



Largs Community Council
Approved Minutes of Ordinary meeting
Thursday, 19 March 2026 at 7pm

Present: CCLlr Stewart(TS)(Chair), CCLlr Smith (LS)(Secretary), CCLlr Adair (AA), CCLlr Low Thomson (WLT), CCLlr Macintosh (KM), CCLlr J Perman(JPer), CCLlr Phillips(JP), CCLlr Stevenson(RS), CCLlr Woodburn (JW), Alex Hughes(AH), Cllr Hill (AH), Cllr Marshall(TM), Cllr Murdoch(IM), Calum Corral (CC) (Largs & Millport Weekly News), 6 members of the public, Suzanne Chow- Ayrshire Police Divisional Commander, PS Fisher, Kenny Armstrong – Largs Colts

Apologies – CCLlr Canning, CCLlr Wood, Kenneth Gibson MSP, Cllr Collyer

Item	Business
1	Welcome –Chair welcomed all members and guest speakers Suzanne Chow and Kenny Armstrong He reminded everyone that the minutes are recorded for minute purposes only.
2	Apologies – As noted above.
3	Police report – Report previously circulated. Discussion took place around the police report including the following – • Crime reports have reduced this month. Shoplifting is down but some individuals are not in town, some in prison. • Reduced number of assaults • Speeding- 20 mile speed limit will not be routinely policed but geared towards targeting injury and casualty areas for casualty reduction • Action plan for Largs area – has resulted in several charges for various offences. Police have listened to feedback and have been visible in areas where there have been complaints particularly around speeding • JPer commented on the lorries using May Street to avoid the lights at M & S without regard to the weight restriction on the bridge • Concerns expressed about the traffic at the traffic lights at M& S at the Easter weekend • JW queried why the police did not oppose the 20 mile limit where there is no evidence of casualties to support it – government policy determines this
4	Suzanne Chow – Ayrshire Police Divisional Commander covers the area of North, East and South Ayrshire and gave an update on local priorities to reduce crimes in the area and problem solving within the community. There will be community investigation hubs for more serious crime. Resourcing in North Ayrshire is under review. Police front desk is manned during office hours. JW commented on Largs appearing to have a disproportionate level of crime, in North Ayrshire Largs accounts for over a third of all shoplifting and every month there are cases of breaches of bail. Largs is experiencing problems which need to be addressed – how can this be done. Agreed shoplifting is a problem – Morrisons and Co-op are the main complainers of shoplifting within Largs. There is now a Retail Crime Task Force with a view to tackle this, seminars held with retailers, overtime worked. Giving retailers security advice and good practice about where to place goods.

	Breach of bail increased due to improvement in policing them. A safeguarding team are robustly enforcing domestic breaches of bail. Frustration expressed about how LCC can get its voice heard by the relevant authorities. Police reporting format has been changed which does not allow identification of hotspots. PS Fisher stated this was due to a change of reporting system which made it too time consuming to identify the data. Naming a particular shop subject to shoplifting is in his view naming a victim. Action point – SC and DS will look at the reporting system. IM expressed his concern about the number of police on duty in Largs. There are dedicated community officers in the area. Verbal abuse in supermarkets is increasing. Shops have different policies regarding verbal abuse. AH commented about the CCTV in Largs which is monitored in Irvine. More work is done online by police. SC encouraged the public to report all crimes. Concern expressed about not being able to get through on the phone. Crimes can be reported online.
5	Kenny Armstrong – Largs Colts Chair Kenny gave an update on Largs Colts and its position in the community providing many skills for young people. 2025 was the 50th year of Largs Colts being in existence and is an important part of the community. Bowen Craig community transfer was agreed by NAC last year. Largs Colts provides opportunities for young people. There are 100 volunteers giving their time every week, 250 boys and girls playing football and 10 age groups from age 5 to 17. Largs Colts is a significant influence in young people's lives and provides young people with life skills, responsibility, decision making skills, teamwork, accepting responsibility and contributing to the community. Bowen Craig's asset transfer marks the beginning and the vision is to offer greater benefits to the community and youth. The grass playing pitches are limited in their use as they can only be used 6 months of the year. The other facilities in town are used but there is a cost to this approximately £25,000 to £30,000 per year. The vision for Bowen Craig is – • become a sustainable financially viable facility all year round • raise the profile of Largs Colts • Engage with local providers and undertake a sports facility needs assessment • Consult with the community • Carry out a site feasibility study at Bowen Craig Funds are currently obtained by monthly subs, grant funding and fundraising.
6	Minutes of meeting of 19 February 2026 and Action Points AP - Scotrail - Cancellation of train services from Largs to Glasgow are down in numbers. Scott Prentice's replacement to be identified – ongoing JW to email Rhonda Leith to request an update on progress of Douglas Park – ongoing Minutes approved – CCllr Adair, 2nd – CCllr Woodburn
7	Access to food, Litter Campaign, Community garden, Memory Walk Report previously circulated. Volunteers requested for putting up Easter display on Sunday 22/03/26 at 11am. Suggestion made to have a World Cup theme this summer at the community garden Litter campaign – Fishworks have a litter sign which they will display. There is still a spare sign for display. Access to Food – another meeting is due. JW suggested the school, Inverclyde Sports Centre and Access to Food link up to possibly arrange lunches over the summer. Memory Walk – date to be confirmed
8	Questions from members of the public – • Implementation of 20 mile limit – some problems with the position of signage identified. IM agreed that there were inconsistencies in town with signage • KA Leisure opening times at school campus causing problems for club activities. TS previously met with KA Leisure and they promised more services would be available in the 1st quarter of the year. TS

	has received an update from KA Leisure advising that they are still trying to extend times but due to operating leases they are unable to do so. Largs is mirroring the bigger operating leases and waiting for these to be completed. The point was made that there are facilities in town which are not being used as the young people are not allowed access to them. It was also considered that Inverclyde charges are very high. JW proposed inviting the KA Leisure Chief Executive and local groups to an LCC meeting for their input. Action point – JW to invite Chief Executive to LCC meeting
9	Secretary's Report and Social Media Email relating to Community Conversations – Have your say on Monday 23/03/26 – 11am to 1pm at Largs Library
10	Treasurer's Report – Admin – £270.34 – reimbursement of insurance costs received from NAC Project - £7536.24 Cinema account - £678.07 Proposed – RS, 2nd JPer
12	Sub- committee and Ex Officio Report Licensing application received for proposed grocery store at the old Farmfoods – no objections Planning application received for 40 Boyd Street to open a hot food shop Ex- Officio report – IM stated that the Council Cabinet approved a bank holiday for the World Cup football for 6500 employees and was very concerned about the cost of this given the recent Council Tax increase of 8.5% and the pressures on Health and Social Care budget. The Councillors expressed differing views on this decision and how the expense could be justified. JW expressed his concern that, despite there being no money in the budget and core services being cut, there was sufficient money to fund an extra bank holiday. A lively discussion took place on the subject. IM referred to a recent application to the Common Good Fund for a grant for a Woman's Day event – a female self defence event. NAC legal advice was that it did not fit the criteria for an award from Common Good Fund and IM wished to reiterate that it was refused on those grounds. JW wished it to be noted that the abuse IM suffered online was appalling. Problem with drainage and lack of signage at Giraldo's and Costa is to be dealt with next week. The award of a grant for a political hustings from the Common Good Fund was also discussed with members expressing the view that it was not appropriate to fund it. It was also noted that the hustings coincides with the next LCC meeting on 16/04/26 but it was confirmed LCC meeting will go ahead as previously planned on that date and in the Vallhaladrome.
13	AOB – Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.
14	Date of Next Meeting – 16 April 2026 at Vikingar. Action point – Reports to be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting and no later than 13 April 2026