



Largs Community Council  
 Approved Minutes  
 Thursday, 19 August 2021, 7pm via Zoom

**Present:** Cllr Phillips (Chair), Cllr Smith (Secretary), Cllr Adair, Cllr Cochrane, Cllr Dippie, Cllr J Perman, Cllr P Perman, Cllr Stevenson, Cllr Wood, Cllr Murdoch, Cllr Marshall, Calum Corral (Largs & Millport Weekly News), PS Donald Fisher (Police Scotland), Denise Fraser- Community Development Worker – North Coast

**Apologies:** None

Item	Business
1	<b>Welcome</b> -Chair welcomed members.
2	<b>Apologies</b> –None
3	<p><b>Police Report</b>            See attached report for stats and summary</p>  <p>August 2021 Largs            CC - Police Report.do</p> <p>Cllr Wood commended the police for doing a great job during recent times. She is still attempting to make contact with the traffic police regarding the behaviour of youths on the Largs train.            Cllr Cochrane queried the assault on the police. PS Fisher stated that this is generally about taking umbrage at having handcuffs placed on them and being arrested.            Cllr Murdoch asked PS Fisher if parking tickets could now be issued in Tron Place as the lines have been refreshed. PS Fisher agreed that this area would get extra attention.</p>
4	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting of 17 June 2021</b>            Approved Cllr Wood 2nd Cllr Cochrane</p>
5	<p><b>Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points</b>            Action points still outstanding</p> <p><b>Action point -Cllr Marshall to contact Largs Academy regarding possible involvement of senior pupils in Largs CC-</b> School has only just returned after the summer break so Cllr Marshall will contact the school within the next couple of weeks</p> <p><b>Action point – Cllr Murdoch to provide a breakdown of the charges for the maintenance of Douglas park before the next meeting to aid discussion</b>            The figures are due to be amended and Cllr Murdoch has asked for the revised figures but has not yet received them. Cllr Cochrane asked Cllr Murdoch to confirm as per his report at the last meeting that the charges would be brought down to £1300. Cllr Murdoch stated that this was the amount last year and he hopes they will stay at that amount in future years. NAC have been asked to provide perennials and wild flowers rather than bedding plants to avoid empty flower beds or them being filled in. Cllr P Perman stated that the accounts for this year show £22,000. Cllr Murdoch advised that he has been told this figure is to be amended but he will follow this up.</p>
6	<p><b>Largs CC Ordinary Election</b>            Cllr Phillips emailed Melanie Anderson at NAC about the arrangements for the CC election and has received an email back outlining a timetable for the CC election. She also advised that in the case of a contested election, postal voting would be offered rather than in person polling. A nomination form has also been supplied. Discussion took place about the timetable, especially as the accounts have been made up and it was agreed that an earlier timescale was preferred. It was considered unlikely that there would be a</p>

	<p>contested election as historically this has not been the case. We have 3 vacancies on the Council at present. Councillor Cochrane advised that NAC place a public notice in the local paper intimating that there will be a CC election and provide information about what people should do. This can be confirmed with Melanie Anderson. Councillor Murdoch advised that the outgoing office bearers would conduct the election but NAC would advertise the election. It was agreed to aim for 24/09/21 to place the advert in the paper and the advert to be published on 29/09/21 which would allow for the election to be held at the October meeting.</p> <p><b>Action point – Councillor Smith to contact Melanie Anderson at NAC to check if it is possible to hold the election as per our proposed timetable.</b></p>
7	<p><b>North Ayrshire Council Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following a trip by someone at the Bagel Basket, the pavement has now been repaired permanently</li> <li>• Drainage problem and flooding at the Clydesdale corner – this area has been inspected and now awaiting a result</li> <li>• Complaints about weeds in the streets, potholes, condition of pavements – programme ongoing</li> <li>• Footpath at side of Barrfields Park has been cleared</li> <li>• Arranging for flower beds for next year to have perennials and wild flowers</li> <li>• Parking marshalls –role to be expanded, NAC are exploring the possibility of a uniform</li> <li>• Public toilets –a review of the opening and closing of the toilets has taken place which should mean that they will be open at the agreed times</li> <li>• Refurbishment of toilets – reviewing potential cost and getting more estimates of cost. A suggestion was made that the Fishworks might be interested in acquiring some additional space from the area of the gents’ toilets which is a generous area. Councillor Murdoch stated that this suggestion had not been considered but he felt that the toilet capacity was required due to the numbers of visitors in town using the toilets. There are 16 ladies toilets and a baby changing area. Councillor Murdoch confirmed that the ladies toilet at Aubrey remains closed due to a drainage problem and it is not known when it will open. It is NAC’s responsibility to repair the toilets. Councillor Smith pointed out that this was a real problem for people at that end of town as there is no toilet facility. Councillor Murdoch is actively pursuing this. He has also asked for the other toilets to be refurbished with vandal proof stainless steel. Councillor Wood asked if lottery funding could be available as Largs is becoming a dementia friendly town. Councillor Murdoch has been in contact with various sources with a view to getting improvements made.</li> <li>• The car park barrier at the marina car park has generated a huge response on social media. The erection of the barrier has just moved the problem as the motor homes are now parking elsewhere in the town.</li> <li>• Councillor Wood queried the closure of the soft play area. Councillor Murdoch raised this with KA Leisure and has been advised the soft play will be either be replaced or replaced with another interactive play facility within 2-3 months</li> <li>• Councillor Marshall confirmed all councillors have raised the toilet question and he expects at least the main car park toilets will be refurbished by next spring. The Crocodile toilets at Cumbrae have been renovated to a very high standard which only cost £45,000. He has had confirmation that there will always be a budget for annuals all along the sea front and he has been getting funding for the replacement/ repainting of the seats north of the pier and also the lamp posts.</li> <li>• Councillor Marshall advised that NAC will be drawing up a programme for further spaces for camper vans over the next few months.</li> <li>• Councillor P Perman queried why the owner of the Fishworks had a card to access the car park and was it available to other businesses. Both councillors agreed that this should not be the case as everyone should pay for the use of the car park. Agreed to follow this up.</li> <li>• Councillor P Perman queried the flat rate contribution of £35,000 from the car park fund to the running costs of the toilets with no costings. Councillor Marshall stated that the total cost is £75,000, split between NAC and the car park fund and there are detailed costings. Councillor P Perman also queried an additional £10,000 towards Streetscene staffing costs which is not costed. She questioned whether this was value for money and should it be considered for competitive tendering. Councillor Murdoch stated this was the reason he had asked for a breakdown of the costs for all of the callouts. The £35,000 covers</li> </ul>

	<p>numerous charges for cleaning materials etc. A full discussion took place about the funding of Largs toilets and the difference in the funding for other North Ayrshire toilets. The car park pays £14,000 in rates to NAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Adair expressed his thanks for the path at Sandringham being resurfaced</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Secretary's Report</b> – all emails forwarded. Cllr Smith referred to a Facebook enquiry from Tasting History Ayrshire Tours requesting Largs CC host a bid for funding for their project. As they are a private organisation, Largs CC cannot do this. It was suggested that they should be directed to Ryan Moir at ShowWorks theatre group for assistance.</p> <p>Cllr Smith asked if it would be possible for Largs CC to purchase a dictaphone for future recording of the meetings when face to face meetings resume.</p> <p><b>Action point – Cllr P Perman will make enquiries about the Dictaphone that Largs CC previously had.</b></p> <p>Cllr Smith asked if Largs CC were thinking of a timescale to resume in person meetings. Cllr Marshall advised that NAC did not expect to meet in person until towards the end of the year.</p>
9	<p><b>Social Media</b> – Cllr Smith has emailed Emma Cooper as per the action point but no response as yet. Cllr Smith asked if any basic training could be provided for her by NAC. Denise stated that this could be investigated but she is keen to get a young person to join the Community Council through the youth forum. Denise will try to encourage this now that the schools have returned.</p> <p><b>Action point – Cllr Smith and Denise Fraser to work together to resolve the social media issue</b></p> <p>Cllr Stevenson will forward an email he has received from Life Changes Trust which gives ideas and guidance on social media to Cllr Smith and Denise Fraser.</p>
10	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Admin Account - £279.62. When the accounts are finalised, NAC will make up the account to £620.</p> <p>Project Fund - £633.10 and the Dementia group has £955.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Adair</p>
11	<p><b>Dementia Friendly Largs and District report</b></p> <p>See attached report</p>  <p>Dementia Friendly Largs and District19.6</p> <p>Cllr Stevenson advised that the 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter had been produced and will be taken to the community event at Barrfields on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. It highlights all the ongoing work taking place. It is the intention to raise awareness of protocols and assistance which is already in existence. We now have banners displaying Dementia Friendly Largs and District, all produced by Largs printers. Bank account is still progressing.</p>
12	<p><b>Electric Vehicle Charging Points up date</b></p> <p>See attached report</p>  <p>EV charges points19.08.docx</p> <p>Further discussion took place about the siting of the electric charging points at the sea front car park and the national policy on changing to electric charged cars. NAC are awaiting a decision on a grant offer from Transport Scotland and Cllr Stevenson will update us when this happens.</p>
13	<p><b>Sub Committee Reports</b></p> <p>a. Environment</p>  <p>Environment19.08.docx</p> <p>No further response received from Mr Stakis about the replacement of the Gogo bridge. Cllr Dippie stated that grant funding is awaited from Scottish Forestry. He suggested waiting until the meeting on 31/08/21 and then set deadlines. Cllr Stevenson suggested a letter be sent by the Community Council to Mr Stakis on</p>

	<p>behalf of the community about the situation. Cllr Murdoch intends writing to him also. Cllr Dippie stated that it is now time for NAC to become involved. A vote was taken and it was agreed that the Community Council should send a letter to Mr Stakis about the lack of action to replace the bridge.</p> <p><b>Action point – Cllrs Stevenson and Dippie to write an appropriate letter to Mr Stakis.</b></p> <p>XLCC presentation – Community Councillors and elected Councillors attended this. Agreed that it was a very comprehensive presentation. The project is expected to provide 900 jobs. The company although recently established has considerable financial backing which is from America. The project still requires to go through the planning process.</p> <p>Cllr Adair stated that bin bags are being left around the cenotaph area. He has received complaints about raw sewerage coming out at the water’s edge, people leaving soiled nappies under cars parked at Sandringham and children doing the toilet in the Sandringham area rather than going to the public toilets. Cllr Murdoch advised that domestic bin bags are being left in numerous places in town and agreed it should not be happening and has to stop. Cllr Adair also queried if raising the charges for going to Millport had been discussed. The ferry users group have asked Transport Scotland to attend their meeting to discuss all the issues around the ferries. Cllr Marshall advised that he considered the problems with the ferry traffic would not be resolved until the Scottish Government provide larger ferries.</p> <p>Donation to Friends of Clyde Muirshiel Park - £100 agreed. Proposed by Cllr Cochrane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Adair</p> <p>Beach clean on 11/09/21 from 10am to 12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>b) Hunterston</b> – no update</li> <li>• <b>c) Licensing</b> – no update</li> <li>• <b>d) Planning</b> – Cllr Murdoch advised that the application for Irvine Road flats will go to planning at the beginning of September. Change of use application for premises at the corner of Boyd St/Nelson St to a restaurant / hot food take away</li> <li>• <b>e) Transportation</b> – nothing to report</li> </ul>
14	<p><b>A.O.C.B. –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Cochrane has received a complaint about the problem of weeds in the streets and NAC. There is an ongoing programme for this but the problem has been caused by the late spraying of the weeds as staff had been redeployed to other duties. This meant the weeds were very big when they were sprayed and when they die back big weeds are left. Perhaps residents could now remove the dead weeds themselves from outside their properties.</li> <li>• Cllr Stevenson raised the subject of the Community Garden as he wished this to be a separate agenda item as it tends to be missed and it is a key item. The future funding of it also needs to be discussed. Cllr Stevenson proposed, Cllr Adair 2<sup>nd</sup>. Agreed</li> <li>• Cllr Phillips thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</li> </ul>
15	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting – 16 September 2021</b></p> <p><b>Action point – All Cllrs to send in their reports prior to the meeting and no later than 13 September 2021</b></p>