**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OF FEBRUARY 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, Mrs Low and Mrs Young.

In attendance was Mr Andrew Cargill for his second meeting prior to being welcomed as a member of Largo Area Community Council. Also welcomed to the meeting were Louise Robb from Largo Communities Together and Priya Logan Development Officer for Largo Communities Together. Mr Eugene Clarke also attended the meeting as prospective Fife Council Liberal Candidate for our area.

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 Stewart.

Correction to last month’s minutes – At Selkirk Grove, Largo Area Community Council, and not Councillor Ritchie will contact Fife Council to see if anything can be done to push forward the removal of the temporary access road.

With this correction last month’s minutes were moved for adoption by Mr Barker and seconded by Mr Allan

Mr Aitken declared an interest for the Largo Road Trial.

**Largo Communities Together LCT**

Priya Logan, Development Officer for Largo Communities Together introduced herself to the Community Council and outlined her duties which will be over a period of three years and perhaps longer. Her main focus will be looking into a framework for developing a Local Place Plan, including several different projects. The Local Place Plan allows communities to voice their ideas about how their community could be improved and LCT want the Community Council to be part of the process and work together also with Largo Area Corona virus Response Team (Resilience Team) and Fife Council.

An initial introduction to the process will be a postcard asking anyone who is involved in the community what their likes, dislikes and wishes for their local place are. The post card will be delivered to every residence and holiday home in the area along with the Largo Links magazine after the 5th of March. It is hoped that the LPP with evolve over time reflecting the wishes of a wide range of the community. Other local communities such as Colinsburgh and Crail have already set up a Local Place Plan which are online, however our LPP will be unique to our area, our people and our needs.

It is hoped that even small issues can be resolved by possible collaboration between local groups e.g. the ‘Swans of the Beach’ swimmers now pay to use the Sailing Club House and Mr Clarke mentioned the parking problem in Anstruther was eased due to the use of local schools parking during the holidays.

Mr Allan mentioned an invite to attend a meeting run by the Scottish Government to discuss the National Planning Framework 4 which is currently out for consultation and Mr Allan felt that this is relevant to the Local Place Plan. He will attend the meeting and see where the Largo Area fits into this framework.

It was agreed that Mrs Green would represent Largo Area Community Council on the Local Place Plan Committee.

**Fife Local Plan**

By this time, we should have been consulted on the Fife Local Plan and proposed developments but this will now be next year, however we can, ahead of time ask peoples opinion on potential housing development in the field north of Selkirk Grove.

Points already being considered are,

* Would the infrastructure support more housing, e.g. sewage and drainage?
* Access could cause more traffic problems.
* Could we fight for more affordable housing for local people if it goes ahead.

It was suggested that these points and more be included in any drop-in sessions planned for the Local Place Plan consultation.

Mr Aitken thanked Priya Logan and Louise Robb for their presentation and stated that we look forward to working together.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

Mr Aitken has written again to our MP and MSP to voice our concerns, also a reporter from the tv station ‘That’s Scotland’ has interviewed Mr Aitken during which the ongoing problems were discussed.

The problem of securing the building has to be chased up although Mr Clarke stated that officially the building security is still the responsibility of the owner. It has also been clarified that the owners are meeting the requirements of the loan repayments, with nothing needing to be paid for the first twelve months. Mr Clarke also was not able to give a date when any clear-up work would be carried out by Fife Council. Mr Aitken will go back to Fife Council.

Mr Clarke will make enquiries as to whether any rates due are being paid, especially as the property is still furnished, with crockery etcetera being thrown out of the windows by vandals.

**Speed Cushions, Lundin Links**

There has been a lot of criticism, especially on social media about the installation and disruptive nature of the speed cushions on Leven Road. To answer the question as to whether there was consultation, there was an article published in Largo Links, delivered to every household, asking for comments and the subject was discussed at every Community Council meeting for the last six months, which the public are invited to attend. Originally five residents of Leven Road met with Fife Councillors to voice their concerns and asked for measures to reduce traffic speeds. The response from Fife Council was to install buildouts, but this was considered to be more problematic and likely to cause frustration due to tailbacks.

The general feeling in the community seems to be unhappiness due to the hight of the bumps and the potential for damage to vehicles. Many drivers are pulling across to the middle of the road to avoid damage to their cars.

The original residents are in favour as it seems is The Roads Dept. Their policy thinking is very much in favour of speed bumps.

**Traffic Lights**

Fife Council Transportation representatives have been invited to come and see the problems for themselves over this stretch of road, especially in the summer, also the community are asked to come to meetings and comment on the situation. Mr Aitken is willing to gather evidence from the site. A speed monitor in the dip is needed as the speed bumps are ineffectual at reducing the speed of some vehicles, especially motorbikes.

**Town Twinning invitation**

We have received a request for a town twin in Scotland from Villennes-sur-seine in France, via the Scottish Government hub in Paris. The Mayor of Villennes-sur-seine is particularly keen for a Scottish twin within the Largo area.

Mr Aitken replied to the correspondence stating that the Largo Area was already twinned with Robinson Crusoe Island in Chile, although there has been minimal contact with the island and very few visits due to the distance involved.

Mr Aitken also pointed out that we are a collection of villages with a small population.

The meeting decided to give a positive response to the request as it was thought to be a benefit for education and would be easier for exchange visits for school children.

**Queen’s Jubilee Celebration**

Leven Community Council’s involvement includes a beacon on the beach, a choir singing and a celebration lunch. After discussion it was decided that Largo Area Community Council would hold a beacon Barbeque on the beach with people bringing their own food. A litter pick would be held the next day and Donaldsons Timber will be asked if they could donate any surplus wood.

**Gardens Open**

An open garden event (BloomIN Largo) will take place in Lower Largo, Upper Largo and Lundin Links on the 18th and 19th June 2022. The event will run from 12 noon to 4pm each day.

The event was conceived as a local celebration of how tending our gardens have helped us through challenging times. There are around 12 gardens opening across the three villages.

**LACC Membership**

LACC elections are to be postponed until October 2023

Mr Andrew Cargill from Penrice Park, Lundin Links has been attending Community Council meetings for the last two months and is now an official member of Largo Area Community Council, Welcome Andrew.

**Mobile Post Office**

There has been a request that the Community Council officially thanks the Mobile Post Office staff that serve our area. They are kind helpful and efficient especially to elderly customers. They provide a fantastic service allowing for banking transactions etc.

**Community Wood**

Mr Fox organised a site visit and included invites to the landowner Mrs Crichton and Mr Owen from the Woodlands Trust, also Mrs Green from LACC. The area involved is around and adjacent to the SuDS pond east of Selkirk Park and Bourtree Brae. Mrs Crichton could not attend; however Mr Owen was very supportive and following the meeting produced a report including a site background, planning objectives, list of suggested tree and bush varieties and costs, a site map, planting design and a maintenance plan. The suggestion was, with the permission and support of the landowners and community support, the planting could start in the autumn 2022.

**Selkirk Grove**

Access road – it appears that, if any developers wish to use the access road again, they will have to reapply for planning permission.

- The adoption of the roads withing the estate has not yet been done.

- The drainage of the site has been successful.

**Electric Car Charging**

There is a question over when the electric charging point in the Temple car park will be up and running.

**Pathfinders Rally**

There have been more questions over the cancellation of the rally in April so it has been confirmed that the main reason was that the historic Borders Rally was scheduled for the same date and there was too much administration work for both to be covered.

**Bus Stop Upper Largo**

The Community Council received an email from Fife Council stating that a further request has been made for bus stops in Upper Largo on The St Andrews Road.  The bus operators advised that bus stops could be of assistance to passengers if suitable locations can be found.

Fife Council have assessed the area and propose to formalise stops on this road. There would be no shelters and bus stop flags and notices would be attached to existing lamp posts.

The locations of the stops would be either side of St Andrews Road between Woodlaw Park and Aithernie Drive. It was decided that, although there is no requirement to individually consult property owners/occupiers, the residents affected should be informed of the plans.

**Upper Largo Notice Board**

The quote for a free-standing notice board was too expensive so the decision was made to buy a wall mounted board for £270 and erect it ourselves.

**John Ripley VC**

The Black Watch has agreed to pay £150 towards the cost of the restoration work which is more than the agreed amount of half of the total cost. The work of renewing the lettering and crest on the headstone can now go ahead.

**Contamination of the Keil Burn**

Mr Low has brought to the Community Council’s attention the fact that there has been a drastic reduction the biodiversity of the Keil Burn, especially noted was the reduction of trout numbers. Mr Low has written to his MP and is willing to restock the river himself, however, it was suggested that before such steps are taken the water quality should be tested, especially after contamination was found in the river 6-8 years ago, also it was suggested that the sewage from New Gilston may be going into the burn near its source. SEPA will be asked to test the river water.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7.15 PM ON THE 21ST OF MARCH 2022 IN THE SIMPSON INSTITUTE UPPER LARGO**