16th April and Cllr Stevenson will get an update of progress from the 4 working groups. He would still like some more members and in particular someone who is living with dementia. Cllr P Perman advised there was a dementia group meets at the Dementia Day Care Centre behind the Stevenson Institute and there may be someone there willing to join the group. Cllr Stevenson stated that we are still trying to engage with other local groups. At the last meeting there was a presentation from a lady from Dunblane who runs their Dementia Friends group and this was very helpful. A training session was due to be held this week but unfortunately the trainer Linda Ross from Alzheimers Scotland was not well so the training has been put on hold. Cllr P Perman advised that the grant from North Ayrshire Council had not yet been received. Cllr Stevenson confirmed that it would be paid into LCC bank account and Largs CC would write any cheques required. Adam Lyon requested an email address if anyone wants to get in touch through the local paper. Email is Largsdementiafriendly@gmail.com

<p>11</p>	<p>Sub Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Licensing - none b. Planning - Cllr J Perman has sent comments for the Gogo storage scheme. c. Environment – Cllr Dippie provided the following update in his absence – <p>Rigghill -The NAC Planning Committee unanimously supported the recommendation of their planning officers to reject the application for the Rigghill Windfarm. The refusal was based on the proposal breaching ten policies of the LDP.</p> <p>Whether Burcote will appeal remains to be seen but IMO it was a comprehensive rejection with all North Coast CC's opposing.</p> <p>Halkhill Forestry</p> <p>Nothing further to report at present.</p> <p>Halkhill/Blairpark Gogo Dam Planning Application. (Open for public comment)</p> <p>Proposal is to build in the Wild Land area of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park so would expect comment from SNH. Would also expect input from Sepa on at least proposed location, ref planning response comments previously circulated. Cumulatively all these works, roads, dams, forestry have now been ongoing for more than five years and have made a very significant change to our hills and valleys with no monetary benefit to our town.</p> <p>Road link on A760 - proposed by Halkhill Access forum and supported by Councillor Murdoch. Section on main road costed by Roads dept but no funding at present, NAC Active Travel Officer investigating other avenues for funding.</p> <p>Friends CMRP - inaugural meeting to establish Constitution next week.</p> <p>Online Hustings debate organised by FOFC and Fairlie CC, - April 21st at 7:00pm. Via webinar. ref info sent to Jim. If anyone wants to attend they need to pre register by emailing friendsoftheclyde@gmail.com</p> <p>Gogosite Road Garden - some tidy up work carried out, Unpaid Work unit contacted and may be able to help but not until early May. Patricia and Robbie visiting tomorrow.</p> <p>PARC meeting - Hunterston Clydeport/Peel Ports liaison meeting next week, please let me know if you have any questions you wish put forward.</p> <p>Cllr Stevenson expressed his concern about people walking on the grass verge of the road at the Crematorium when the car park is full as it is very dangerous. Due to the presence of walkers around the area of the windfarm, Cllr Murdoch and Cllr Dippie have been looking at this and whether the Forestry Project could put in an additional path to make the area safer for walkers crossing the road.</p> <p>Rigghill – Cllr Murdoch had the opportunity of speaking and making his objections at the planning meeting which subsequently rejected the application. Cllr Cochrane stated that this decision could be appealed to the Scottish Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Transportation – Cllr Adair expressed his concern about the taxis who have the North Ayrshire school contracts parking at Sandringham all day every day. It is clear they do not have premises for the taxis to park. There was some discussion about the taxis parking and the terms of the school contract but Cllr Murdoch pointed out that as long as they are not parked on double yellow lines and are appropriately taxed and insured, they can park where they like. Cllr Murdoch will check out the school contract with North Ayrshire. e. Hunterston – Cllr Murdoch advised that there is a Hunterston PARC meeting next week.
<p>12</p>	<p>A.O.C.B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Cochrane expressed his anger at the arrogance and high handed behaviour of Scottish Water when they closed the trunk road out of Largs to Greenock without any regard to the impact it would have and the local Councillors' views. Cllr Cochrane complimented Cllr Murdoch for his actions as he believes one lane of the road is now open. Cllr Murdoch advised that, despite the intervention of all 4 elected Councillors, 2 MSPs and a MP to try to gain access for emergency and essential services, Scottish Water were unwilling to change their plan for a full road closure which meant a 60 mile diversion. The road has now opened tonight.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CClr Stevenson stated that as the Community Council had recently lost our young members, we needed some more people to make our numbers up to 12. He considered that perhaps we should encourage and target young people and promote it by saying it would be good for their CVs as they would learn about meetings, how they are run etc. He also suggested that a leaving questionnaire could be sent to the former Councillors to ask about their experiences etc on the Community Council and this might help us as a group and also encourage more young people to join. CClr Phillips agreed that we could contact Largs Academy and see if there was any interest. CClr Cochrane suggested that as the Community Council has a new Chairperson and secretary, the local paper could interview the new officials and as part of that, an appeal could be made for young people to come forward.• CClr Perman has consulted Helen Miller of Streetscene about a lost property box and was advised that some Local Authorities had utilised disused red phone boxes but unfortunately there are none in Largs. CClr Perman will continue to pursue a suitable lost property box. <p>CClir Phillips thanked everyone for their participation.</p>
13	Date of Next Meeting – 20 May 2021