






Largs Community Council  
 Approved Minutes of Ordinary meeting  
 Thursday, 21 September 2023 at 7pm

**Present:** CCLr Phillips(Chair), CCLr Smith (Secretary), CCLr Adair, CCLr Black, CCLr J Perman, CCLr Stewart, Cllr Ferguson, Cllr Hill, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Murdoch, Ewan Grant – NAC, Calum Corral (Largs & Millport Weekly News), 1 member of the public – Frank Alexander

**Apologies:** CCLr P Perman, CCLr Stevenson, CCLr Wood

Item	Business
1	<p><b>Welcome</b> –Chair welcomed all members and elected Councillors to the meeting. He reminded everyone that the minutes are recorded for minute purposes only and asked everyone to adhere to time slots during the meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>Apologies</b> – As noted above.</p>
3	<p><b>Largs Larder</b> – Ewan stated that the renovations to the library were almost complete and Deirdre Oakley will be carrying out a recruitment drive for volunteers. Ewan confirmed that the larder would be volunteer led including the management and the financial side of it but supported by NAC. He confirmed that there have been some expressions of interest from people wishing to work there. CCLr Smith stated that the bank account currently held for the larder may not be the most suitable for the number of transactions likely to take place in the operation of the larder. Ewan will pass this information on.</p> <p>Cllr Ferguson has been working with Cllr Low Thomson around the allotments and also the ongoing position with the tennis courts. He commented that having attended the Memory Walk at the weekend he thought it was a fantastic event and hopes it will grow year on year. He is willing to give letters of support if funding is required and help improve engagement with community events. Cllr Smith queried the charges for the hire of the Community Hub for the Memory Bus as she thought that as Dementia Friendly Largs is a charity, the hire charges should have fallen into a different category and been less. Ewan stated he would query it.</p>
4	<p><b>Police Report</b>        See attached report for stats and summary</p>  <p>Community Council -        Largs - 2023 08 Augu:</p> <p>PS Fisher was not present at the meeting and therefore unable to expand on his report. CCLr Black expressed his concern about the crime statistics and the level of policing in town. There are also concerns about the level of shoplifting. He considered that PS Fisher’s superior should be invited to our meeting and also politicians from Holyrood. Cllr Murdoch had a meeting with the police yesterday following the increased number of incidents, the lack of police and CCTV in the area. Cllr Marshall stated that he felt that the police were frustrated by the criminal justice system in that offenders may be locked up for a night and then they may or may not be brought to court. Shoplifting and vandalism are a problem. There is definitely an issue with lack of police resources.</p> <p>The action point about the 101 system also covers the call point at the police station not working.. PS Fisher stated in his report that there was still ongoing discussion between Brooksby and Police property services with no ETA being given at this time. It was pointed out that if the call button is not in use, the public can’t even call the police. It is not clear what the problem is getting the call button back into operation. It was considered that it was unsatisfactory that this action point has been outstanding for several months. The action point will remain outstanding. PS Fisher has passed on the concerns about the 101 system and these have been incorporated into the wider feedback reviews of the 101 system.</p> <p><b>Action point – PS Fisher to follow up the problem with the 101 call button at the police station</b></p>

	<p>Cllr Ferguson stated that the police resourcing problem has gone above Councillor level and he agreed that we need to get the MSPs down to answer questions about what they were doing to resolve the problems. The police report shows that traditional crimes are increasingly being committed which needs police on the ground. Cllr Phillips stated that LCC should write to PS Fisher for an update on the policing situation. Cllr Black suggested we also write to all 7 MSPs as he has personally been referred to Holyrood when he complained about the lack of police. All agreed to this.</p>
4	<p><b>Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points</b></p> <p><b>Action Points-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr J Perman stated that Barrfields theatre would be available on Fridays for films at a cost of £45 per hour but everyone would need to be out by 9.30pm. Films could be shown from 7 – 9pm. Barrfields User Group could provide ushers. Cllr P Perman intends to trial both the school and Barrfields and report back. There is a £100 license to show the film but if you are going to advertise to the public the charge increases to £150 and the film also needs to be hired. There was a concern that this might run at a loss as you would need 50 people and charge £5 each to break even. The choice of film would be key to the success of the venture.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action point to remain active for further update – Cllr P Perman</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Black to investigate the cost of an appropriate sign for the garden -Participatory Budget applied for this - cleared</li> <li>• <b>Christmas competition to be organised at Community Garden – sub group – September/October</b></li> <li>• Louise to follow up the land train – contact Louise directly</li> <li>• Cllr Black has emailed Midland Pullman Luxury Services and also another rail company to consider Largs as a destination – Cllr Black has communicated with Hunterston Parc about the redundant sidings – completed</li> <li>• <b>Cllr Low Thomson to post LCC leaflet on social media and find out cost of notice board – ongoing</b></li> <li>• A meeting of the LCC project group took place when it was decided to make a Participatory Budget grant application for enhancements to the Community garden. Cllr Stewart advised that following a meeting with Tasha Allison it was agreed that it was too ambitious to plan a food festival.</li> <li>• Cllr Murdoch has investigated the situation at the school and does not see any issue with the bus traffic management. The crossing is working well and he has noted that the buses use the bus lanes and they don't move out until 9am. The issue is probably more with the volume of traffic around the school. He does not consider a meeting is necessary but the situation should be monitored. Cllr Marshall stated that it would be useful for the complainant to put the issue with the buses in writing to allow the matter to be taken forward. Cllr Phillips will ask the complainant to put the complaint in writing.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting of 17 August 2023</b> Approved - Cllr Adair, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cllr Stewart</p>
6	<p><b>Dementia Friendly Largs Memory Walk</b></p> <p> Joint Largs Community Council.dc</p> <p>Joint event with LCC. Cllr Smith gave an update of the event which was very successful despite the weather. A great success and a great atmosphere at the event. Hopefully it will become an annual event. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to the event and particularly to local businesses for their generosity in providing gifts for the tombola. Approximately 100 people participated with over £1600 raised – expenses to be deducted from total sum.</p>
7	<p><b>Grant Funding – Access to Food, Litter Campaign and Community Garden</b></p> <p> Largs Community Council 2023 (Sept).dc</p> <p>Cllr Smith provided an update as above.</p>

	<p><b>Community Garden</b> -The Viking Warriors have been removed and the next display will be for Hallowe'en. Volunteers will be required to assist with this on 21/10/23. Christmas display and competition will follow on from this. An application has been made for Participatory Budget for enhancements to the garden.</p> <p><b>Litter Campaign</b> – Phase 2 - Emoji signs at various parts of the town. The Roads Department have been in communication about the siting of the signs on lighting columns and hanging baskets and this has been refused. However an update received today from the Roads Department was more positive and suggested the columns which could be used for signs should be identified, hanging basket brackets to be removed and application for signs be submitted. There is also a question of cost for this. Cllr Murdoch agreed to attend any potential meeting with the Roads Department. He commented that he has the same difficulties in preparing for the Christmas illuminations. Cllr J Perman queried if there were any suitable poles outside the Fishworks and the amusements which could be used for the signs. The new litter signs – Love Largs - were designed to have a wider visual awareness of litter. The usefulness of signs was discussed creating a disagreement between Cllr Murdoch and Cllr Black on the pros and cons of signage. There are additional bins on the proms but there is no budget for more bins. Cllr Marshall suggested using some of the bins for attaching the signs. Cllr Hill stated that periodic enforcement is required. It was also suggested that businesses also have a part to play in the litter campaign. Cllr Black pointed out that Cllr Stevenson had put a lot of work into this campaign. The aim is now to support Cllr Stevenson and get the signs up amid the challenges without negativity. Cllr Smith handed round the emoji badges which will be handed to all Largs Academy pupils with a view to better educate the children.</p> <p><b>Access to Food</b> – another meeting will be arranged with Largs Naz church to take forward the Access to Food activities.</p>
7	<p><b>LCC membership leaflet</b></p> <p>The leaflet is designed to encourage new membership of LCC. Cllr Stevenson suggested that a sub group be formed to look at recruitment. We currently have 2 vacancies on LCC. It was agreed that Cllr Phillips would chair the group and other members would be Cllr Adair, Smith, Stevenson and Stewart. The press have been helpful in publishing pictures and articles about LCC which has resulted in more members of the public attending. Cllr Adair is aware of someone who has expressed an interest in joining LCC.</p> <p><b>Action point – To arrange a meeting of recruitment group</b></p>
8	<p><b>Secretary's report and Social Media</b> –</p> <p>Email relating to Hunterston Construction Yard – proposed planning application for enhanced port infrastructure – 2 consultation events at Fairlie Village Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>Email – Crosbie Wind Farm offering a meeting</p> <p>Social Media – It would be useful to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> person involved in Social Media and Cllr Stewart has volunteered to help. Contact to be made with Cllr Low Thomson to discuss this additional help.</p> <p><b>Action point – Cllr Smith to discuss with Cllr Low Thomson</b></p>
9	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> – At the end of August, the end of financial year, balances were - Admin account - £25.25, Project account - £3504.97, Larder account - £6000. The financial records have been sent to NAC for audit.</p> <p>Approved – Cllr Adair, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cllr Stewart</p>
10	<p><b>Sub Committee Report</b></p> <p><b>Environment</b> - no update</p> <p><b>Hunterston</b> – Cllr Black was unable to attend the SSG meeting No issues. Defueling of Reactor 3 has now been completed.</p> <p><b>Licensing</b> – No update</p> <p><b>Planning</b> – No update</p> <p><b>Transportation</b> – no update.</p> <p>Cllr Adair has received a number of complaints regarding the effects of the recent storm causing waste at the putting green. The concrete path has lifted which may cause an accident. Cllr Murdoch stated that this was a regular occurrence during storms and until specific work is carried out this will continue. Cllr Adair has also noted motor homes coming from the marina and dumping their toilet waste in the bushes at Broomfields.</p>

	<p>Cllr Murdoch is looking for NAC policy regarding motor homes and camper vans and basic facilities at Bowen Craig car park. Cllr Marshall has asked NAC to come up with a scheme and cost it.</p>
11	<p><b>North Ayrshire Council Report –</b>  Cllr Marshall - 3 consultation exercises he has been involved in are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors' Levy - NAC has responded to the Scottish Government consultation in favour of the levy</li> <li>• Short term lets - licenses have to be applied for by 1/10/23 but a lot have not yet done so</li> <li>• Council Tax – 22.5% increase for Bands E -H – not yet decided by NAC</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Adair expressed his concern about properties which are solely holiday lets and airbnbs and as a result the grey bins are not being emptied which is causing an environmental concern. The problem of disposal of refuse from airbnbs is a problem throughout town.</p> <p>Cllr Marshall advised that the extra money raised from the increase in Council Tax will go into NAC's general fund for the whole of North Ayrshire. Cllr Hill explained the requirements of the registration process for renting out properties which he considered was straightforward. Cllr Marshall stated that the Council should not be emptying the bins of the airbnbs as they are commercial properties and they should have their own commercial collections.</p> <p>Cllr Hill has had a meeting with Cllr Thomson about growing sites at Holehouse Road and another possible location. There is also work going on with the school looking at potential projects to use some of the Helter Skelter Funding. Calum asked about the situation with Douglas Park Tennis Courts. Cllr Hill stated that discussions between the tennis club and the Council are ongoing and a decision should be made in the next month or so. There was always a question about the funding from the Lawn Tennis Association being sufficient for the required surfaces.</p> <p>Cllr Marshall stated that due to the previous plans not working out, Largs now has no active tennis courts while Irvine tennis courts were opened this week by Judy Murray with £100,000 behind it.</p> <p>Cllr Murdoch started to give the history of the tennis courts saga and the various meetings held last year at which point Cllr Black asked the Chair why it was necessary to go over this same information which we had already heard about at previous meetings and caused previous upset between elected Councillors and Community Councillors. He expressed his annoyance at the way the meeting had been dominated by Cllr Murdoch and decided he could no longer be present at the meeting due to how fraught it had been. At this point Cllr Black left the meeting. Cllr Murdoch could not understand why he should not be able to give his version of the events and considered that Cllr Black was out of order. The Chair advised that he would deal with the situation outwith the meeting. There was further discussion about the asset transfer of Douglas Park tennis courts and Common Good. The Chair called the meeting to order.</p> <p>Cllr Murdoch refused to give his report to LCC as he felt the situation was ridiculous and no-one wanted to hear his report.</p> <p>Cllr Murdoch did state that his preference is to give out grants for CCTV cameras to businesses which cover the most area in the town to allow them to purchase cameras and this would provide more coverage than public CCTV cameras.</p>
12	<p><b>AOB –</b> Largs Printing Company have been asked to come up with a design for LCC rollout banner and popup banner, approximate cost less than £200. Design will be circulated to members for approval. All agreed.</p> <p>Yuletide evening is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Santa Sleigh tours will be that week - Skelmorlie and Fairlie – Monday, Largs – Tuesday and West Kilbride - Thursday.</p> <p>Cllr Phillips thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>
13	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting – 19 October 2023 at the Community Hub.</b>  <b>Action point – All Cllrs to send in their reports prior to the meeting and no later than 16 October 2023</b></p>