




Largs Community Council
 Approved Minutes of Ordinary meeting
 Thursday, 16 February 2023 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Stevenson,(Chair), Cllr Smith (Secretary), Cllr Adair, Cllr Black, Cllr J Perman, Cllr P Perman, Cllr Low Thomson, Cllr Marshall, PS Mark Semple, Louise Riddex, North Ayrshire Council, , Calum Corral (Largs & Millport Weekly News), Ian Leicester and Sue Cox, Bakkafrost Scotland, 4 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Phillips, Cllr Knowles, Cllr Wood, Cllr Ferguson, Cllr Hill, Cllr Murdoch

Item	Business
1	Welcome –Chair advised that he was standing in as Chair of the meeting in the absence of Cllr Phillips and welcomed all members, Cllr Marshall and 4 members of the public to the meeting. Chair introduced Ian Leicester and Sue Cox from Bakkafrost Scotland.
2	Apologies – As noted above.
3	Bakkafrost Scotland – An informative presentation was given by Ian Leicester of Bakkafrost Scotland about the proposed application for a Recirculating Aquaculture System at Hunterston PARC. This is a 5 year strategy. RAS technology is a self-contained, indoor, land-based aquaculture system which allows salmon to be reared for longer in freshwater tanks before being moved to marine sites. Greater control of the freshwater rearing environment means that farmers can produce larger juvenile salmon (called smolt) which in turn reduces the biological risk of rearing in the marine environment. The new facility is expected to create around 30 local skilled jobs. There will be 2 public exhibitions – on 1 st March in Fairlie and 30 th March in West Kilbride plus an online exhibition.
4	Police Report See attached report for stats and summary  February 2023 Largs CC - Police Report(1) PS Semple stated that the police continue to work on drug deterrents and road policing ie speeding etc. He welcomes any concerns from the community to help him direct his resources appropriately. In anticipation of the busy summer time for the community he welcomes anything the community wishes him to look at. Illegal parking continues to cause concern and the police deal with these incidents in the most appropriate manner. Cllr Marshall advised that it had been decided at Council meeting to have decriminalisation of parking but without car park charges. There will be traffic wardens employed in the town who will issue penalty notices. A further discussion took place about taking care with key cards for cars. Cllr Low Thomson stated that people should be aware that they can buy a wallet for the key which prevents the key being read. Cllr Black asked if there was a problem in a certain area in Largs around drugs. The police are continuing to review the drug scene in Largs and acting on information. Traffic offences continue to be monitored. Cllr P Perman expressed her concern about buses parking on the weak bridge at May Street. Advised to contact bus company in the 1 st instance.
5	Minutes of Meeting of 19 January 2023 Approved – Cllr P Perman, 2 nd – Cllr Black
6	Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points Action Point about the Local Gift Card ongoing – Cllr Stevenson Suggested priorities for this year to be taken forward

- Cinema – Cllr P Perman stated that a showing of Matilda was taking place at the school and she is making enquiries if the school could be used for screening films perhaps twice a month. Barrfields is a possibility on a Friday night. Cllr P Perman has also contacted the mobile cinema which goes over to Millport to see if Largs could be included with Millport.

Action point – Cllr P Perman to pursue viability of mobile cinema

- Land train – Cllr Black is progressing with Louise

Action point – Louise to follow up the land train

- Rickshaw – agreement now in place with K A Leisure to store in a shed beside Vikingar and then volunteers will be sought to cycle it.
- Bowling alley – probably not a viable option
- Climbing centre – combine with soft play and trampoline area – this would be a big attraction for Largs if investment could be found – identified a need to engage with companies who might be interested. Availability of churches needs to be promoted. – to be kept on agenda.
- Display cases in St Columba’s Church are on offer for any organisation interested.
- Yuletide – Members were previously unaware that Largs Events had run a shop window competition pre Covid. LCC had suggested collaboration with Largs Events to assist with this and any other events in the planning. Cllr Knowles has discussed LCC’s offer with Largs Events and advised that LE considered that collaboration between the groups was unlikely to be practical for a number of reasons and also that there may well be conflicts between LE’s Constitution and LCC’s. LCC considered that this was a disappointing response as LCC was offering additional support for the events for the local community.
- Community Garden – Cllr Stevenson suggested that, following the interest shown in the Christmas display at the Community Garden with families taking photos beside the Christmas tree, a competition could be run by LCC this Christmas for families to dress up and get their photo taken beside the tree. The photos could then be posted on FB, voted on and a prize awarded. All agreed to this. A summer display was also suggested.

Action Point – Christmas competition to be organised at Community Garden

- **Community Council/Dementia Friendly Largs and District/Alzheimer’s Scotland Memory Walk**
Possibly taking place on Sunday 18 September and the Vikingar café afterwards.
Cllr Black volunteered to cycle the rickshaw. Possibility of Resilience Team’s involvement. LCC’s involvement agreed.
- Cllr Black has emailed Midland Pullman Luxury Services and also another rail company to consider Largs as a destination – **continuing action**
- As agreed, £800 has been paid to Largs Naz Church to maintain and expand the Cookschool, Thursday Common Ground and Souper Awesome Storytime to the end of March.
- **Action point O/S** -Town twinning – Reverend David Watson to be contacted for more information
- **GP Surgery** - Cllrs Phillips and Smith to re-engage with GP’s surgery – **Action point ongoing**
- **Ongoing absence of elected Councillors at LCC meetings** – no meeting has taken place with the elected Councillors to discuss the situation but there have been a number of emails exchanged. There was a full discussion among the members about the way forward with various suggestions being made. Invitations to LCC meetings have continued to be issued and Cllr Marshall has chosen to attend this meeting. He maintained that he was not party to the letter sent to LCC although his name was on it. He considered that any invitation to a meeting with LCC should be sent to the 5 elected Councillors. Various options were discussed to move the situation forward and it was decided that the Secretary should send an email to all members asking them to vote on 2 options – Option A - elected Councillors continue to be invited to LCC meetings and leave it up to them to decide if they wish to attend or Option B - arrange a meeting with 3 Community Councillors and 5 elected Councillors.

Action point – Cllr Smith to send email to all members asking for their vote – either Option A or B

7	Grant Funding – Access to food and Litter Campaign –
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	<p>2 applications were made to the Participatory Budget for a) In town Environment which was for £300 for plants and seasonal displays including a Christmas tree for the community garden and £700 for Phase 2 of the Litter Campaign which is for large signs for display in town. b) £900 for Saturday Cookschools, Thursday Common ground and Souper Awesome Storytime to continue until the end of March.</p> <p>The North Coast Youth Forum has also applied for a grant for badges with the litter emoji for all Largs Academy school children.</p> <p>Largs Naz Church also submitted an application for their slow cooker programme.</p> <p>It is hoped that these grants will be successful.</p> <p>Cllr Stevenson and Smith were on the judging panel but not judging LCC applications.</p>
8	<p>Community garden – Coronation display</p> <p>Suggestion was made to hold something similar at the Community Garden for the Coronation as we did for the Queen’s Jubilee although not on the same scale. Agreed we should have a display at the Community Garden to make the occasion and where the public could have their photographs taken. Cllr Stevenson will ask his wife if she would be prepared to create a display for this. Agreed to form a committee to take this forward – Cllrs Stevenson, Smith, Black, Adair and P Perman volunteered</p> <p>Action point – To arrange a Coronation display and decide on celebration - committee</p>
9	<p>Secretary’s report and Social Media –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder about North Ayrshire Funding Fayre on 3 March 2023 at Saltcoats Town hall
10	<p>Treasurer’s Report – Admin account - £568.51 . Project account - £1905.87, balance of Access to Food grant is £1595 leaving £310.87 as LCC funds. Larder account balance is £6000.</p>
11	<p>Sub Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment – Cllr Black stated that he had received an email about a Draft Energy Transition Strategy. There will be no further nuclear developments in Scotland, Hunterston will wind down and there is a huge target for onshore wind. He considers that we will receive a lot more windfarm applications in this area. He will send on this email to members. • Community Garden – reminder about setting up for Easter on 1 April • Hunterston - next Stakeholder group meeting is at the beginning of March . Hunterston Parc Liaison has not been sending any communications to Cllr Black. • Licensing – no update. • Planning – No update. Cllr J Perman referred to an article in the local paper about XLCC and variations of conditions – floor levels • Transportation – no update.
12	<p>North Ayrshire Council Report – NAC will set the budget for this year on 1st March. There is a shortfall of 14million pounds and Council Tax is likely to increase by 5%. NAC awarded the tender for the renovation of the seafront car park toilets costing £300,000. This has increased considerably since the last tender due to increased price of materials. Cllr Black asked if the refinancing of Largs Academy has been agreed. Cllr Marshall stated that all of Scotland has been allowed to extend repayment for the schools from 25 to 50 years. The elected Councillors will be doing a walk along the seafront to consider the issues requiring attention. If we have any issues to raise we can email Councillors. Cllr Stevenson enquired if anything had happened with the EV charging points in the seafront car park. Cllr Marshall will check any progress.</p>
12	<p>A.O.C.B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Low Thomson attended the Community and Locality Planning Conference which was an opportunity to get an overall view of other communities in North Ayrshire and their activities which highlighted how Largs seems to be missing out and does not have the resources other towns have. Although there are many valuable volunteers, she considered that the lack of a physical place ie a community centre to hold events etc was a real problem. Cllr Black suggested that North Ayrshire Chief Executive should be invited to attend a LCC meeting to discuss how Largs can get a community centre/hub. All agreed. • Cllr P Perman and others attended a recent NAC Budget meeting where our opinions were being sought as to how the budget spend could be reduced and cuts made. Our response was again to

	<p>encourage acquiring a community centre. There seems to be a lack of focus on growth which would generate more jobs etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CClr Stevenson advised that LargsNaz Church will attend April’s meeting. Louise will follow up possibility of Active travel attending March’s meeting. <p>Action point – Louise to follow up attendance with ActiveTravel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise advised that the work required in the library to house the larder will not be possible in this financial year. She is now awaiting the budgets to be set to identify the funding for this in next year’s budget. • Louise advised that Place Framework is working on an Action Plan and a date will be arranged for a chit-chat session to discuss it locally. • CClr Low Thomson will arrange to have the minutes of LCC meetings put on LCC Facebook page. The minutes are also posted on North Ayrshire website. <p>CClr Stevenson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>
13	<p>Date of Next Meeting –16 March 2023 at the Community Hub.</p> <p>Action point – All CClrs to send in their reports prior to the meeting and no later than 13 March 2023</p>