






Largs Community Council  
Approved Minutes of Ordinary meeting  
Thursday, 19 October 2023 at 7pm

**Present:** Councillor Phillips(JP)(Chair), Councillor Smith(LS)(Secretary), Councillor Adair (AA), Councillor Black (JB), Councillor Stevenson (RS), Councillor Low Thomson (WLT), Councillor Stewart (TS), Councillor Wood (MW), Councillor Ferguson (TF), Councillor Murdoch (IM), Calum Corral (CC) (Largs & Millport Weekly News), Katy Clark MSP and Valerie Reid, Kenneth Gibson MSP, Inspector Dougan, 6 members of the public including 4 residents of Cumbrae Gardens

**Apologies:** Councillor J Perman, Councillor P Perman (PP), Councillor Hill, Councillor Marshall, PS Fisher, Ewan Grant (NAC)

Item	Business
1	<b>Welcome</b> –Chair welcomed all members, elected Councillors, Kenneth Gibson MSP, Katy Clark MSP, Valerie Reid, Inspector Dougan and members of the public to the meeting.
2	<b>Apologies</b> – As noted above.
3	<p><b>Crime activity and policing in Largs area – Inspector Dougan, Kenneth Gibson MSP and Katy Clark MSP</b></p> <p>JB gave an update on the reasons for asking the Police Inspector and MSPs to attend the meeting – increased level of crimes being reported in recent police reports, the difficulties in contacting the police around 101 service and quoted his own experience of the 101 service.</p> <p>An interesting and informative discussion took place around crime activity and policing with very helpful input from Inspector Dougan, Kenneth Gibson and Katie Clark.</p> <p>Inspector Dougan spoke about a number of points including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101 service is a national call service. There have been significant demands on the service but calls are all risk assessed with priority given where there is immediate threat to life. 999 should be used in an emergency and calls are also risk assessed.</li> <li>• Calls from 101 button at Brooksby go to a call centre in Govan</li> <li>• 4 police based in Largs over day shift and back shift. 3 over North Coast. Specialist plain clothes police are also used in the area</li> <li>• Shoplifting – a national increase has occurred but difficult to pin down exact reason but police are working with retailers on prevention especially around theft of vapes</li> <li>• Commercial and house break ins – working on prevention and following incidents consideration of reasons for them</li> <li>• CCTV – there are 3 CCTV cameras in Largs and police would advocate additional cameras. This is responsibility of NAC. IM also would like additional cameras and he will check the position in Largs with NAC. Kenneth Gibson confirmed there are no plans for national funded CCTV as it is better for the local Council to decide on CCTV. He agreed to ask NAC about the position.</li> <li>• Kenneth Gibson has written to Chief Inspector Fraser Normansell about both his concerns and the local community’s regarding the increase in criminal activity within Largs. His reply is attached.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Letter19.10.23.docx</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenneth Gibson advised the Scottish Government’s position ie the increased budget for policing and the numbers of police employed by Police Scotland. He stated that it was not the position of the Government to dictate police policy as this was for Police Scotland to determine.</li> <li>• Katie Clark is a member of the Criminal Justice Committee and stated that the same concerns about the levels of crime and numbers of police on the beat are raised throughout the country. There has</li> </ul>

	<p>been considerable success with organised crime but she considered that there is a disconnect between local community's expectations and high level policy decisions taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re – deployable CCTV cameras could be helpful in combatting the problems and NAC may be more amenable to support this. Kenneth Gibson agreed to discuss this with NAC.</li> <li>• Inspector Dougan referred to the Safer Shores project which was around the problem of large numbers of youths travelling on the trains to various towns. RS referred to the large number of youths coming into Largs and not necessarily staying in the town centre but heading towards the hills at the back of Largs. Police now have 2 quad bikes in use.</li> <li>• Trading Standards will react to the illegal sale of vapes to young people.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Police Report</b> See attached report for stats and summary</p>  <p>Community Council - Largs - 2023 October.</p> <p><b>Action point</b> –101 call button at the police station is now operational.</p>
5	<p><b>Litter campaign, Access to food, Community Garden and Dementia Friendly Largs</b> RS gave an update on the various initiatives LCC have been involved in over the past year and the Participatory Budget grants received to enable us to do this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter Campaign – Love Largs emoji signs are being displayed on shop windows, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will see large emoji signs being displayed at various areas around town including the school. Largs Academy pupils will each receive an emoji badge and discount card for multiple time purchases at local shops when wearing the badges.</li> <li>• Access to food – LCC has been working with Largs Naz church to help fund their Takeaway Homebake teaching local people to cook, Thursday Common Ground where meals are provided for individuals and families and the kids eat free. A new initiative is slow cooker classes again in conjunction with Largs Naz Church. LCC are currently holding £6000 for the setting up of a larder.</li> <li>• Community garden – various seasonal displays have been put up at the LCC Community Garden - Halloween, a poppy for Armistice day, Christmas, Easter etc . These displays have been well received by the public and put a smile on people's faces.</li> <li>• Dementia Friendly Largs and District which was set up by members of LCC and has produced a Helping Hand booklet, introduced and distributed numerous emergency tubs, made presentations on dementia to various groups, locking cooker valves and carbon oxide alarms from SGN are available for the local community. A Dementia Memory Walk - a joint event with LCC was held recently which was very successful and hopefully will be repeated next year.</li> </ul> <p>Kenneth Gibson spoke about an initiative – Adopt a Road/ Spot which he is very keen to promote. He recently raised this at Holyrood and will send us some information on it. See attached month's update</p>  <p>Largs Community Council 2023 October</p>
6	<p><b>Residents of Cumbrae Gardens</b> voiced their complaints about their property including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the problem with birds being fed by a tenant</li> <li>• when the grass is cut, it is left and not picked up</li> <li>• the problems with youths at the lane beside them</li> <li>• the ongoing issues with the side doors not working. IM stated he had reported this to NAC 6 times but still no resolution. Kenneth Gibson agreed to take this to his meeting with the Chief Executive of NAC.</li> </ul>

7	<p><b>Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PP reported that the cinema is progressing. She has been in touch with Mrs Simpson Faculty Leader of Enterprise and IT at the Academy. The pupils are keen to assist us with marketing and making posters for the events. PP will look at Barrfields facilities and costs etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action point for further update – PP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christmas competition to be organised at Community Garden</b> – sub group meeting to be arranged</li> <li>• <b>Access to Food group</b> – 2 meetings have taken place with Largs Naz Church and food programmes planned</li> <li>• <b>LCC membership leaflet</b> – a meeting to be arranged with sub group</li> <li>• <b>Social media</b> – TS has agreed to assist WLT with Social media</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting of 21 September 2023</b></p> <p>IM intimated that he wished to raise a challenge to the minutes of 21/09/23 at section 11 as he did not consider they were an accurate description of the meeting. As no agreement was being reached the Chair decided to carry over the approval of the minutes until the next meeting.</p>
9	<p><b>Secretary’s report and Social Media –</b></p> <p>Secretary gave a reminder that the voting for Participatory budget applications is now open. 3 votes are available. LCC has applied for a grant for the Community garden and there are other applications for other organisations Community Councillors are involved in.</p> <p>The AGM is due to take place in November but we are still awaiting NAC completing the audit of the financial records.</p>
10	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b> – Admin account - £12.75, Project account - £3495.57, Larder account - £6000. The financial records are still at NAC for audit – MW to contact NAC for update</p> <p>Approved – AA, 2<sup>nd</sup> – WLT</p>
11	<p><b>Train service</b> – Kenneth Gibson referred to the consultation exercise currently being undertaken by Scotrail in relation to the Largs and Ayr routes. The timetable and behaviour on the trains was discussed. The Ayr route has been prioritised over the Largs route, the times of trains have been altered and the journey extended due to additional stops. There is a desire to encourage the use of trains more and the needs of all passengers on route have to be considered. Concern was expressed about the behaviour of youths on the trains especially during the evening services. JB suggested that LCC should write to David Simpson of Scotrail to invite him to our meeting to discuss the issues.</p>
12	<p><b>Sub- committee reports and North Ayrshire report</b> – due to lack of time, the Chair intimated that these reports would be postponed until next month’s meeting.</p>
13	<p><b>AOB</b> – Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>
14	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting – 16 November 2023 at the Community Hub.</b></p> <p><b>Action point – All CClrs to send in their reports prior to the meeting and no later than 13 November 2023</b></p>