**LARGO AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON THE 18TH OF SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE DURHAM HALL, LOWER LARGO**

Those present were: - Chairman Mr Aitken, Mr Allan, Mrs Green, Mr Cargill, Mrs Low, Mr Barker and Mr Diamond.

In attendance were Councillor Clarke and Mr Green.

Apologies were received from Mrs Aitken, Mr Fox and Councillor Alexander.

Last month’s minutes were moved for adoption by Mrs Low and seconded by Mr Cargill.

Mr Aitken declared an interest for the Ukrainian refugee issues as host.

**Kirkton of Largo School**

Mr Aitken has written to Fife Council to ask about the terms of the bequest which mention that the building should be used for educational purposes. Emily McDonald, who is a parent of the school and trustee of LCT wrote to Jenny Gilruth MSP and in reply Fife Council stated that the building is owned by Fife Council.

Councillor Clarke raised the issue with Fife Council’s Building Management and the school is expected to have no pupils in the academic year 23/24 but the school will not be formally closed for two years and it is possible the situation may change.

A Christian organisation is interested in occupying the building for education. This may be part of a consultation by Fife Council.

There was a question as to whether the statutory consultation would start now or at the end of the two years, also could the building be used on a temporary basis. Mr Aitken will enquire. It is hoped that the building will not, in the interim fall into disrepair.

**Largo Parish Church 400 Year Anniversary**

The Church are celebrating having had a place of worship on the site for 400 years. There will be several events to celebrate the history and life of the church. From the 24th of September to the 1st of October. Special services, musical recitals, songs of praise, history talks and a flower festival including community groups.

**The Big Picnic**

The Big Picnic went ahead despite the weather being very poor. There was heavy rain most of the afternoon. There was a reasonable turnout considering the weather and most of the contributors turned up and there was a good response from those attending. The Ukrainian ladies did a great job selling tradition food and souvenirs. They were very grateful to be invited and they raised £600 which will go to help children in Ukraine. The Church donated £50 to their stall.

**Relocation of Emsdorf Road Bus Stop**

The bus shelter is now located just after the mini roundabout on Crescent Road. Mr Aitken contacted Fife Council to ask that the shelter be cleaned and graffiti removed, following a complaint from a nearby resident. The shelter was power washed but the graffiti is still there. The lines on the road showing the location of the bus stop are still to be painted.

**Twinning**

A meeting was held yesterday to finalise arrangements which included an outline of events from the French Co Chairman. The formal event will be in the morning then lunch and a meal at night. On the Sunday there is to be a trip down the Seine and the children’s activities include a youth club and a school visit. Mr Aitken and Mr Allan will be staying in a host’s home while the children with their accompanying adults will stay in a hotel.

As agreed, the gifts of a painting, for which we will pay £100 that will be donated to a UK children’s charity, the lockdown book by Caroline Trotter, a Robinson Crusoe novel and DVD will be handed over during the ceremony. Mrs Aitken has purchased blue and white sashes with a Largo Area logo for the children to wear.

It is hoped that the expenses can be applied for in advance to Fife Council. £5000 is the estimated cost for the whole trip. Provisional approval has been sought.

A video will be taken of the ceremony and an article will be written for The Largo Links magazine.

Good luck to all the representatives.

**Community Council Elections**

The next meeting in October will be our inaugural meeting which will include the election of the office bearers. Councillor Clarke will take the Chair. The normal monthly meeting will follow.

**Temporary Field Access**

Mr Aitken has written to Fife Council informing them of the Community Council’s deep disappointment and concern having been notified of the intention to leave the access to the field next to the A915 for agricultural access. Mr Aitken then explained the concern stating that it may facilitate development of the field for housing. Mr Green has cut back the verge on the corner of the A915 and Durham Wynd and also attempted to clear the corner field access. However, although the access is still there fencing wire in the overgrown vegetation prevented him from clearing the access.

Community members are disappointed that the section of field west of the access road is not being used by the farmer to grow crops. Mr Fowler will ask Mr Clarke, who farms the field if it has been left fallow for agricultural reasons.

Mr Aitken will go back again to Fife Council with the Community Council’s concerns. Mr Aitken also stated to SEPA that nothing had changed in that section of field. They will go back to Largo Estate.

There are concerns from Community Council members that Fife Council appear to take little cognisance of Largo Area Community Council which is only trying to represent the community.

**Fire Service Cuts**

Despite Fife Council arguing against the plan the major cuts in the Fife Fire Service have gone ahead, including removal of appliances from Methil, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy. Councillor Clarke requested an explanation from the Fire Service and the reason given is money needing to be saved within the service asked for by the Scottish Government.

**Changing Places – Temple car park**

Nothing to report.

**Durham Wynd Wall**

Planning permission to repair the wall has been applied for.

**Eroded Path at Burnbrae Terrace**

Ownership of the path is still to be discovered, however historically Fife Council have improved the steps and handrail on the path leading from Burnbrae Terrace to Woodlands Road so Mr Aitken will ask again if it would be possible, as a goodwill gesture, to tarmac the short section to link up the tarmac paths in order to maintain this safe route to school.

**Ukrainian Refugees**

The refugees were looking for somewhere to meet and were offered the Largo Library in Lundin Links. They are wishing to organise another fundraising event after the success of the Big Picnic stall.

**Speed Monitoring**

The speed monitoring equipment asked for in Upper Largo has not yet been installed.

**Largo Beach Designation status update**

There have been two Teams meetings since the last LACC monthly meeting, both chaired by Jenny Gilruth MSP and attended by representatives from SEPA and Scottish Water.

I invited two people from our local community to attend these meetings: Dr Janice Duncan who is undertaking a biodiversity study on the beach at The Temple and Andy Duff of LCT and Friends of Largo Bay.

Andrew had a look at the SEPA monitoring figures in relation to tide times and concluded that the high readings occurred at low tides or when the tide was beginning to flood. This was put to the SEPA representatives at the meeting and the conclusion is that swimming at low tide is not a good idea.

Scottish Water stated that they had found anomalies with the sewage system at The Temple that needed further investigation; another meeting was called for August 16th when it was hoped that this would be resolved.

At the meeting on the 16th of August Scottish Water informed us that The Sewage system at The Temple had never been connected to the pumping station opposite The Temple car park and instead had gone straight out to sea instead of being pumped up to the treatment tank at the back of Temple. This has now been resolved and the sewage is no longer going directly into the sea. It will now go via the treatment tank. Scottish water also stated that the current treatment system will not meet any quality standards required for bathing quality water.

They are going to continue to take water samples throughout winter and along with SEPA’s samples during next year's bathing season. This data will be put into to a modeling process that will provide design solutions required to upgrade their system.

To conclude – although we have achieved designation status, the process to bring the water quality up to bathing standard will not be a quick fix but will take several years.

Signed – Matt Allan - Vice Chair LACC

**Fife Council Report**

Fife Council is developing a new Local Transport Strategy that will set out the vision and action plan for transport in the region for the next 10 years and is looking for local people to be part of the consultation. You **are invited to have your say on Fife’s new Transport Strategy by taking the online survey:**[**www.fife.gov.uk/transportstrategy**](http://www.fife.gov.uk/transportstrategy)

Councillor Clarke met with Area Roads and Traffic monitoring and raised the issues of potholes on Durham Wynd, the bus shelter, and pedestrian crossing on the A915 near Durham Wynd. We have been assured that they will be addressed. The pedestrian crossing report went to the Area Committee and it was approved, with the work to be carried out in the financial year 23/24.

Levenmouth Rail Link

During the rail campaign the Project Manager from Scotrail was questioning the proposed timetable and now there is a question over whether there will be enough rolling stock to cover and there may have to be a lesser service temporarily when the line opens.

A consultation is being carried out, which everyone is encouraged to take part in which lets you state a preference of a faster service only to Kirkcaldy or slower to include West Fife?

Scotrail would like to hear communities’ views on the two interim timetable options to help inform the decision on which timetable will be introduced. They are also looking for feedback on the proposed final timetable for the Levenmouth Rail Link.

More details on the Levenmouth Rail Link are available on the [Scotland’s Railway website.](https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/levenmouth-reconnected-raillink)

The consultation opens on Monday, 11 September 2023, and will be available until Monday, 23 October 2023.

**Largo Communities Together LCT**

Lundin Links Hotel – LCT would be happy for Mr Aitken to write again to the administrators of the property with LCT countersigning the letter for added support and also consult with the Community Council as to what any future proposals may be. Wendy Chamberline MP has been unable to make progress on the issue however if a major planning application comes in the community will have to be consulted.

Polish Scouts - Recently a troupe of Polish scouts staying in Largo laid a wreath at the War Memorial in commemoration of the Polish Parachute Brigade in Lundin Links.

Place Plan – A draft copy of the Local Place Plan is to be published soon and LCT will be re-engaging with the community for discussion around The Action Plan.

Friends of Largo Bay – They are continuing with their good work, beach cleans, biodiversity surveys and engaging with the community.

**Planning Report**

Nothing to report – very few applications coming through.

**AOCB**

* Blocked drains have been reported in Friday Walk, however there are drains also needing attention in Castaway Lane.
* A Changing Places and public toilet meeting will be held on the 16th of October to discuss developments.

**THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE THE INAUGURAL MEETING ON MONDAY THE 16TH OF OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00PM IN THE STABLES, CHURCH PLACE UPPER LARGO**