**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 30 August 2023**

**Proposed By Vice Chair Robert Curr Seconded by Max Flemmich MBE.**

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| **Attending** | **Brian Sutherland (Chair), Robert Curr (Vice-Chair), Susan Sutherland (Secretary), Pamela Hanmer (Treasurer).**  **Max Flemmich MBE, John Oliver, Lilian Mair, Rebecca Amis, Richard Hanmer, Robert Richardson, Ishba Sharif (via Zoom).**  **In attendance: Arlene Hogarth and Graeme McConnell-Campbell (EAC), Councillors Kevin McGregor and Beverley Clark.**  **4 members of public also in attendance.** |
| **Apologies.** | **David McClernon, Jane Bull, Sally Jarrett**  **Councillor Sally Cogley,** **Sgt Buchanan Grant.** |

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| **Item** | **Agenda Subject** | **Action** |
|  | **MINUTE OF JULY 2023 MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**  The minute was proposed by Lilian Mair and seconded by John Oliver and Max Flemmich.  Some updates provided below  **Town Hall Bookings invoice**: Still awaiting the reimbursement from EAC. Jane Knox from EAC to be invited to the September meeting to discuss funds and future bookings.  **Pot holes on Main street**: No response from roads department. Councillor Kevin McGregor advised that he would raise direct with contact at Roads departments at the full council meeting 31st August.  **Youth activity at the Dam**: Council contacts have confirmed that the area cannot be fenced off and the river is public access. Resident was happier with the response at the meeting with the council / police, but have since raised further concerns with Lilian.  **Neighbourhood watch scheme**: Mr B Farley attended to provide details on his experience with neighbourhood watch schemes. An initial survey had suggested a positive response to the idea of neighbourhood watch – however, this did not result in volunteers to be part of the scheme. Therefore the previous attempt resulted in no concrete interest and no scheme was set up. To be an active member, it requires observation and reporting back to the group. Discussions suggested that methods of reporting concerns (centred around social media currently) have overtaken traditional NW scheme activities. There are also costs involved in relation to signage of NW schemes, the requirement for meetings and communication methods. A suggestion that Neighbourhood Watch Scotland should be invited to a future meeting, but also that existing methods of reporting concerns could be used instead. Still to be an encouragement of community to report to police. |  |
|  | **POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT**  Sgt Buchanan Grant provided report for the period July 2023, along with an e-mail explaining that he will be unable to attend meetings for the next few months (forwarded to councillors for further discussion).  This was circulated to all councillors before the meeting.  Concerns were again raised that the big issues in Darvel are not appearing as reported in the police report. People are put off reporting concerns due to the long wait for an answer on the 101 number. Stretched resources and lack of confirmation about funding for Antisocial behaviour were also discussed.  Sgt Grant to be asked to confirm the correct e-mail address, so that instances of concern can be noted and reported to the station. |  |
|  | **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**  A verbal report was provided, covering:  Osteoporosis report for the valley and a call for volunteers to get involved with the Royal Osteoporosis Society group in the area. There is a charge to be a member of £3 per week and membership includes attending talks of interest.  Additional Naloxone training is taking part in Galston. Cncllr Clark will update when there are additional spaces available, potentially after Christmas. The secretary did advise that there are trained up members of the Darvel Community Council already.  Cncllr Kevin McGregor confirmed that he would raise the outstanding resurfacing concerns with the Ayrshire Roads Alliance, as well as raising the Antisocial behaviour concerns at the council meeting 31 August.  A number of upcoming funding streams were also mentioned, including community wellbeing funding for community groups and CLD funding for laptops to help communities at events eg Digital classes. Funding details will be available in the normal funding newsletters.  Scottish Government consultation on changes to the Council tax is still open for responses. This primarily affects those in bands E – H. The councils are discussing these with COSLA, but ultimately it is a Scottish Government policy decision.  The success of the Scarecrow festival was also raised, with hope that funding can be secured to enable it to keep going. |  |
|  | **SECRETARY’S REPORT**  **Correspondence Log**  An update was provided on members visit to Alan Brown MP. There has been no follow up communication from him.  2 August the DDCC performed an inventory of the Christmas lights.  3 August funding was provided for a manhole to service the Darvel Christmas tree. Works were completed on 17 August.  14 August a meeting was held with Willie Coffey. After raising concerns with the children’s bus pass scheme, it was confirmed that there is unlikely to be changes made to the scheme or to restrict the scheme in any way.  There were also updates covering the factory fire, as well as the fire being lit on the slide in Morton Park. It was confirmed that the slide had not been damaged.  Concerns had been raised regarding the speed of vehicles entering Darvel from the corner towards Newmilns and issues caused to residents entering and leaving their driveways in this area. A traffic survey had been performed in 2021. It was suggested that this is repeated, as the outputs of the 2021 survey are not clear. A copy of the 5 year plan will be requested from DSG to confirm if there are actions included to address the results of the last survey.  There had been a concern raised in relation to a specific incident involving a dog off the lead in Morton Park, where this had resulted in injury to another dog owner. There was a suggestion that a survey should be run by DDCC to assess community views on signage in the part regarding dog control. EAC would be responsible for any signage.   * This will be added as an agenda point to the September meeting.   **Planning Applications**: No planning items for discussion. |  |
|  | **TREASURER’S REPORT:**  **DDCC Finance: -** Accounts are still with the auditors, so no update on these at this time.    **Darvel Lottery**  The August draw was performed prior to the meeting.  There had been a good voting turnout from members in the vote for the July funding release, with two clear winners being the Food Locker and the Morton Park railings. |  |
|  | **REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY**  **Darvel Improvement Group (DIG)**  There was an update provided on a litter pick taken forward by DIG. There is sstill a need for new representation from DIG on the DDCC.  **Darvel Area Regeneration Team (DART) / Darvel Strategy Group (DSG)**  No updates were provided from DART or DSG. |  |
|  | **Other Competent Business**  A member of the public raised concerns that there was misinformation within the community regarding DDCC’s intentions with other groups and how this affects specifically charities. DDCC confirmed that there was no intention to interfere with the activities of other community groups.  There was then held a private session of the DDCC in conversation with Arlene and Graeme from EAC.  Arlene confirmed that the Accounts should be returned from the auditors very soon.  There were further conversations regarding DDCC documentation, what we currently have and additional policies that we will need to set up afresh.  There was also a conversation regarding the Darvel lottery, where DDCC members voted to retain the running of the lottery. Pamela confirmed that work had now been completed to confirm a final list of current members of the lottery.  Arlene and Graeme will provide support to further discussions to ensure that DDCC is able to fill any policy and knowledge gaps that exist following changes in personnel. |  |
|  | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  **Date of next meeting Wednesday 27th September 2O23 at 7pm in Darvel Town Hall.** |  |