



Largs Community Council
Approved Minutes of Ordinary meeting
Thursday, 20 August 2026 from 7pm

Present: CClr Stewart (TS) Chair, CClr Smith(LS), CClr Wood (MW), CClr Adair (AA), CClr Canning (KC), CClr Macintosh (KM), CClr J Perman (JPer), CClr Phillips (JP), CClr Stevenson (RS), CClr Low Thomson, CClr Woodburn (JW), Cllr Hill(AH), Cllr Murdoch (IM), Calum Corral (CC) (Largs & Millport Weekly News), PS Fisher, 14 members of the public.

Apologies – Kenneth Gibson MSP, Cllr Marshall

Item	Business
1	Welcome – Chair welcomed all members and guests and reminded everyone that the minutes are recorded for minute purposes only.
2	Apologies – As noted above
3	Police report – PS Fisher provided the Police Scotland report covering the previous month. Discussion took place around the police report including the following - 72 crimes were recorded during the reporting period. This did not necessarily represent 72 separate incidents. 8 assaults, a number of which were associated with arguments involving alcohol during the busy summer period. - Approximately 6 general thefts, including thefts from property and vehicles. 25 shoplifting offences. Suspects had been identified in approximately 20 of these cases, representing a strong detection rate. The impact of shoplifting on local businesses and concerns about repeat offenders was discussed. Police Scotland was increasingly successful in identifying offenders, bringing cases before the courts but sentencing and decisions on remand were made by the courts. - There will be an increased police presence during the Largs Viking Festival. - Concerns were raised about driver behaviour at the temporary traffic-management arrangements at Gallowgate, including vehicles passing through red lights. Police Scotland had not been involved in designing the traffic-management arrangements. - The continuing presence of an abandoned/damaged motorbike was raised.
4	Minutes of meeting of 16 July 2026 and Action Points Minutes approved – CClr Phillips, 2nd – CClr Adair JW to email Rhonda Leith to request an update on progress of Douglas Park – ongoing JW to invite Chief Executive of KA Leisure to LCC meeting – JW to obtain details of Chief Executive from Michael Thompson – ongoing The previous minutes had been prepared with assistance from AI to fill gaps in the Chair's own notes. Approved Community Council minutes are published on North Ayrshire Council website and available through Largs Community Council Facebook page.

5	Winter Warmer Community Event The Winter Warmer event, supported by £1,000 of Participatory Budget funding is planned for Saturday 7 November and will be open to the whole community. Th event includes: • a performance • a family-friendly film suitable for children, including children with additional support needs. • a relaxed environment where children can move around if necessary. • refreshments including soup and sandwiches • a main film screening. The event will be free, although tickets are likely to be issued to manage venue capacity.
6	Community Christmas Party WLT outlined plans for a Community Christmas Party on 19 December. The intention is to hold an inclusive family event involving community organisations, entertainment, live music, children's activities, food, and a visit from Santa. It is hoped that children attending will receive a Christmas gift. A nominal ticket charge, around £2 per family, is to be used principally to control numbers rather than to generate income. Members expressed their willingness to assist with the event.
7	Gallowgate Building and Temporary Traffic Management Members discussed the dangerous building at Gallowgate and the emergency traffic-management arrangements put in place around it. It was recognised that public safety and the safety of residents, businesses and building owners must remain the priority but significant concern was expressed about the practical operation of the traffic arrangements. Issues raised included: • the compulsory left turn for traffic leaving the ferry; • difficulties for HGVs and other large vehicles making the left turn; • the length of the official diversion; • vehicles passing through red lights; • the visibility and positioning of existing traffic signals; • the absence of a controlled pedestrian crossing at the northern end of the works; • pedestrians continuing to cross at unsafe locations; • displacement of the existing bus stop and the lack of shelter at the temporary stop;

	• additional traffic using residential streets; • the positioning and extent of cones and barriers; and • concerns about the terminology and justification used for the traffic-management layout. Councillors reported that an urgent meeting had been held involving elected members, North Ayrshire Council, Amey and Transport and the possibility of changing the arrangements to allow ferry traffic to turn right rather than left, introduce an additional controlled pedestrian crossing and review the overall traffic-management layout was being actively considered. Any revised arrangement would have to meet the appropriate legal and safety requirements and receive Amey approval. Concern was expressed about the accumulating cost of the emergency works and the costs to be recovered from the owners of the affected building ie • the cost of the scaffolding; • the ongoing cost of traffic management; • how long the arrangements may remain in place; • the likely cost of reducing weight from the upper part of the building; • the possibility and cost of demolition; • responsibility for making any decision to demolish; and • the likelihood of North Ayrshire Council recovering expenditure from building owners. Further structural/engineering investigations were continuing. Members recognised the significant disruption and uncertainty affecting residents and businesses. A member of the public also advised that scaffolding would shortly appear on another Gallowgate property as the owners were investing in a new roof. This was highlighted to avoid speculation that the scaffolding related to structural problems.
8	Access to food, Litter Campaign, Community garden, Memory Walk Community Garden – Viking display is now in place and the event board updated. Largs Flower Show board is also in place. The garden continues to receive positive feedback. General maintenance and planting work is ongoing and volunteers are always welcome to assist with the garden. Litter - litter awareness signage has been installed in local schools. RS encouraged local businesses to display campaign signage to help reinforce anti-litter messages across the town. Access to Food – a meeting will take place within the next month. Memory Walk - organised in partnership with Dementia Friendly Largs raised approximately £850. Funds were generated through a combination of sponsorship and a tombola supported by local businesses.
9	Questions from members of the public – Lane behind/near the railway station - concerns were raised about the condition of the lane running from the rear of the railway station towards the town centre due to litter, broken bottles, cans, weeds and general neglect. It was clarified that the lane is not wholly owned by North Ayrshire Council and appears to involve multiple private owners who had been contacted to request that it be cleared. The most recent approach was made approximately one week before the meeting. Littering by members of the public also contributed significantly to the problem.

	Play equipment at Linn Avenue – already being well used by local children. 20mph speed limits - the experimental arrangements could remain in place for up to approximately 18 months while evidence and consultation responses assessed. Members discussed the distinction between the initial consultation and any subsequent formal Traffic Regulation Order process. It was noted that a further formal opportunity to comment would arise if permanent Traffic Regulation Orders were proposed. - Concerns expressed about the condition of Anderson Play Park and its uneven and damaged paths which are a potential safety hazard. Previous concerns were raised with elected representatives, and it was requested that the matter be pursued with North Ayrshire Council. IM explained that the situation is now being monitored. - Questions were raised regarding the ongoing provision and maintenance of public amenities, including parks and open spaces, with members highlighting the importance of continued investment in community facilities.
10	Secretary's Report and Social Media Correspondence received about the consultation process for the 20mph arrangements – already discussed. The issue of enforcement of the 20mph limit was discussed. Concern raised about the recently introduced parking restrictions on Alexander Avenue and that removing parked vehicles from one side of the road could unintentionally result in vehicles travelling faster along the street. It was confirmed that the LCC projector is held at Largs Library, although its working condition still requires to be checked.
11	Treasurer's Report – Admin – £270.34 The remaining amount requires to be spent by the end of August and members were invited to suggest appropriate expenditure within the funding rules. Suggestions included: updated Largs Community Council information leaflets, publicity material for the Viking Festival, posters and leaflets for the Winter Warmer and Christmas events and potentially equipment to support presentations at future Community Council meetings. Members will continue the discussion through the Community Council WhatsApp group to ensure eligible expenditure was progressed before the deadline. Action: Members to coordinate proposed Administration Account expenditure and publicity materials before the end-of-August deadline. Project - £7283.82 Cinema account - £678.07 Proposed – CClr Low Thomson, 2nd – CClr Macintosh
12	Youth Mental Health / Music Workshops KC provided positive feedback from the recent youth mental-health band-skills workshops with all the young people indicating that they would like to attend more workshops. Trusted relationships had developed between the young people and supporting adults. Future sessions are proposed for Samba drumming and increased participation from eight to twelve young people. The drums and venue are already available, but approximately £42.93 was required for drumsticks and a Samba whistle. The Chair advised that Largs Music Club could meet this cost from its existing funding.

	Action: Chair/Kerry to arrange payment for the required Samba equipment through Largs Music Club. Update on 24 August - this is now complete. The longer-term aspiration is for the young people's Samba group to perform at local community events.
13	Sub- committee and Elected Councillors report - Elected Councillors report – • The possibility of identifying suitable locations for football goals and informal play facilities around Largs was discussed. • People's Emergency event on 24 September - tickets are limited • Netherhall and Gogosite Road are due to be resurfaced, M & S to Main street roundabout ongoing • Drainage at Bath Street corner – Amey, NAC and Scottish Water are collaborating on this • Recruitment of school crossing patrol staff remains difficult • Concerns were raised about the deteriorating and overgrown condition of Moorburn Manor. As the property is privately owned, the options available to the Council are limited – IM will contact owners • Resurfacing Burnside Road – position to be checked • Councillors reported on the Largs Car Park Fund, advising that increased income from the car park has created an opportunity to invest in projects that will benefit the local community. Suggestions are being gathered from elected members, community groups and residents before decisions are made. Members discussed the governance arrangements for the fund, with councillors confirming that spending decisions rest with the five North Coast elected members and that all proposals must satisfy legal and financial requirements before approval. • Several potential projects were highlighted for consideration, including the installation of vandal-resistant modular public toilets and solar-powered lighting along the route between the marina and the town centre to improve safety for pedestrians. Community Council members and residents were encouraged to submit further ideas for consideration. • Councillors also provided an update on efforts to secure the future of public toilet provision in Largs. Discussions are continuing with community organisations regarding the possible transfer and management of toilet facilities, with the aim of maintaining services despite the Council's financial pressures. • Rising construction costs have resulted in some elements of the coastal regeneration works being scaled back
14	AOB – Following early concerns expressed about traffic at the new M & S, members agreed to observe traffic patterns as the store becomes established. Blocked fire exit / land behind Largs Naz - Concern raised about dumped material on land behind Largs Naz and whether this was obstructing a fire exit and creating accessibility problems for wheelchair users. It was agreed that the appropriate route for raising the fire-exit concern should be established. Updated on 24 Aug - Frank Alexander e-mails LCC to say 'Spoke to the company storing those appliances....waiting for a larger van...hope to dispose...in the next week'. Action: Appropriate contact/ownership to be checked regarding the obstruction of the fire exit. Amey Performance - Concerns raised about Amey's wider performance and its engagement with the Community Council and local community. IM advised that Amey had offered funding towards installation of the Largs Christmas lights through its community fund. Members welcomed the funding while recognising that this did not prevent legitimate scrutiny of Amey's performance.

	Participatory Budget is now open for applications. Local organisations offered assistance with their applications if required. Toilets -A meeting regarding the toilets confirmed for Monday 24 August at 6.30pm in Largs Library. TS and AA will attend Licensing Board – Paddle Steamer application to be heard at meeting on Monday 7 September. TS will check if remote attendance is possible. Action: Chair to confirm arrangements for Community Council representation at the Licensing Board hearing. Updated 24 August - virtual attendance confirmed to be not available. As nobody from LCC volunteered to attend in person and the Chair is unavailable on 07 September - our written submission will represent LCC. Largs–Brisbane / Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games – it is hoped to use Largs' historic connection with Sir Thomas Brisbane to mark the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. What had initially been an idea for a local opening ceremony was developing into a broader programme involving sporting activities, cultural connections, education, performing arts and music, tourism, local schools, local performers and musicians and links between Largs/North Ayrshire and Brisbane. The ambition would be to use the Olympic Games as an opportunity to promote Largs internationally and encourage people travelling from the UK to Brisbane to engage with Largs' connection to the city. AH had agreed to take a briefing paper forward to establish whether North Ayrshire Council could support the initiative in principle. No financial commitment sought at this stage. Engagement could extend to national and regional organisations. Existing educational links with Brisbane highlighted. Members acknowledged that 2032 appeared distant but that the scale of the ambition meant that planning and relationship-building needed to begin well in advance. Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.
15	Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 17 September 2026, from 7pm at Vikingar. • Action point – Reports to be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting and no later than 14 September 2026