**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 29th November 2023**

**Proposed By Seconded by**

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| **Attending** | **Brian Sutherland (Chair), Susan Sutherland (Secretary).**  **Pamela Hanmer (Treasurer), Max Flemmich MBE, Lilian Mair, Rebecca Amis, Richard Hanmer, Robert Glencairn Sally Jarrett, Jane Bull.**  **In attendance: Kevin Braidwood (Ayrshire Roads Alliance), Jane Knox (EAC), Graeme McConnell-Campbell (EAC), Maggie Macrae (Hogmanay Ceilidh)** |
| **Apologies.** | **David McClernon, Ishba Sharif, John Oliver, Emily Walsh, Yasmin Sharif.**  **Robert Curr (Vice-Chair), Maggie Macrae Councillors Beverley Clark, Kevin McGregor and Sally Cogley,** **Sgt Buchanan Grant.** |

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| **Item** | **Agenda Subject** | **Action** |
|  | **MINUTE of October 2023 MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**  **Proposed**: Brian Sutherland, **Seconded**: Lilian Mair.  **Christmas Lights**  Being installed, although still awaiting price for this. Confirmed it is unlikely to be more than previous year, although this is reflected by less lights available. Last year the bill was £2400 approx. and this year it is expected at the same level +10%. Grants have already been applied for with £1K already received. Results of remaining applications not known until the new year.  Kevin Braidwood advised that ARA had secured £20K additional funding, meaning a total of £70K for all communities, including Kilmarnock town centre. Prices have risen significantly, and ARA will be reviewing future support as it is a non-statutory function. They will offer as much funding as possible for this year. Expense also due to only 1 contractor coming forward for installations, so there is no option for further negotiation beyond the reductions already agreed.  DDCC agreed that fundraising for the Christmas lights will need to be started early in the new year. Community Councils are permitted to organise the lights themselves but are still required to obtain a permit from ARA for the installation.  George Gardner has requested content and photographs from the lights switch on for the Darvel Bulletin and this will be given a whole page. Turnaround will need to be quick though as the bulletin will be produced before mid-January.  Arrangements for the day confirmed by Sally Jarret and Jane Bull, from 18.30 – 20.30 on 5 December. Posters are displayed in local shops and the banner installed at Gowanbank railings. Provost Jim Todd will be in attendance, with Councillors Kevin McGregor and Sally Cogley, with Max being the point of contact for the provost and his party. Darvel 2nd Brownies will be singing carols and Verve supplying the switch on button. Santa secured for the evening. Traffic control in place, as well as photographer and First Aiders. Still a call for tombola prizes. Other stalls in place selling gifts and food on the night. Music also being provided by Maggie Macrae free of charge. Jan to speak to Scott at Stormin Normans regarding the catering for the Provost at his arrival around 6pm.  A copy of the proceedings will be circulated to members.  **East Main Street**  The flats have been demolished and there is currently a green space plan for the area. DDCC colleagues asked if it was worth looking into EV charging points on these grounds.  Kevin Braidwood advised that free EV charging will be ending soon and Scottish Government are looking to partner with a private company for future provision of EV supply. This will take at least 18 months (into 2025) – the commodity strategy will need to be agreed first, followed by tariff agreement across Ayrshire and a tender exercise for private companies. Private sector will be expected to invest in any further infrastructure. Penalties will also be introduced for vehicles overstaying on free EV charging points, estimated PCN of £100 for a stay longer than 4 hours.  **East Main Street Speed Survey and speed reduction**  Kevin Braidwood to check for the results of this survey. Also confirmed that speed cameras are the responsibility of Police Scotland and Scottish Government and are installed where there have been accidents. Other speed reduction infrastructure requires the results of the survey to progress, followed by consultations and Traffic Regulation Orders, plus cabinet decision if objections are raised. Minimum of 12 – 18 months to progress.  **Carriageway condition**  Replacement white lining cannot be progressed through the winter. ARA are also trying to obtain reliable contractors for any work and are drawing together a 3-year contract document at present. Smaller jobs are possible, including junctions, but there needs to be proof that there were lines painted on those junctions previously. Any new lines (as in not replacement) need to go through the same process as traffic calming measures, which takes 12 – 18 months.  ARA are reviewing their programme for years 2024/25 regarding carriageway repairs. This involves assessing condition of roads and modelling to determine the programme of works. Reminder that ironworks is the responsibility of utility companies. Kevin Braidwood confirmed that he would organise an inspector to look at reported concerns around road deterioration at the Burn Road junction and bus stop. The ARA website also contains a section for reporting road issues, and all are encouraged to use this. Inspectors will be sent out to review any reported defects.  Parking issues at junctions were also discussed. Kevin Braidwood advised of new legislation brought in from 11 December 2023 regarding obstructive parking. Surveys of each street will be progressed, and ARA will be able to enforce where necessary, although some streets may have exemptions. This work will take time and ARA are still waiting on guidance to support the legislation. Again, enforcement of any restrictions is likely to take 12 – 18 months to be implemented.  DDCC members raised concerns that had been submitted regarding obstructive parking. Photographic records of this were also shared at the meeting. Kevin Braidwood confirmed obstructions to use of the pavement or access for emergency services are the responsibility of the Police.  **Town Hall Invoices**  Refunds for all payments have now been received. |  |
|  | **POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT**  Apologies received from Sgt Buchanan. Police Scotland report circulated to members prior to the meeting. |  |
|  | **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**  No report provided for the meeting.  Councillor Kevin McGregor had advised requirement to attend Newmilns AGM. However, he will be promoting the Darvel Christmas lights switch on his social media. |  |
|  | **SECRETARY’S REPORT**  A brief summary was provided in relation to chairman illness in early November and Vice Chair duties, including cancellation of extraordinary meeting.  12 November, DDCC represented at remembrance Sunday, with John Oliver laying the DDCC wreath.  Richard Hanmer attended the Darvel Strategy Group meeting on 13 November.  King’s award announced on 14 November for DART and DDCC provided congratulations to George Gardner.  Also, on that date the Corner events plan and risk assessment was circulated to members.  15th November, Provost Jim Todd confirmed for attendance at the Christmas Lights Switch on.  17 November, Morton Park Railings invoice received for £3120 and paid.  21 November – confirmed that Kieran Wardrop will be taking over from Graeme McConnell as EAC contact.  21 November- DART report circulated to members.  23 November – Lottery report circulated to members.  24 November – Zurich insurance invoice provided to treasurer and paid.  28 November – e-mail received from Arlene and EAC confirmed receipt of resignation from David McLernon from the DDCC and the Lottery. Jane Bull provided a hard copy of the resignation letter at the meeting.   * Resignation letter signed as acknowledged by the Chairman and seconded by Rebecca Amis.   Confirmed that we now require new licensee for the lottery. Robert Glencairn to take over lottery running, with assistance from Pamela Hanmer.   * Motion proposed by Lilian Mair. Seconded: Jane Bull.   EAC had suggested that the secretary should hold the license. This makes sense as a name must be declared on the license and the shop address is used for DDCC and lottery paperwork. All agreed that Susan’s name will be on the lottery license:   * Motion proposed by: John Oliver. Seconded: Richar Hanmer.   **Planning Applications**: Planning applications were discussed as follows:   * Frank Hill, Old Turf Inn – 2 applications, landscaping and boundary; 2 applications External paint, 1 application refuse recycling. * Mrs James / Andrew Ireland, Feoch Farm – 2 applications for Turbines. * Mr and Mrs S Munro, 7 Morton Park Drive – 1 application for single storey rear extension. Consultation on application open to 29 November. * Angela Hatfield, Laigh Haptom Farm – 1 application for ground level solar panels.   DDCC members asked if there was any community benefits available from the turbine installation, if DDCC support the application. It had been agreed for a separate historic application, which was never granted due to EAC restrictions on distance from the road. Chairman agreed that he was happy to approach the applicants. |  |
|  | **TREASURER’S REPORT:**  Report circulated to members ahead of the meeting.  Confirmed that DDCC will attempt to keep a reserve of £1K if this is possible.  An update was provided on the split of the bank accounts. Th new Bank of Scotland account for the DDCC funds is pending signatures to complete. Following this the lottery and DDCC accounts will be totally separate.  **Funding**  Received a grant of £1K on 19 November. This will be reviewed to see if it is the grant is for the Christmas lights and confirmed. The accounts will contain a specific grants area to ensure theses are separate and visible. Also confirmed are £550 donated sponsorship for the Christmas lights fund. Confirmed that the lights and installation of the hole for the tree are covered. Sponsorship will cover the banner costs and the Provost dinner and hopefully any increase to installation costs. Confirmed income from the tombola will also go to the Christmas lights fund. Tins for donations are also being made available in shops and at the switch on.  Arlene Hodgart at EAC to still progress the grant for the DDCC laptop  The need for a DDCC website was again raised. Richard will mock something up for the January meeting, where content can be discussed. Webpage hosting is estimated at £80 per year, which includes 1 e-mail address. Additional e-mails will increase costs. Agreed that 2 e-mails would be required – for the secretary and for the lottery. Costs will need to come from the general funds. Grants and advertising revenue will be explored. The January meeting can also review the list of available domain names and decide on the most appropriate one.  **Darvel Lottery**  Confirmed that the number of members has reduced, reducing the margin of income available for funding and prizes. This has meant no funding draw in December, but with decision on funding selection process and awards in the new year. There is a requirement for a minimum of 20% to pay out in allocations.  Options were discussed for the award amounts changing in the next round, although members are aware that this may attract some negative feedback.  Suggestions that there needs to be a drive for new members for the lottery. Banners and leaflets to distribute and maybe suggestions of members to buy numbers as presents for relatives.  For the Christmas draw it was suggested that the prizes are linked to the 12 days of Christmas. 1 main prize of £1K and 11 £100 prizes. Expected date for the draw is 20 December, with details posted after the 5th December.   * All agreed. Proposed: Lilian Mair. Seconded: Richard Hanmer   Also confirmed that £1500 allocated for the last lottery funding draw has not been claimed. Some discussion, but agreed to leave in the account at present.  Richard confirmed that a review of the rules and guidelines for the lottery is ongoing. Drafts were provided by David before his resignation. These can be brought back to the January meeting for discussion. |  |
|  | **REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY**  Reports received from all groups and circulated ahead of the meeting  **Darvel Area Regeneration Team (DART) / Darvel Strategy Group (DSG)**  E-mail received and congratulations sent regarding King’s Award for DART. A ceremony will be held Saturday 10 February – details and timings to be confirmed. DDCC members confirmed to attend: Robert Curr, John Oliver and possibly Richard Hanmer. |  |
|  | **Other Competent Business**  Facebook page  Rules confirmed – no outside advertising. No anonymous posts permitted, due to need for transparency. There is no ability on the current page to post under a generic DDCC name, without setting up a separate DDCC profile. Secretary happy to post on behalf of other members if needed. Rob Glencairn happy to take over moderator role, now that David has resigned.  Attendance at meetings  Agreed that where members attend other meetings on behalf of DDCC, that there should be two members in attendance, to avoid any miscommunications. This is to protect DDCC individuals and reputation.  Suggestion that the DSG attendance should be rotated to different DDCC members, so all attend alongside Richard throughout the year. All agreed   * Motion proposed: Pamela Hanmer. Seconded: Lilian Mair.   Minutes  Requested earlier circulation prior to next meeting. Susan advised delays this month due to laptop issues. |  |
|  | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  **Date of next meeting Wednesday 31st January 2O24 at 7pm in Darvel Church Hall, Ranoldcoup Road.** |  |