




Largs Community Council
Approved Minutes
Thursday, 21 July 2022, 7pm

Present: Cllr Phillips (Chair), Cllr Smith (Secretary), Cllr Wood (Treasurer), Cllr Adair, Cllr Black, Cllr Knowles, Cllr J Perman, Cllr P Perman, Cllr Stevenson, Cllr Thomson, Cllr Hill, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Murdoch, Louise Riddex, North Ayrshire Council, Calum Corral (Largs & Millport Weekly News)

Apologies: Cllr Ferguson, Denise Fraser, PS Mark Semple

Item	Business
1	<p>Welcome –Chair welcomed all members to our new venue, the Community Hub in the sheltered housing complex. He advised of the recording of the meeting for minute purposes only.</p> <p>Cllr Phillips announced that Cllr Ian Dippie had resigned and stated that this was a sad loss to Largs Community Council. This leaves a vacancy for Environment.</p>
2	<p>Apologies – As noted above.</p>
3	<p>Police Report See attached report for stats and summary</p> <p></p> <p>July 2022 Largs CC - Police Report(1).docx</p> <p>Cllrs Wood and Adair had a meeting with PS Semple last week to discuss issues. There have been 2 serious assaults which have been passed to CID and 3 drugs arrests. The people who own the dog involved in the recent attack have been charged. No vet was able to attend the injured dog as it was out of hours.</p> <p>Action point – Cllrs Wood and Adair will speak to the vets about out of hours coverage.</p> <p>PS Semple has had discussions with Largs Thistle and has managed to get the football park opened for the youngsters to play football without any supervision as long as they don't cause any problems.</p> <p>Cllr Wood stated that there needs to be activities in the town for teenagers as there is nothing for them.</p>
5	<p>Minutes of Meeting of 16 June 2022 Approved – Cllr Wood, 2nd – Cllr Adair</p>
6	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points</p> <p>Cllr Black asked Cllr Murdoch if there was a written survey on the trees in Brisbane Glen. NAC carried out a visual survey only so there is no written report. Cllr Black requested Cllr Murdoch send him the response he received.</p> <p>Cllr Smith asked if Largs CC intended taking the question of a Community Centre any further as no decision had been made either way at the last meeting when the elected Councillors were asked for their views and whether or not they would support the project. Cllr Thomson suggested that St John's Church would be ideal for a community hub. Currently Largs has no Citizens Advice, no tourist information, no money matters nor benefit advice. A food larder could be opened up instead of the Foodbank. The main points of the discussion around a Community Hub were as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new group would require to be formed which is an amalgamation of all the groups in Largs as it would be beyond the remit of LCC.• A business case would require to be drawn up and funding applied for• Contact St John's Church to find out their plans when the church closes at the end of 2023 and if they would be willing for it to become a Community Centre• Cost of maintenance of the church• Consider Dunn Memorial Hall only

- Vikingar – contact KA Leisure to find out about their usage as this could be a possibility
- Cllr Murdoch stated that the Men’s Shed would not be interested in taking part in this at this time
- 1st step to approach the church with a plan and get an agreement in place that they would not dispose of it without giving us first option assuming we can get funding in place. This would give us a year to apply for funding.
- Reach out to the other groups in town to find out what the unmet need currently is and will be when the 2 churches and their halls close. Would it be possible to sustain a building of that size and cost of running it
- It would not be appropriate at this point to publish anything about the discussions in the press before any contact is made with the church
- The loss of the halls as a result of the churches closing will be something the Locality Partnership will have to consider so it would be useful to find out what the unmet need for groups to meet will be

Action point – Cllr Hill to contact the churches for information about the current usage of the halls by different groups and hopefully get a response before the next meeting

Action Point – Cllr Thomson to contact the Session Clerk of St John’s Church about the future plans for the church when it closes

Access to GPs – Cllr Murdoch has been in touch with the GP surgery but is not able to provide an update at present. He hopes to have an update by the next meeting. Although it was agreed that e- consult is very good, it is the telephone service which is the problem. Cllr Black did not feel that continuing to await a response from the GP Practice was satisfactory and wished LCC to write to the GP Practice to complement the action already being taken by Cllr Murdoch. Following a vote on the question of LCC writing a letter, all were in agreement that this should be done.


Action point – Cllr Murdoch to update on his communication with the GP surgery at the next LCC meeting.

Action point – LCC to write to Largs GP Practice to express our concerns about the telephone service provided and to back up the action being taken by Cllr Murdoch


NAC Planning – Cllr J Perman clarified the position regarding commenting on planning applications ie all comments are accepted whether in support, opposition or neutral and are read and assessed as part of the planning application. The online system requires one of the 3 options to be selected. Cllr Black referred to the planning webinar at which it was stated that other material factors may also be considered. Cllr J Perman confirmed that the Marks & Spencer application has been referred back to the Roads Department to sort out the road access. Cllr Marshall advised that Pearsons are vacating the site on 15/08/22 and M & S are taking over on 1/09/22.

Contact details – agreed that the secretary would hold all personal details of Community Councillors and forward them if requested. Everyone has email addresses for contact.

7 Access to Food and Grant Funding –




LCC Access to
Food24.06.docx



LCC Access to
Food12.07.docx

We now have Tasha from the Church of the Nazarene in our group. We were able to support the Family Fun Day at the Pencil and distribute food to over 100 children. Thanks to Morrisons for donating food for this event. Food is being distributed to school children who normally receive free school meals at Largs Academy. Community Centres are being used across North Ayrshire to hand out the meals. The uptake in Largs has been very poor. Location seems to be the issue. Where activities are in place as well as the lunches, uptake has been better. In addition families who get free school meals also get £10 per week plus £100 at the start of the summer for each child. KA Leisure staff are at the Vikingar each day for free swimming for children and would be prepared to hand out the lunches if they could be delivered there. Louise Riddex gave an update on the NAC position. Vikingar had initially been considered for the distribution of the meals but due to some considerations, Largs Academy was deemed the most appropriate place for this to happen. Louise pointed out that all children have free bus passes for travel. Further consideration will

	<p>be carried out for the October holidays. There is no community space in Largs for activities to take place as is happening elsewhere. Tasha is keen to make up food and take it to Vikingar for distribution. Perhaps a pilot for a week could be done to test the uptake. Concerns were raised about duplication of food distribution and the need to target the needy children. Louise asked to be invited to future Access to Food group meetings. It was confirmed that a grant of £3000 had been given by Stakis and further funding from the Co-op has been applied for. Cllr Murdoch asked when LCC approved the application for the funding. CCllr Stevenson confirmed that the initial application was on 19th May when it was put to LCC and the Access to Food group was set up with the unanimous approval of LCC. The application to the Co-op was made within the next week but the grant would not be decided until October and paid out in November. This was communicated to LCC members. CCllr Stevenson asked Mr Stakis at a subsequent meeting if he would consider some funding which he agreed to do. CCllr Dippie questioned if there was a conflict of interest which was clarified with NAC who confirmed that this was what the CC should be doing. This was communicated to members. Without this funding LCC would not have been able to do any of the good work which has been carried out in the community. All Community Councillors were kept up to date with all of this as it took place. CCllr Dippie's resignation and the reasons for it were raised by Cllr Murdoch and fully discussed. CCllr Stevenson has spoken to Ian Dippie personally regarding the contents of his email. The need for transparency by LCC was emphasised. CCllr Black referred to an email he had sent to all members detailing his opinion on the issues raised by Ian Dippie and stated that if there is any question of impropriety being suggested, this needs to be addressed now or a line drawn under the matter. Cllr Murdoch stated that Ian Dippie was unhappy that he had not received a reply from his email and he was raising this on behalf of Ian. There was confusion as a number of emails had been sent and it was not really clear what had happened regarding this specific email. Cllr Hill advised that it was important to abide by protocols and stressed the need in the future to ensure that if LCC gives a devolved group power to take a project forward, the minutes should reflect this.</p>
8	<p>Litter and Flytipping Campaign –</p>  <p>Litter campaign 21.07.docx</p> <p>CCllr Stevenson circulated an example of the new posters which everyone thought were excellent. NAC will continue with the Largs Green and Clean posters and attach to bins etc around the town. Helen Miller hopes this will happen early August. The posters designed by LCC are for the businesses in town and larger versions could be in other places in town eg notice boards, the Community Garden, local schools and gardens. If we wanted to put posters on furniture we would need permission from Environmental services. CCllr Stevenson asked the elected Councillors if LCC made an application to the Common Good Fund to enhance what NAC are doing with the litter campaign, would they support it. Louise advised that LCC are entitled to make an application to the Common Good Fund through the Locality Partnership. The next meeting is in September. Louise agreed to look into other grants which may be applicable. She also suggested that LCC could work with the Youth Forum in making an application. Participatory Budget is also another avenue to consider. CCllr Black asked if Louise could give a short session on the subject of grants to LCC.</p> <p>Action point – Louise Riddex to advise of any grants which may be applicable and give a session on grants and the themes for the Participatory Budget to LCC.</p> <p>CCllr Stevenson advised that the cost of 100 new posters is £230. He will contact Melanie Anderson, NAC to check if this could be paid from the Admin Account which requires to be done by end of August.</p> <p>Action point – CCllr Stevenson to check if the Admin Account can be used for the payment of posters</p> <p>The next meeting of the Locality Partnership is in September and Louise will ask that the invitation be sent to LCC email address.</p>
9	<p>Car Park/Common Good Fund – To be carried forward to next meeting. Cllr Marshall suggested that before the next meeting, CCllrs should read the standing orders for the Locality Partnerships which states who can spend the money from the Car Park Fund. The Common Good Fund can only be spent by the trustees who are the 33 NAC Councillors but they usually defer to the 5 local Councillors.</p>

10	<p>Secretary's report and Social Media – All agreed that there was no longer a need to continue with Zoom membership as we are meeting in person. Membership to be cancelled. All agreed to continue to meet in the Community Hub. We would require a number of key holders for which there is training and a PVG would be required. Denise Fraser may also be willing to be a key holder.</p> <p>Following the meeting, Graham Hunter advised that it is now the intention to employ a caretaker to open and lock up the Community Hub so CCLRs are not required to be key holders.</p> <p>CCLr Thomson will take over Largs CC Facebook page.</p>
11	<p>Treasurer's Report – Admin account - £230.06 Project account - £3,335.87 which includes the grant of £3000 from Stakis for the Access to Food project Proposed – CCLr Thomson, 2nd – CCLr P Perman CCLr Smith advised that we would be requesting a refund of Zoom payments and hall lets which would increase the amount held in the Admin account.</p>
12	<p>Sub Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment - out of town – see attached report for detailed information <div style="text-align: center;">  Environment reportJuly.docx </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCLr Black commented on the difficulty accessing the sea wall consultation document and the consultation exercise. • Community Garden – Keith from the Guest House next door donated £50 for the purchase of plants which CCLr Stevenson has done. Agreed the Jubilee display would remain in place until Hallowe'en display • Hunterston – no update • Licensing – No update • Planning – No update • Transportation – no update
13	<p>North Ayrshire Report – no update as Councillors are in recess</p>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.O.C.B. – Cllr Murdoch opposes any plans to pedestrianise Tron Place as on previous occasions the footfall more than halves and affects the businesses. Stopping vehicles entering Tron Place will have a detrimental effect on businesses. CCLr Smith queried this statement as it appears that the same cars are parked in Tron Place most of the day. Cllr Murdoch maintained there is a high turnover of cars in Tron Place. • Cllr Murdoch continues to raise the ongoing problems with the operation of the car park payment system. • CCLr Thomson asked Cllr Murdoch if he had any update on the Heritage Trail. He advised he would get an update for the next meeting. <p>CCLr Phillips thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>
15	<p>Date of Next Meeting –18 August 2022 at the Community Hub.</p> <p>Action point – All CCLRs to send in their reports prior to the meeting and no later than 15 August 2022</p>