




Largs Community Council
 Approved Minutes
 Thursday, 20 October 2022, 7pm

Present: Cllr Phillips,(Chair), Cllr Smith (Secretary), Cllr Wood (Treasurer), Cllr Adair, Cllr Black, Cllr J Perman, Cllr Stevenson, Cllr LowThomson, Cllr Murdoch, Ewan Grant, North Ayrshire Council, PS Mark Semple, Calum Corral (Largs & Millport Weekly News)

Apologies: Cllr P Perman, Cllr Knowles, Cllr Ferguson, Cllr Hill, Cllr Marshall, Louise Riddex

Item	Business
1	<p>Welcome –Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and also Ewan Grant in his new role. He advised of the recording of the meeting for minute purposes only. He requested that everyone should vacate the building as quickly and quietly as possible when the meeting is finished and not congregate in the car park. He also reminded everyone present of the Code of Conduct and Respect policy.</p>
2	<p>Apologies – As noted above.</p>
3	<p>Police Report See attached report for stats and summary</p>  <p>October 2022 Largs CC - Police Report(3).</p> <p>PS Semple commented on the speeding both in and out of Largs and that increased action would be taken in this area. There were a couple of incidents in Greenock Road where speeding notices had been issued. The team have been focussing on drugs and other issues in the town. Cllr Wood asked if it could be made known that anyone phoning 101 should not be concerned about anything coming back to them. PS Semple advised that there were other ways to contact the police other than just 101 and his message is to approach local officers, speak to Community Councillors or approach the police at Brooksby. When questioned about the number of drug offences, PS Semple stated that this was down to police action. The drugs have always been there but they are more aware of where it is taking place. He is not concerned that there is a major drugs problem in Largs. Cllr Black commented on the smell of cannabis coming out of cars on Brisbane Glen Road. Cllr Thomson asked about Neighbourhood Watch schemes. PS Semple advised that they were still encouraged.</p>
4	<p>Minutes of Meeting of 15 September 2022 Approved – Cllr Adair, 2nd – Cllr Stevenson</p>
5	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hill has passed the action point to contact the churches for information about the current usage of their halls by different groups to Louise Riddex to action. Cllr Smith has emailed Louise to ask her to follow up this request. Action point to remain outstanding <p>Action point – Louise Riddex to contact the churches for information about the current usage of the halls by different groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Smith referred to the action point for Louise Riddex on the subject of grants. Cllr Stevenson advised that he receives regular emails from Rosemary detailing the grants available and he can pass these on. This was agreed. We will look at the grants available and then decide if we should arrange a session with Louise. <p>Action point – Cllr Stevenson to forward emails about grants available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Thomson advised that name badges would cost £6. She will also check out the other shop in town for badges. <p>Action point- Cllr Thomson to investigate the cost of badges from the other shop.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CClr Adair has spoken to Stagecoach about the Sunday bus service as the last bus is at 3.10pm from Largs. Before the pandemic the buses ran later. He was advised that there is no demand for the service on a Sunday. Calum Corral considers that the bus service in general is pretty good but there is a problem on a Sunday. He gave a number of examples where the bus would have been useful both for leisure and work related had it been running. It is not always possible to get the train depending on where people live. Perhaps a different timetable could be used in the summer from the winter. CClr Adair was advised that LCC would need to contact Scottish Passenger Transport to see if they would put on a free bus. <p>Action point – Secretary to write to SPT to ask about bus service on Sundays.</p>
6	<p>Park and Ride – CClr Black noted that the question of Park and Ride had been in both April and May’s LCC minutes. He was therefore surprised to see an article about it in the local paper advising that there was a Council report with costs and it had already been agreed not to proceed. He wished to know more about the Active Transport Briefing Paper and why none of the elected members had mentioned that the study had been undertaken. He has been unable to source this paper. CClr J Perman also wished to know more about where at Cathcart Road and May Street this was supposed to happen as it would be more ‘Park and walk’. Cllr Murdoch gave the background to the proposed Park and Ride as far as he was aware ie a single carriage train running to and from Largs Yachthaven to Largs station. He considered that Park and Ride on the road would not work due to the volume of traffic. Another option was to run a novelty train on the prom but there were a number of obstacles to this. He had the idea of using the grass area beside the tennis courts or the bottom of May Street for parking with a charge. It would then be Park and Walk. Various options were considered but the costs became astronomical, hence the decision not to proceed. CClr Black expressed his concern about when decisions such as these are taken, LCC was not consulted and was unable to get access to the report and why the decisions are taken confidentially. Cllr Murdoch disagreed with this and suggested LCC take the matter up with NAC Legal Department. CClr Black made the point that the elected Councillors were not able to use LCC support as matters are not shared with them. Various views were shared about the way the elected Councillors appeared to work at which point the Chair brought the meeting to order. The Chair expressed his respect for Cllr Murdoch for being the only Councillor at the meeting and having to answer our questions. It is not the first time this has been the case and there is nothing personal in the questioning but there are matters to which we would like answers from the elected Councillors.</p>
7	<p>Growing spaces/allotments – Future use of Douglas Park Tennis Courts</p> <p>There are 3 interested parties to the future use of Douglas Park – the tennis group, Largs Growers and Laura Crumlish for the dogs. To progress the issue CClr Black proposed that ‘the Community Council setup a public meeting to hear from the parties interested in using the Douglas Park. This includes Largs Tennis Club, Wendy for Largs Growers and Laura Crumlish for the Dog Park. This meeting will hear all proposals, ask questions and then vote on motions on which options to support.</p> <p>The output will be a formal view from the LCC which will be presented to NAC Councillors as the view of the Community on how to take forward DP proposals.’</p> <p>CClir Black hopes that will allow the issue to come to a head and a final decision be made.</p> <p>Motion seconded by CClr Wood. A vote was taken and all were in favour of holding the meeting. CClr Thomson did not vote due to her having a vested interest.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the meeting of the interested parties in the library and the circumstances at the end of the meeting. CClr Black and Cllr Murdoch expressed different views about what had actually happened. CClr Black gave his account of the circumstances of the meeting and maintained that if decisions are being made about Common Good land local groups should be consulted including LCC and LP. LCC had an interest under the Community Empowerment Act, Part 8, Section 104. At the end of the meeting CClr Black was advised that he could not stay to hear the Councillors discussion with Rhona Arthur. CClr Black stated his case as to why he should be part of the meeting as he was acting on behalf of the Community Council but subsequently left the meeting which then took place. Cllr Murdoch stated that this was not what he had been told happened. At this point the Chair ended the debate to move on with the agenda.</p> <p>CClir Stevenson referred to the proposals from the tennis club and the timeline for NAC accepting the funding from the Lawn Association. Their proposals were for 7 and a community hub. He questioned</p>

	<p>whether a decision would be made before a public meeting could be held. Cllr Murdoch stated that he supported a shared space between the tennis club and the community garden, with one getting 4 and the other 3. There was no question of the tennis club getting 7. Cllr Stevenson referred to the paper from the tennis club which was dated March 2022 but had only just come to light. He questioned if there was a timeline for the funding from the Lawn Association. Cllr Murdoch did not know but agreed to find out. Cllr Thomson has received dates when Rhona Arthur is available for a meeting. Cllr Stevenson suggested we contact Rhona Arthur to advise the plan for a public meeting and ask that no decision is made until this takes place.</p> <p>Action point – Secretary to email Rhona Arthur to ask her to hold off making a decision until the public meeting is held.</p> <p>Cllr Thomson had planned a small meeting about the allotments at Age Concern but agreed that this needs to be a public meeting.</p>
8	<p>Car park/Common Good fund - Cllr Black advised that the Community Council had held a special meeting on 18/10/22 to discuss the information provided under the Freedom of Information request and it was agreed to make a request to the Land Commission Scotland for training and education for various interested parties on Common Good and how it should be managed. There are ongoing queries relating to the questions about the Car park/ Common Good Fund.</p> <p>Carried forward to next meeting.</p>
9	<p>North Ayrshire Council Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfacing of a number of roads is now taking place but Cllr Murdoch is very concerned about the future roads budget next year • The footpath in the main street has now been resurfaced but Cllr Murdoch is not satisfied with the standard of work and is negotiating to see if anything can be done about it • Closure of A760 for 3 weeks – Cllr Murdoch is hoping it will not take the full 3 weeks. He has managed to arrange access for funeral corteges heading to the Crematorium. They will have to follow the restrictions for their return journey. • Car park barrier remains a problem • Perennial planting is continuing • Passing places in the glen has been raised by Cllr Murdoch. Cllr Black stated that some work has already been undertaken to improve the position which has helped. Cllr Murdoch stated that it is being looked at in the 2023/24 budget. • Bus service to the vaccination centre – Cllr Murdoch does not think this will be made available this time as it is not a mass vaccination centre as before <p>Cllr Phillips commented on the improved state of Holehouse Road since its resurfacing.</p>
10	<p>Access to Food and Grant Funding – Cllr Stevenson advised that the Co-op grant application had been unsuccessful as there had been 9000 bids and he would now look at other possibilities. We still have most of the £3000 grant to spend. We have paid £430 to Largs Naz church for cooking equipment, Morrisons donated £150 voucher for food, 1st cookschool took place last Saturday and it was a great success. LCC are sponsoring 6 of the 12 cookschools. A further meeting of the group will be organised soon. The delivery of the school meals to the Vikingar will not be happening in the October holidays. There seemed to be some question about whether any events were taking place during the school holidays when meals could be handed out. Cllr Smith stated that free swimming was taking place at the Vikingar during the holidays. Vouchers for food are being given during school holidays.</p>
11	<p>Litter and Flytipping Campaign – Cllr Stevenson and Cllr P Perman met with the Beach Clean organisation but have decided not to join forces with them due to different regulations being in place eg liability insurance etc but they will share experiences with them. The school will do a litter pick in and around the school which will be supported by Streetscene. They will work in small groups and record the items of litter and where it is coming from. They can then discuss with the businesses. The Youth Forum has applied for £1000 grant to be used to purchase the emoji litter badges for every school pupil. Nardini have agreed to the stamp and card discount for school children wearing the badges and it is hoped other businesses will also join this. The school is now displaying 2 large litter signs and these have been photographed with 4 of</p>

	<p>the Youth Forum for the local paper. A further meeting of the group will be arranged soon. Cllr Thomson drew Cllr Murdoch's attention to flytipping of furniture taking place at Linn Avenue. He agreed to action this. Cllr Smith referred to the improvement at Sharps pub now that the 7 bins are no longer being kept outside. This was as a result of Cllr Stevenson's intervention with Thomas Reaney. However there remains an issue at the Chinese takeaway next door as they have 3 bins outside and as the width of pavement is the same as Sharps the same problem exists regarding blocking the pavement. It was suggested that this should also be reported. Cllr Smith also referred to the large hole at the inside of the pavement at Sharps which has not been covered and is dangerous. Cllr Murdoch agreed to action this.</p>
12	<p>Secretary's report and Social Media – the AGM will take place at November's meeting. Secretary drew LCC's attention to the consultation request regarding a Forestry Grant application at Constablewood Estate with a closing date of 7/11/22.</p>
13	<p>Treasurer's Report – Project account - £2905 having paid out £430 from the grant of £3000 Admin account - £36.19 – still waiting for the grant for this year from NAC Proposed – Cllr Adair, 2nd – Cllr Stevenson Cllr Smith confirmed that NAC will pay £120 for the hall hire of Largs Naz Church into LCC account and we can pay the church.</p>
14	<p>Sub Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment - no update. • Community Garden – The witch is in place at the Community Garden and the remaining lights and decorations will be put up for Hallowe'en. Following this the garden will need a tidy up for winter. Cllr Stevenson is looking for volunteers to do this on 5/11/22. He will take care of the hanging baskets and begonias for next year. Cllr Thomson suggested a poppy display for Remembrance. Cllr Stevenson agreed to ask his wife if she could make a poppy for the garden. • Hunterston – Cllr Black advised that the next stakeholder meeting was on 1/12/22. He has submitted a response from LCC to the EDF consultation on decommissioning around landscaping. Site visit to Hunterston A arranged for 23/11/22 which Cllr Black will attend if possible. Minutes will be forwarded when received. • Licensing –No update • Planning – No update. Cllr Black advised that XLCC have submitted their planning application. The dog creche has gone to appeal. Cllr Stevenson referred to the proposals for the B& B on Irvine Road which could have potential for 27 people in it. The plans have 5 parking spaces but this does not seem possible as it has only room for 3 or 4. The planning meeting is being held next week. Cllr J Perman will check if further comments can be made regarding the parking issue. • Transportation – no update
15	<p>A.O.C.B. –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Stevenson advised Cllr Murdoch that there had not been a meeting of Hawkshill/ Blairpark since the opening of the bridge but the footpath link from the bus stop has not progressed. Cllr Murdoch is having discussions with Mr Stakis about the lack of path. Cllr Stevenson will speak to the Access group about this. • Cllr Murdoch referred to comments made this evening in particular about Councillors and suggested that LCC need to look at their own protocols. He was very critical of LCC's processes on a variety of subjects. A heated discussion took place but LCC maintained that they wanted to work with elected Councillors for the benefit of the community. The Chair again intervened to move on with the agenda. • Calum Corral raised the subject of the recent shop closures in town and asked if LCC could look at an initiative to support local businesses. Cllr Wood considered that the rent and rates is a major problem. Cllr J Perman advised that single fronted shops do not pay any rates but the rents are a problem. Cllr Murdoch did not consider that it was as bad as people have portrayed as other towns hardly have a shop left. He is confident the shops will reopen next season. There is a question as to whether local people support the local shops. Cllr Thomson considered that there needs to be tourist attractions which bring people to the town and also the profile of the town needs to be

	<p>increased. West Kilbride appears to have the right approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCLlr Phillips advised that he is still considering the next steps regarding Largs Medical Group and it remains an ongoing issue. <p>CCLlr Phillips thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>
16	<p>Date of Next Meeting –17 November 2022 at the Community Hub.</p> <p>Action point – All CCLlrs to send in their reports prior to the meeting and no later than 14 November 2022</p>

Post meeting addendum

CCLlr Stevenson has withdrawn his support for a Public Meeting in favour of CCLlr Thomson, representing Largs Growers, to actively engage with Largs Tennis Club to seek agreement of allocation of land between the Key Interested parties with the aim of creating a Community Hub