**Darvel & District Community Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 27th Nov 2024**

**Final Meeting Minutes**

Proposed by : Lilian Mair Seconded by : Joyce Paterson

**Chairman Opened Meeting**

**Attendance, Apologies and Introductions**

**Attendance :**

* Robert Curr (RC)
* Margaret Curr (MC)
* Richard Hanmer (RH)
* John Oliver (JO)
* Lilian Mair(LM)
* Pamela Higton(PH)
* Joyce Paterson(JP)
* Bill Bryden(BB)
* Max Flemmich (MF)
* Sally Cogley (SG)

**Apologies :**

* Emma Nuttal (EN)
* David McClernon (DC)
* Kevin McGregor (KM)
* Grant Buchanan (GB)

**Lottery**

Lottery was drawn at 6.30pm Wed 27th Nov and posted through Facebook Live.

* £1890 Was raised this month in the lottery, 378 Entries, down 2 entries on the entries for October £945.00 was the total prize fund. Sponsored by John Oliver
  + 1st Prize £756
  + 2nd/3rd Prize £94.50
* SG commented on any move to remove the private numbers, agreed that the lottery members will remain having the choice to be either private or public,
* The DDCC will complete a review to understand why we are still losing members. Understand whether to also consider posting on Darvel and Priestland page as well as the DDCC page. Something for the DDCC to consider moving forward.

**Membership Changes**

* RC confirmed that this would be his last meeting as Chairman and proposed Richard Hanmer as the next Chairman, this is proposed by RC and seconded by BB.
* RC commented that he was sorry to be stepping down from his current role but due to upcoming hospitalization and the rehabilitation required, he could not carry in his current capacity for the foreseeable future. RC will remain a member of the community council.

**Actions from October DDCC Monthly Meeting**

* None

**Meetings Attended**

Meeting in the townhall was attended by Max Flemmich, Robert Curr, Margaret Curr and Richard Hanmer. The meeting was with Carole Mauchline the Labour MSP for Cumnock and Irvine Valley. The meeting was to discuss the issues with youth anti-social behaviour and the possible link to the Young Persons Bus Passes. The meeting was to update the DDCC and other interested parties to update them on the latest status. That is the issue was brought before the Scottish Parliament to see if there were any additional controls that can be put in place.

* It was noted that the young people are now using the normal service bus to go to school rather than the school buses, there was concern from the council members that this means that taxpayers are paying for the bus twice. It was also noted that the school buses are arriving at school empty. There are now issues with children being late if the service bus is late. SG will take this forward with the head of education. SG confirmed that the school bus is not being withdrawn but the school taxi is being reviewed.
* MF noted that it is difficult to restrict, punish or supervise the use of the buss pass by young people, it was noted that the full scope was being discussed in the Scottish parliament including anti-social behaviour not connected with the bus pass.

RC attended the Darvel strategy meeting, some of the meeting was missed and RC requested minutes, but these have not been forthcoming.

**Planning**

Planning applications are being reviewed by PH on behalf of the DDCC and there was nothing of note for this month.

**Reports**

1. **Police Report** 
   1. Police Report has been sent though and the police noted that this has been a very quiet month. One person was arrested for disorderly conduct, 1 property was searched in Darvel and subsequently 1 person was arrested, nothing more of note.
   2. MO requested whether there was a possibility to get the number oif reports by email etc. This will need to be local otherwise the information cannot be useful.
2. **Councillors’ Reports.**
   1. **Kevin McGregor** 
      1. submitted a report outlining the meeting with Margaret Mauchline and thanked everyone for attending**.**
      2. Also noted that he attended the Xmas market and thoroughly enjoyed this. Wished everyone seasons greeting.
   2. **Sally Cogley** 
      1. Attended new bus station in Kilmarnock, noted that this was a huge improvement on before.
      2. A71 upgrade is almost complete following the recent accidents.
      3. Veterans housing Scotland, event tomorrow to discuss housing and whether there are areas in East Ayrshire that can be made available foir the veterans.
      4. SG attends a committee in the council and the committee has agreed that the council will investigate staff absence in the council and violence in schools, both will be reviewed and addresed.
3. **Priestland Report and Discussion with Sally Cogley to Outline Plan**
   1. Beverley Clarke had previously met Pamela Clifford, head of planning EAC, and asked if PC would like to visit the site, SG will follow this up with PC. It was noted that no one is planning to build on that site. SG also noted that we should have Priestland removed from the local development plan and alternative sites should be sought. RC attended the planning meeting at EAC where Priestland was discussed raised that the planning map used in the plan had been changed without consultation and was disappointed that this issue seems to have been ignored. It was noted that PC should be aware of the past issues as she has been in post for only 12 months. This visit should be scheduled for the new year. MF commented on moving the electrical substation along the river and concern over the building in flood areas.
4. **Secretary’s Report. Discuss**
   1. No further update this month**.**
5. **Treasurers Report**
   1. Treasurers report has been submitted.
6. **Funding report**
   1. No report this month
7. **Community Plan Update** 
   1. No further update this month.
8. **Correspondence Report.**
   1. No correspondence of note
9. **Remembrance Day**
   1. SG thanked Bill Bryden for his help on the Remembrance Day parade. No one was in charge on the days and DD has agreed to take this on and organise the parade moving forward. MF ran through the historical order of service and the plan from previous years. MF directs traffic at Burn Road and someone else would direct traffic by the Railway. The traffic up the valley and traffic down the valley are redirected down different streets to avoid congestion. The church would normally organize but they are now no longer involved. RC will speak to the session clerk to clear this for the motion that DD manage this, motion was passed unanimously by the DDCC, Proposed RC, seconded RH.
10. **Approach from Newmilns Community Council - Sammy Truesdale**
    1. Sammy Truesdale has requested for a meeting with the DDCC, to be confirmed exactly what will be discussed.

**Other Competent Business.**

* School Buses and Children’s Free Bus Passes
  + No further update from above
* Lights Morton Park
  + Further information has been sent from Paul Symington, the head of lighting at Ayrshire roads Alliance regarding past proposals for lighting in the Morton Park. ARA are proposing to revisit whether lighting can be added into the park and what the costings are likely to be. Solar lights will not be considered for the park.
  + RH noted that for the lights in the park specific funding that can be applied for.
  + JP noted that there are no lights at the bottom of the park near the river.
* EAC Jamieson Rd Factory.
  + SC noted that the EAC are moving forward with this, confident that good progress. MF requested that SG contact Ian Leslie from the factory. SG confirmed he has already been contacted by the head of legal services at EAC, no further action.
* Christmas Lights - Group
  + Thank you to SG for donating the Christmas tree. This has is now in place, noted that due to the size of the hole and the drop that a 16ft tree will need to be ordered next year.
  + Confirmed that EAC no longer organise the Xmas lights and that the DDCC will need to organise ourselves with no assistance from EAC.
  + Tom Grant Contract Hire will assist in the erection of the lights on the lampposts this Saturday. Nobody knows how this is to be completed but are prepared to try to figure this out. SCT Electrical are also coming down to connect the lights to the supply and complete a PAP test. 2 issues to resolve
    - No access to the lamppost power supply to connect the lights.
    - No access to the electrical box in the square
  + Also awaiting on permission from ARA to erect the lights, the request has been submitted just waiting in the approval.
* John Morton Crescent TARA SC
  + SG Further meeting on TARA planned for Thu 28th Nov so no further update.
* Future Lottery Funding RH/RC
  + No further update
* Lottery Memberships Group
  + No further update
* Millrig Progress RC/RH
  + No further meeting. No recent updates
  + Confirmed that the proposal is for £180K to be available for projects from the 5 community council areas. The committee made up of representatives from the 5 community councils will decide on the successful projects. Council looking to 5-6 projects for the 1st year. All the details are still to be agreed formally. There are large projects connected with Darvel that maybe looking at Millrig for support, such as Jamieson Rod redevelopment, Fleming memorial etc. Strategy group responsible for coordinating these projects.
  + JO voiced concern that there was no finance from the Whiteleas wind farm and commented on whether Millrig would be same. It was noted that there is a fund available from Whiteleas that local groups can apply for, DDCC does not have a capital project that requires funding at present.
* Pipes installed in Priestland. Why? Group
  + Confirmed that these were power cables connecing Millrig windfarm to the battery storage facility in Kilmarnock, this is not believed to be related to any new housing.
* New kids play area was erected in Hutcheson Park. LM noted that the park is a great success but the existing benches for parents to sit have been removed. Request for further seating to be installed, SC to follow up with this on the EAC.
* RH asked the DDCC to consider whether to look at any capital projects, suggested a community hall (Alexander Fleming Memorial Hall) or other community asset on the parcel of land on East Main Street. This has been made available by the EAC to a community group.
* Continue to monitor the DDCC Facebook page to ensure that no advertising is put on the site. Continue to monitor.
* **Minutes of October Meeting**
  + **Proposed by : John Oliver**
  + **Seconded by : Bill Bryden**

***Date of next DDCC meeting 29th January 2025***