**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 16TH OF MAY 2022 AT 8.20 PM IN THE SIMPSON INSTITUTE UPPER LARGO**

Those present were: - Chairman Mr Aitken, Mr Allan, Mrs Green, Mrs Aitken, Mr Cargill and Mr Barker. In attendance were Councillor Suttie, Councillor Clarke and Reverend Boswell.

Apologies were received from Mrs Young, Mrs Low and Mr Fox.

Correction to last month’s minutes – The vote to stop the meetings being held on Zoom as well as in person was not unanimous as noted so the vote will be taken when all members get a chance to voice their opinion it was suggested that using zoom allowed access to the meeting for as many as possible. Mr Aitken pointed out the difficulty of running a hybrid meeting and made it clear that one of the members of the Community Council would require to monitor the Zoom and let the Chair know when someone on Zoom wished to speak.

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

Mr and Mrs Aitken declared an interest for the Largo Road Trial.

Mr Aiken welcomed our new Councillor Eugene Clarke and will past on our best wishes to Graham Ritchie who was our Councillor and worked hard on our behalf for many years.

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

**Levenmouth Rail Project**

Kirstie Ryder, Civil Engineer with Network Rail and her colleague Stella Chan, outlined progress so far on the rail project – There will be a Twin Track railway with two stations, Leven Station is to be located behind the Leisure Centre and Cameron Bridge Station will be to the east of the A915.  The line will be built with plans to electrify soon after opening which will involve extensive work on the Bawbee Brig, work here, hopefully to start later on this year. There will be safety issues involved with the electrification and it will be very important to get the safety message out to all the community. Normal trains will run until electrification takes place.

There will be a half hour service to Edinburgh with the journey to take 75 minutes, traveling on the Fife circular line and there will be options for freight and the company is working with Scotrail and Sustrans for active travel with new trains having more storage for bikes and possible connectivity to the Coastal Path.

Compounds are being set up for storage etc at Double Dykes, Coaltown of Balgonie and next to the Heritage Railway in Leven, where 1 mile of track is already complete. Any bridges involved are being checked for strength and appearance.

Drop-in events are being carried out to allow members of the community to ask questions. It is hoped the line will be up and running by 2024.

This is a very positive development for the area with many benefits for all the communities involved.

Mr Aitken thanked the speakers for giving up their time to come and speak to the meeting.

**Queen’s Jubilee 2nd June**

Jackie Fergus, General Manager of The Crusoe Hotel outlined the plans for supporting the Community Council’s Jubilee celebrations. A fire is to be lit by Mr Allan on the beach in front of The Crusoe at 9.45. The wood, donated by Donaldson Joiners will be moved onto the beach and fire built by volunteers between 8-9.30.

Mr Graham Bucknall owner of The Crusoe, will carry-out a risk assessment and provide a post and rope cordon for the fire. Volunteer fire stewards will be in place. Also provided will be a sound system, flood lighting and bins.

Pilgrims Gin are keen to set up a tent and The Crusoe will provide carryout food eg haggis, neeps and tatties. There will also be a Jubilee family Dinner served in the hotel before the event.

It is hoped we could get the lyrics for the official Jubilee song from Leven Community Council so everyone can join in (song sheets to be printed by The Crusoe) and the National Anthem will be sung. Unfortunately, the local choir cannot attend as they are just back after covid. The primary school will be asked.

Access onto the beach may be problematic due to the rocks at the bottom of the steps east of Crusoe so the spectators will be asked to walk along the beach from the Orry.

A subcommittee of Mr Aitken, Mr Allan and Mr Barker will liaise with the Crusoe with final organisation and an initial announcement will be made on social media very soon.

**Housing Consultation**

At the March meeting there was a full discussion on the subject of a further housing development in Lower Largo and since then there has been consultation with Largo Communities Together and further discussion with the Community Council. The next stage is to hold consultation with the whole community specifically on the housing question.

Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th of June and 21st June from 6-9 pm in the Durham Hall and New Gilston Village Hall. Mr Aitken met with LCT to ensure the information will be published in the Largo Links magazine. Volunteers will be needed to man the hall during the open sessions. Mr Aitken, Mr Cargill and Mrs Green have offered to sit.

**Homes for Ukraine**

Mr Aitken attended a Largo Communities Together meeting to discuss the way in which the community could help facilitate the settling in of refugees from Ukraine, and other places into our community.

* Interpretation services – most Ukrainians speak Russian and it was suggested that a Russian Interpreter would be easier to find, also maybe a St Andrews University student, either Ukrainian or someone studying the language.
* School Uniforms to help children fit in might be able to be found from uniform banks at the schools.
* Part public drop-in meetings to be arranged.
* Disclosure checks need to be carried out – Fife Council stated that some of the delay in the process is due to The Home Office delays in issuing visas.
* LCT is in-touch with the Resettling Officer to get advice.

**Twinning**

We have heard from our twinning town Villennes-sur-seine in France and a meeting will be held on Teams with Mr Aitken and Mr Allan on the 17th of May.

**Bathing Water – Positive Outcome**

The Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform has approved the designation of Largo beach to become a Bathing Beach. Now follows extensive consultation with Scottish Water and testing schemes, for which a budget has been approved, to check the quality of the water. There are two possible outcomes if the water is proven to be below standard 1) build a larger treatment system or 2) extend the pipe further out to sea. At the moment large vehicles are emptying the excess effluent from the tanks in The Serpentine and Mr Allan has put forward the suggestion of using green energy to pipe the sewage along the beach to the treatment plant at Methil.

Well done Matt Allan for all your dedication with the Bathing Beach designation.

**Hillhead Street/Mill Wynd**

Several years ago there was a proposition to make the street one way but this proved too problematic for one resident who was then unable to access his drive. Mr Aitken looked into the problem and suggested that only Hillhead Street is made one way, which may be a compromise. Mr Aitken will ask Fife Council Roads Dept to look at the issue again. Hillhead Street has not been adopted by Fife Council.

**Lundin Links Hotel**

On the 1st of May there was smoke detected coming from the hotel and the Fire Brigade located the fire in the rear function suit and had to remove boarding to put out the fire. This was resecured afterwards however Fife Council should check it is secured properly. They stated that the building was full of flammable material and it is hoped that the hotel owner could be forced to remove the material before a really dangerous fire breaks out.

**Speed Cushions**

Mr Aitken wrote to Fife Council to inform them of drivers who have been driving down the middle of the road to avoid damaging their cars on the speed cushions in Lundin Links. Leslie Craig from Transportation wrote back stating that the cars did not pose a risk as long as there were no cars coming the other way and the Police said they would monitor the area.

**Big Picnic**

An initial meeting of the organising committee for this year’s Big Picnic will meet tomorrow the 17th of May

**Traffic Lights Trial**

It has been suggested that a multi-agency site meeting be held. Stagecoach, the Police and Fire Service said they would attend.

**AOCB**

There are tree saplings obscuring the cycle path on the way out of Lundin Links which need to be removed.

The notice board has arrived for Upper Largo, and Rab Donaldson has offered to put it up with 2 metal posts.

The majority of roads in Selkirk Grove have now been adopted however there is still an issue of common Land.

The continuous problem of flooding on Largo Road at the Durham Wynd junction has not been resolved. It was suggested that it is due to lack of drain clearing which may be made worse by Fife Council not having a vehicle able to carry out the work.

An adaptation is still being looked into to allow people with a disability to access the Temple toilets, and the possibility of there being a cold-water shower put on the end wall of the toilet block will be looked into. There may be funds from the rural development budget.

The hedgerow on Durham Wynd needs cutting. Dave Patterson Fife Council will be asked.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THE 20TH OF JUNE 2022 AT 7.00PM IN THE DURHAM HALL LOWER LARGO**