



Largs Community Council
Approved Minutes of Ordinary meeting
Thursday, 19 June 2025 at 7pm

Present: CCLlr Phillips(JP)(Chair), CCLlr Smith (LS)(Secretary), CCLlr Wood (MW) Treasurer, CCLlr Adair (AA), CCLlr Alexander(FA), CCLlr Low Thomson (WLT), CCLlr Macintosh (KM), CCLlr J Perman(JPer), CCLlr Stevenson(RS), CCLlr Stewart(TS), CCLlr Woodburn(JW), Calum Corral (CC) (Largs & Millport Weekly News), Douglas Blair (Viking Festival), Lesley McCormack(KA Leisure), 3 members of the public, David Ennis (The Observatory Trust)

Apologies: Kenneth Gibson MSP, Cllr Hill, Cllr Marshall(TM), Cllr Murdoch(IM), Louise Riddex (NAC), Ewan Grant (NAC), Anne-Marie Hunter(NAC), PS Fisher

Item	Business
1	Welcome –Chair welcomed all members, David Ennis and members of the public. He reminded everyone that the minutes are recorded for minute purposes only.
2	Apologies – As noted above.
3	<p>The Observatory Trust – David Ennis</p> <p>David provided a history of Sir Thomas McDougall Brisbane, his career and appointment as Governor General of New South Wales. He described his passion for astronomy and his development of instruments used in observatories. David also detailed his contribution to Largs including the construction of the Observatory.</p> <p>The Brisbane Observatory Trust was established in 2011 to preserve the Observatory and its goals of community involvement, educational initiatives and links to Australia. He described the challenges faced by the Trust and the need for funding. A lease for the building which is now listed has been obtained. £158,000 is required to restore the Observatory.</p> <p>LCC are keen to help and support the Trust particularly due to the Olympic Games being held in Brisbane in 2032. It was agreed that LCC would host a meeting of community groups later this year.</p> <p>Action point – contact community groups later this year – JW/LS</p> <p>Chair thanked David for his presentation.</p>
4	<p>Police Report</p> <p>Report previously circulated.</p> <p>Discussion took place around the police report including the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern raised about the number of shoplifting incidents last month – 21. It was stated that individuals appear to be coming off the train, shoplifting throughout the town and then getting back on the train. PS Fisher provided a further update by email – at this time, 4 have been filed undetected, 1 recorded warning given, 4 reported to PF. The rest are still live enquiries. This month it appears that a good number of faces and people have not been seen in Largs before, some are from out of town, some are not. The images are shared with officers from other areas to help identification. JW met the Chief Superintendent recently and she offered to attend one of our future meetings with her deputies. Proposed to invite them in August /September and provide a list of key areas eg breach of bail, shoplifting, drug issues, assaults to be discussed. All agreed.

	<p>Action point – send invitation to Chief Superintendent to attend future meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was also expressed about aggressive begging in town, one being a young girl who it is believed has now left Largs and the other being an elderly man who is begging at various parts of the town.
5	<p>Action points – Minutes and action points from previous meeting reviewed. CC reported that he had received a response to his Freedom of Information request about the number of NAC employees living in England – there are 3 employees, no further information given but trying to find out more. CC is working with the member of the public who raised the question. Action point – JW has submitted a Freedom of Information request to gather more information about the disposal of the I3 site and the £1.3 million. The response is overdue and he is following this up. -ongoing</p>
6	<p>Minutes of meeting on 15 May 2025 – Approved – CCLlr Adair, 2nd CCLlr Woodburn</p>
7	<p>20 mile speed limit – JW reported that NAC Cabinet decided on a blanket 20 mile speed limit across North Ayrshire without any consultation and a full debate of all Councillors has been refused. The accident statistics do not support this action. Previously it was advised that there was no money for speed calming in the areas around the school. All streets will require new signage. Temporary traffic regulations are being used to implement the speed limit. The view of those present at the meeting was that a blanket 20 mile speed limit is not required but should be more targeted.</p>
8	<p>Review of Scheme of Establishment – JW advised that NAC had stated that it was all up for review. There is no proposal of what they want to change unlike other Councils. The critical comments of 3 elected members were highlighted. JW proposed a meeting of LCC members to discuss and formulate a response to the review. Agreed to engage with other CCs for their views. Action point – a meeting to be arranged to discuss the review</p>
9	<p>Access to food, Litter Campaign, Community garden, Memory Walk Report previously circulated. Summer display for Community garden is being prepared. Agreed to commemorate VJ day on 15th August with a display. Large emoji litter sign to be put up at main entrance to Largs Academy after the holidays. Sign at Vikingar now repaired. Access to Food meeting to be arranged to plan future spending. Memory Walk – 22/06/25 Now purchased LCC name badges with lanyards and LCC table cloth</p>
10	<p>Scotrail and Viking Festival - Discussion took place about the email from Scotrail which detailed their inability to provide extra trains during the Viking Festival as it clashes with the International Ayr Show. Douglas Blair highlighted the challenges faced by the Viking festival regarding transportation and the need for additional carriages, buses and ferries to support attendance, issues which need to be addressed to ensure the success of future festivals. A programme has been printed with the support of local businesses. Local traders will be at the event this year. Additional public toilets will be in place this year. Concerns have been raised about the previous financial transparency and management of the Viking Festival, the previous market operator and various costs. LCC fully supports the Viking Festival. Agreed that LCC will work directly with the Viking Festival Directors and Scotrail to come up with a plan for next year. JW suggested joining a lobby group called Rail Future to campaign for better rail services for Largs. Proposed LCC join the group which costs £25 per year, 2nd WLT – agreed. Also agreed to contact Scott Prentice of Scotrail to arrange a meeting with LCC and Viking Festival Directors. Action point – JW will email Scotrail to arrange a further meeting and provide details of how to join lobby group</p>

11	<p>Questions from members of the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about the state of the play area at Alexander Avenue and the lack of response from NAC. The dangerous conditions of the play area at the new play park are a grave concern. FA has emailed the Councillors regarding this but has not had any response. A member of the public stated that the ground needs to be levelled as it is dangerous for children and not fit for purpose. <p>Action point – FA and JW will send a letter to NAC regarding the state of this area and the play park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was also raised about the neglect of planting in the town, the state of the beds at the car park and the frustration at their neglect. The Community Development Trust have started taking over some planters and it may be that the ones at the car park will need to be adopted. Concern about the state of pavements. Advised to email Amey Highways. A member of the public expressed his concern about the amount of money being raised in Largs from parking charges but still NAC state that there is no money
12	<p>Secretary's Report and Social Media</p> <p>Secretary has raised the question about free school lunches being available throughout NA in the libraries except Largs. Expectation is that this is a clerical error.</p> <p>TS has received a query about who the point of contact is for the Gondola project – FA</p>
13	<p>Treasurer's Report –</p> <p>Admin – £363.30 – bills of £245.59 to be paid</p> <p>Project - £4467.80</p> <p>Cinema account - £1000.67. Received the bill for the last cinema showing - £305.</p> <p>Proposed : AA, 2nd: FA</p>
14	<p>Sub- committee Reports</p> <p>Environment – Already discussed.</p> <p>Hunterston – No update</p> <p>Licensing – no update.</p> <p>Local Place Plan – the Gondola firm have thanked LCC for their hospitality. Next update is likely to be at the end of June.</p> <p>Planning – no update</p> <p>Transportation – no update.</p>
15	<p>North Ayrshire Report – no report</p>
16	<p>AOB – no update on the mini bus. Thanks from a member of public for all the work of LCC.</p> <p>Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.</p>
17	<p>Date of Next Meeting – 17 July 2025 at Vikingar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action point – Reports to be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting and no later than 14 July 2025