**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 27th September 2023**

**Proposed By Seconded by**

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| **Attending** | **Brian Sutherland (Chair), Robert Curr (Vice-Chair), Susan Sutherland (Secretary), Pamela Hanmer (Treasurer).**  **Max Flemmich MBE, John Oliver, David McClernon, Rebecca Amis, Richard Hanmer, Robert Richardson, Sally Jarrett**  **In attendance: Steve Gillies, Fiona Anderson and Ricky Rowe (Darvel Gala Committee), Bill Samson Maggie McCrae (Hogmanay Ceilidh), Jane Slider (VERVE).**  **Susan Howe members of public also in attendance.** |
| **Apologies.** | **Lilian Mair, Ishba Sharif, Jane Bull, Emily Walsh, Yasmin Sharif.**  **Jane Knox, Councillors Beverley Clark and Sally Cogley,** **Sgt Buchanan Grant.** |

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| **Item** | **Agenda Subject** | **Action** |
|  | **MINUTE OF August 2023 MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**  Proposed: Richard Hanmer, Seconded: Brian Sutherland  **Hogmanay Ceilidh**  Maggie passed round posters to advertise the Hogmanay Ceilidh, confirming the following details:   * Held in the Town Hall, organised with support from East Ayrshire Leisure, from 8.30pm onwards. There will be no bar, but you can bring your own bottle. Aimed at a family event. * A ticketed event – tickets available from Maggie on 07900 673 581. Shops can also contact Maggie to hold a stock of tickets for people to pick up. * The license for the event is secured, as is EAL town hall warden. However, there is a need for volunteer stewards on the night. Please contact Maggie if you are interested in volunteering.   (Maggie Left the meeting).  **Christmas Lights**  East Ayrshire Council has advised that it will not provide direct funding for the Christmas Lights, leaving DDCC to raise a potential £4600 costs to be able to run them. Richard Hanmer to review funding applications possible and chase EAC for a funding estimate. Known of at least a £1K fund that might be open for applications at present.  **Darvel Gala**  The next Gala will be held on 15 June 2024. Gala committee members presented proposals to change the parade end and the crowning to the new Market Corner. However, concerns were raised regarding the historic nature of this previously happening in Morton Park, as well as safety concerns with main road traffic.  Steve Gillies confirmed that the license requirements for the Corner place a focus on safety requirements, requiring sufficient steward presence and resources to minimise chance of incident. Previous events (e.g. Darvelo) have been held safely. Steve confirmed that he would be happy for DDCC to have input to the Event Management Plan currently being pulled together.  Fiona confirmed that they had also hoped to be able to encourage the return of parade floats as well. However, this could be difficult. John Oliver confirmed that this had previously ceased due to health a safety concerns for the farmers providing the float trailers.  Gala Committee confirmed they would review this planned location change, including checking that there are no heritage requirements that determine where the Gala crowning should take place. However, there are concerns with funding being able to cover the requirements for stage hire and marquees at the park.  Richard advised that there were potential funding pots available that would apply to the Gala and agreed to progress any applications for these. The Chair and Secretary also offered to explore other stage hire options with contacts in Irvine and Fenwick.  The Gala Committee confirmed that they would be happy to provide reports to DDCC following any scheduled meetings (with one more likely before the end of the year). The Committee will also confirm a representative to attend DDCC meetings going forwards.  (Fiona Anderson, Ricky Rowe and Bill Samson left the meeting.)  **East Main Street**  No update at present. Still unable to get a response from Ayrshire Roads Alliance. Reviewing possibility of getting ARA representation at the November meeting.  **Town Hall Invoices**  Reimbursement of hire costs is expected soon.  **Darvel Youth activity**  No current update from police regarding activity at the Dam. Although noted that restrictions cannot be placed on river access. |  |
|  | **POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT**  The e-mail regarding his availability, first presented to the August meeting, was read out again. If the police cannot attend the DDCC meetings, representatives of the community can arrange for a discussion at the station. DDCC members who have attended these discussions advised that they are useful. However, this doesn’t address the lack of police resource available for the area, or for the 101 telephone service.  Agreed again that the report provided does not seem to represent the scale of disruptive youth activity within the town. |  |
|  | **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**  No councillors in attendance and no report provided in advance. |  |
|  | **SECRETARY’S REPORT**  **Correspondence Log**  Correspondence discussed included the following:   * Concerns raised with youngsters on trial bikes using the East main street, cemetery road and field beside the river opposite the cemetery road end. This is causing hazards to dog walkers and causing disruptive noise. Previous interventions had led to a decrease in activity, but the disruption has commenced again. DDCC to raise with Police for intervention. Also to try and find out from EAC to report to the land owner. * Cars parking on the grass at Morton Park at the old Snooker Hall entrance. Contractors doing work for the council had also driven Lorries in at this entrance and caused damage to the grass. A request for a temporary fencing had been made. Susan to raise with Sally Cogley regarding signage for the area, as well as the council regarding the damage caused by contractor vehicles.   Confirmed that 4 large poppy wreaths have been ordered for Remembrance Day ceremonies. These will be for DDCC, DART, DIG and Peter Orr. John Oliver agreed to lay the DDCC wreath on the Remembrance Sunday 12 November. Discussions were held regarding the Remembrance Sunday parade, route and timing arrangements. Final arrangements to be confirmed at the October DDCC meeting.  All agreed that the secretary could now take an allowance to cover administrative costs including Inks, paper, DDCC mobile phone and Wi-Fi use for DDCC business. Grants area available and, now that the accounts have been finalised at audit, DDCC are in a position to apply for these.  **Planning Applications**: No planning items for discussion. |  |
|  | **TREASURER’S REPORT:**  **DDCC Finance: -** The accounts have now been signed off by the auditor and DDCC now has full access to these. A report was provided with the known balance and breakdown of funds.  (Pamela Hanmer left the meeting.)  Confirmed that the Gala funding is still showing a small negative balance following the correct data provided to auditors. All agreed that this will be written off from the main DDCC figures.  The chair confirmed that the current DDCC can now speak for the figures as they stand post audit and are working from scratch from the current audited position.  The treasurer confirmed that there will now be a split into two separate bank accounts. The Lottery will remain in the current bank account, so there is no disruption caused to incoming and outgoing payments. The DDCC accounts separate to this will be moved into a new account. This will ensure clear lines with allocated funds going forwards.  The DDCC former treasurer advised that he wished, as treasurer prior to 2023, to provide a public apology for the account records retained in recent years. Confirming that the overall balance had never been in doubt, but records of allocations could have been improved. He confirmed that, now that there is confidence in the accounts going forward, it provides a good opportunity for DDCC and DART to work together and build relationships on any shared activities. Brian confirmed that required amendments had been made to the May minute.    **Darvel Lottery**  Confirmed final details of the Lottery budget post audit.  The DDCC confirmed that the successful applicants for the summer lottery funding release could now receive the monies.  David confirmed that he will be speaking to other Lotteries for research and ideas on best practice. Results from these discussions are unlikely before the December community fund allocation.  **Darvel Gala budget**  A discussion was held regarding the deficit for the Gala fund. Fiona advised of some income that was expected from traders following the 2022 gala event. Pamela and Gala colleagues to review income from those dates to see if any payments from expected sources can be identified from that time and any misallocated monies rectified. Fiona to try and obtain details from traders that were expected to provide income at that time and pass this information to Pamela.  Regarding wider conversations around funding opportunities, questions were raised around what had happened with various funding pots provided by windfarm developments, including Whitelee promised funds to the Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley area. Susan agreed to look into this. Steve confirmed that there should be opportunities from new windfarm developments, making funding available for the Darvel, Drumclog and Strathaven areas – although these funding streams are not open yet. |  |
|  | **REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY**  A copy of the report from the Darvel Brownies was circulated.  **Darvel Area Regeneration Team (DART) / Darvel Strategy Group (DSG)**  A report from DART was circulated to all members. This covered updates on the Corner Market days, with future markets on the 27 October and 25 November; nominations of the Corner for awards; Darvel Bulleting; DART funding applications; Progress on the Morton Park play area, with updates on completion to be issued on social media; plans for Active May 2024; Darvel Gala; the concept of the Corner Cinema to be discussed at future DART meetings; Fiona Anderson confirmed as the new chair of DART, starting from the October DART meeting. |  |
|  | **Other Competent Business**  Jane Slider confirmed that the knitted and crocheted poppies will be produced again for this Remembrance Day. There will also be decorations provided for both Halloween and Christmas displays.  DDCC confirmed that the broken trellis has been reviewed and is waiting to be repaired.  Robert Curr raised concerns that there are items agreed in previous meetings that have not been yet progressed. These are to be consolidated and reviewed for the next meeting.  Updates requested on the proposals for a 20mph speed limit. Brian confirmed that the Scottish office is not willing to adjust the speed limit, unless there are significant incidents recorded, especially as it is a main A road. A new roads survey will be commenced in the next few weeks, focussing on the entry and exit points to the town. Any recommendations from these surveys will be brought back to the DDCC for consultation.  Sally confirmed that, following discussions with Ayrshire Roads Alliance, the faded speed limit signs on the Dublin Road had been properly replaced.  Concerns had been raised regarding changes to the collection times on the postbox, the lack of consultation on these changes and the knock on implications for local businesses.  Brian confirmed that the DDCC Facebook page was now in a position to be re-opened following discussions with EAC colleagues. Arlene at EAC is still to send on Social Media guidelines and is to be chased for these before re-opening.  Max raised concerns around re-occurring flooding in heavy rains. Brian confirmed that have been a response plan in place, but work was yet to be started. |  |
|  | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  **Date of next meeting Wednesday 25th October 2O23 at 7pm in Darvel Town Hall.** |  |