**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH OF JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00 PM WITH PARTICIPANTS ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

Those present were: - Chairman Peter Aitken, Mr Allan, Mrs Green, Mrs Aitken, Mr Fox, Mr Barker and Mrs Young.

In attendance was Mr Andrew Cargill who was welcomed to the meeting, and will attend for two meetings prior to being welcomed as a member of Largo Area Community Council

Thanks to Mr Drew Morrison for setting up the Zoom facility due to continuing Covid restrictions. We are continuing to use the Community Zoom platform shared between Largo Church, LACRT and Largo Area Community Council.

Apologies were received from Mrs Brown and Mrs Low.

Last month’s minutes were moved for adoption by Mr Barker and seconded by Mrs Aitken.

Mr Aitken declared an interest for the Largo Road Trial.

**Corona Virus**

There has been some difficulty in getting a Covid Passport on your mobile phone using the NHS Fife App. The problem seems to be the necessity for having an up-to-date model of smart phone.

**Community Council Membership**

As well as Andrew Cargill there is still a member needed to complete our compliment of members. Mr Aitken may have someone who might be willing to come onboard and there has been no feedback from New Gilston Hall Committee regarding Diane Penrice representing New Gilston and Woodside.

**Tree Planting in Lower Largo**

Mr Fox organised a site meeting with Mrs Green and Charley Owen a representative from The Woodland Trust who provided costings for native trees based on The Largo Estate applying for a MOREtrees grant. The suggested area to be planted is around the SuDS area between Bourtree Brae and The Serpentine. The estimated total cost would be £7,200. The MOREtrees grant, which comes from the Scottish Government, would be 75% of the cost. Largo Estate would pay £1800 which is 25%. The Community Council was asked for a contribution and it was agreed that we could give £450. This would be offered to Largo Estate as a gesture of good will from the community towards the cost of the trees.

**Power Cuts**

From the 26th to the 28th of December there was a power cut in North Feus, East Drive in Upper Largo and in farm cottages and farms north of the village. Mr Aitken phoned Fife Council emergency numbers with no result and no information was available to help residents.

After this event it is more urgent than ever to get the Resilience group up and running. LACRT are taking this on board and are looking for volunteers. A sub-group met last week and a draft template has been drawn-up. If the resilience group had been up and running, during the power cut, steps could have been taken to help, e.g. a hall could have been opened up supplying hot drinks and a warm place to be.

All the Community Council members present at the meeting, including Andrew Cargill agreed to be part of the group.

Fife Council have a Resilience Manager who can be contacted for advice.

**Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

It was decided to ask Fife Council if a beacon has already been organised for this area and also ask Jan Kerr, the organiser of previous Big Picnics on the Common Lundin Links, if they would be prepared to organise a Big Picnic/Street Party on the Common, Lundin Links with support from the Community. This would be on the 2nd of June 2022.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

Mr Aitken emailed Mr Punler to let him know that intruders were on the premises on the 16th of January and copied him into what was reported to the police. The Community Council members expressed a serious concern at the delay in resecuring/reboarding the premises with regard to this latest incident and the further damage caused to the premises.

Fife Council has served notice to Mr Punler to secure and tidy up the premises, however the time limit on this notice has passed and Mr Aitken has asked when the securing work by Fife Council might take place

Our MP and MSP were copied into this correspondence.

It was suggested that the press be involved again. They would be informed about the present situation and maybe a reporter could be asked to do some investigation. Also, a timeline was thought be useful.

Mr Punler has suggested to Mr Aitken that the delay in the development is now due to Scottish Water who are insisting that a new surface water connection be made across Largo Road and the steep woodland beyond to the Keil Burn rather than using the existing surface water connections. Mr Aitken contacted Mr Punler mentioning that perhaps Scottish Water might consent to the existing connections being used rather than install a brand-new system this may enable the development to proceed. if agreement with Scottish Water cannot be reached the matter could be referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman for adjudication. Anything would be worth trying to get the development started.

There is a question over whether Mr Punler is getting money from the advertising on the hotel fencing.

**Fife Development Plan/Fife Local Plan**

We have heard nothing so far from Fife Council but when the plan is published there should be three opportunities to put in submissions during the consultation period.

Possible areas to consider are, how would any new development impact the character of the village and what effect would more housing have on the area of special landscape value?

**Robinson Crusoe Museum**

Drawings have been commissioned and they are to be done free of charge.

**Traffic Lights Survey**

Lesley Craig, Fife Council’s Traffic Management Lead Consultant stated that a speed survey check had been carried out and they were satisfied that speeds have been reduced, although it is felt that the survey should have been done in the middle of the dip near the bridge. Mr Aitken, on behalf of the residents, is still calling for a traffic lights trial, which would not be permanent. Fife Council are still against the trial.

**Selkirk Grove**

A building Flood Test has to be carried out before Fife Council will adopt the roads. There has been no response to enquiries so far.

There are still concerns over the level of debris in the field north of Selkirk Grove which needs to be removed before the access road is closed off. Councillor Ritchie will try to make contact with those responsible for closing off the temporary access road and see if anything can be done to improve the situation.

**Cardy House Lane**

Mr Aitken put forward a suggestion to install sensor-controlled lighting in the lane between Cardy House and the Temple car park lane to improve pedestrian safety, however, after discussion it was decided, not to go ahead with the suggestion due to conflicting views.

**Pet Burial Plot**

A pet burial plot with white chips and a picket fence round it has been installed in Keils Den. This was considered inappropriate and The Woodland Trust are looking for information about the dog owner to ask that it be removed.

**Notice Board**

The village notice board in Upper Largo has been blown down in the high winds and needs to be repaired. Mr Wood who is responsible for the board’s upkeep will be contacted and it has been suggested that an estimate should be sought for metal posts which would stand up to high winds.

**Hall Bookings**

This task should be the responsibility of the Treasurer.

**Speedwatch Training**

The Speedwatch training for members of the community has been delayed once more.

**Boundary Commission**

Consultation for the changes to constituency boundaries has ended, however the Parliamentary areas are still in question.

**Extension to Station Car Park**

This is being looked into along with budgeting and costs. It also requires careful planning and a schedule of work.

**John Ripley VC**

Mr Aitken approached The Black Watch and there is a possibility that they may pay for John Ripley’s gravestone restoration. A second estimate is required which is proving to be a problem as there is no response from requests for a quote. Mr Aitken will try to contact Mitchell in Kirkcaldy.

**Largo Community Together**

Priya Logan, Development Officer from LCT wishes to come and introduce herself to the Community Council at the next meeting. This was agreed.

**Scottish Water**

Scottish Water stated that they are at the midpoint in their report having received the Cost Benefit Analysis from Mr Allan who wrote to MSP Jenny Gilruth who in turn is very disappointed with the lack of urgency.

With the big push to improve the water quality and biodiversity in the Forth, Mr Allan has put forward the suggestion some time ago that Scottish Water divert the sewage from the Largo Area to the treatment plant in Methil instead of putting any into the Forth at all, using renewable energy to pump the sewage. Mr Allan feels this is the way forward and is gathering information in an attempt to prevent an argument against this plan when the time comes.

**Planning**

Mr Aitken has asked that Mrs Stewart forward the Weekly Planning List to all Community Councillors.

**AOCB**

There has been an increase in the theft of agricultural vehicles in the area, so people should be alert.

**Pathfinders Rally**

The rally was planned for April 2022, however this event is now cancelled but may be held next year.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON ZOOM AT 7.00PM ON THE 21ST OF FEBRUARY 2022**