**Darvel & District Community Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday 29th Jan 2024**

**Minutes were ratified on the DDCC Meeting held on 28th Feb 2024**

* **Minutes proposed by: David McClernon**
* **Minutes Seconded by: Lilian Mair**

**Minutes**

**Chairman to Open Meeting**

(RC) opened the meeting and handed over to (RH) as the new chairman. (RH) thanked (RC) for all his help over the period he was chairman. (RC) will continue to support the DDCC.

**Minutes of November Meeting**

**Proposed by :** Lilian Mair\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Seconded by :** Joyce Paterson\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance, Apologies and Introductions**

**Invited :**

* 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)
* David McClernon (DC) – to be late for the meeting 7.30pm
* Kevin McGregor (KM)
* Grant Buchanan (GB)

**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)
* Emma Nuttal (EN)
* Kevin McGregor (KM)

**Apologies :**

* Grant Buchanan (GB)
* Karyn Hughes (KH)
* Sally Cogley (SC)

**Lottery**

Lottery to be drawn at 6.30pm Wed 29th Dec and posted through Facebook Live.

* Update on the January DDCC Darvel Lottery draw

The Lottery report was sent to all the members prior to the meeting, The update below was reviewed win the meeting

* Number of Entries: 363
* Prize fund: £907.50
* Community Fund: 453.75

Prize Money confirmed

* 1st Prize: £726
* 2nd Prize: £90.75
* 3rd Prize: £90.75

Total of 12 entries down on last month. There has been a consistent decrease in the number but last month was greater than previous months.

* There were some negative comments as the draw was not made to 4 Jan and was not completed Live
  + This was drawn at the beginning of January as the lottery administrators (RH) were out of the country. This may have contributed to the reduction together with the impact of Xmas .
* Draw to be made at 6.30pm tonight just prior to the DDCC Meeting
  + Draw was made at 6.30pm
  + DDCC will look at drawing at the DDCC meeting moving forward and results posted on to FB after the meeting. Further analysis on the best way forward
* Proposal for a Fund allocation for March, to be discussed
  + Proposed for a lottery distribution under the label “Spring into Spring”. Agreed £5,000 to be distributed to local groups. Poster will need to be produced to request local groups apply for this funding, (JO) will initially look at this. Further discussions on how this fund to be distributed. Lottery members will have the final say on how this fund is distributed.
* The DDCC will complete a review to understand why we are still losing members.
  + (JO) also commented that the DDCC site is not well visited where as the Darvel and Priestland chat is much more popular and maybe the lottery can be advertised there. DDCC will look to add posts on to these pages and gauge the impact.
  + Currently do not have anyone from the DDCC that posts regularly on FB. 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. Add the Lottery results to the Darvel and Priestland community chat to see if this approved.
  + Should look to try to expand the lottery outside the Darvel Lottery, review whether to remove the “association to Darvel” clause

**Membership Changes**

* Richard Hanmer is the new Chairman, as confirmed in the last meeting.

**Actions from November DDCC Monthly Meeting**

None

**Meetings Attended**

None

**Upocoming meetings**

None

**Planning**

None

**Reports**

1. **Police Report**
2. **Councillors’ Reports.**
   1. Kevin McGregor
      1. (KM) Confirmed that if anyone that required any assistance to reach out to the EAC or any of the counsillors
      2. (KM to submit acknowledgement of support into the Mural at the square
      3. Condition of the street is an issues, calls every day, will look at how we can get budget to make good some the buildings. Butchers shop has asbestos so this is why its not been sold
      4. Anti social behaviour continues to be an issue. Meeting with Kare Mauchine regarding this before Christmas, hoping for a follow up. The issue was raised with (SC) last meeting that the school buses are going to the school empty as the kids are taking the service bus. Still concerns raised by members of the DDCC. (BC) Discussed whether Special Consatbles can be recruited to assist. (KM) Issues with the lack of a consequence when youngsters misbehave, no mechanism exists to revoke the cards.
      5. Council Tax rises are expected at around 8%, budget to be confirmed
      6. Also Water bills are looking to increase by 10%,
      7. Plans to put the brown bin charge will rise. To be confirmed.
   2. Sally Cogley
   3. Beverly Clark
      1. BC went to see the bus driver following the attack in Galston .People are not using the buses as people are afraid to go on the bus. If people are not using the bus then this will go. Requesting that buses have the same rapid response from the police as the trains. Will go to parliament. May look at Special Constables
      2. Older persons champion, if any older person wants to join the committee for Allison Court to get in touch with John Reid ([john.reid@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.reid@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)) or (BC).
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. SG also noted that we should have Priestland removed from the local development plan and alternative sites should be sought. This visit should be scheduled for the new year.
   2. No further update
4. **Secretary’s Report** 
   1. No secretary at the moment so no report
5. **Treasurers Report**
   1. Figures taken from 31 Dec 2024 to todays date (29 Jan 2025)
   2. Opening Balance - £12782.52
   3. Closing Balance - £13928.52
   4. Expenditure this month was
      1. Bank Charges £78
      2. Hall Rental £180 – this was £45.00 per month but as no invoice had been received the bill had not be paid for some months.
         1. Proposal for a standing order to be set up for £37.50 (£45.00 per month over 10 months).
         2. Proposed by Robert Curr and seconded by Lilian Mair. Agreed by the council.
      3. Lottery Prizes £945.00 this month
6. **Funding report**
   1. Nothing to report
7. **Community Plan Update** 
   1. Action plan covered below
8. **Correspondence Report**
   1. (RH) sent out all correspondence, including
      1. Impact of storm Eowyn (covered below)
      2. New funds available
      3. The Darvel and District Action Plan Steering Committee invite
9. **Police Report**
   1. This was received, nothing of note on the report
   2. 1 arrest for the production and supply of a controlled substance
   3. Another meeting to be scheduled with the Police, (MF) requested to be on that meeting

**Other Competent Business.**

* Update on Storm Eowyn
  + Darvel had electricity out for all of Friday afternoon
  + Priestland had electricity out for for 3 days
  + (JO) commented on the isolation because there was no power, internet or mobile service for some of the residents. (MF) commented that the mobile service was out due to damage to the mast rather than this being a consequence of no electricity.
* Darvel and District Community Action Plan 2026 – 2031
  + DDCC invited onto the Action plan steering committee. Documentation circulated to the community members
    - This will be similar to the steering committee. (LM) is doing this as part of the Darvel Football Club, (LM) will report back. Commented that (BB) may be able to assist
* Morton Park Group proposed by George Gardner
* Approach from Newmilns Community Council - Sammy Truesdale.
  + No further update
  + Action item on (RH) to discuss this
* School Buses and Children’s Free Bus Passes
  + Updated as part of the Counsillors report
* Lights Morton Park
  + ERA Provided some proposals, still under review by the DDCC
  + This may be taken up with the Morton Park Group above, (JP) to take this forward with this group
* EAC Jamieson Rd Factory
  + (RH) Raised this issue as there has been some movement on the site. No further news. (BC) confirmed that this is to come down but (KM) to speak with (SC) for the latest news.
* Christmas Lights – Group
  + Update on the festive lighting for Dec 2024
  + Christmas Tree
  + The DDCC paid for a hole to be installed in the square for the christams tree together with underground conduit to allow cable to be connected to a new electricity box in the square. Following issues were encountered:
    - There is no electricity supply into the square, the electricity box is not working. This has been reported to ARA lighting to be fixed.
    - The conduit pipework is not fit for purpose so matting needed to be laid and the cables run from the tree to the electriciuty box run along the pavement.
    - Next year there will be a 16 foot tree into the square but the DDCC will need to ensure that the supply issue is fixed.
  + Village Lights
    - Putting the lights on the laqmp post required specialist banding equipment which the DDCC was not aware of. This was sourced at short notice but no one was available to operate this. Tom Grant kindly provided a cherry picker and operators but again no one had any experience of the equipment. Contractors were approached but the quote was very expensive at the time.
    - Next year will either have the contractors come in to do this or sourcing someone with experience. (RH) will approach contractors now for a fresh quote. Proposed that the lights should be erected and they will be left up all year round, the lights will only be lit at Christmas time. And disconnected for the rest of the year. Proposed by Richard Hanmer and seconded by Lilian Mair
* John Morton Crescent TARA SC
  + SG Further meeting on TARA planned for Thu 28th Nov furter, update.
  + No further update
* Future Lottery Funding RH/RC
* Lottery Memberships Group
* Millrig Progress RC/RH
  + (RC) will no longer be able to attend the meetings so (DM) will be attending the meetings going forward. (RH) and (DM) will therefore be the DDCC representatives on the committee that makes the decisions on funding.
* Hucheson Park Play Area
  + 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.
    - Confirmed that 2 of the benches will be re-installed. These will be re-installed withing the play area itself. (LM) commented that there is a local resident that picks litter from around the play area.
    - Were not re-installed to discourage youngsters from going there at night.
* Capital projects
  + 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.
  + Any funding application would require plans and other documentation that would require an initial outlay. (RH) Proposed that the DDCC should seek out any funding that is available so that a feasibility and plans can be drawn up for this. (RH) to take this forward. (RC) noted that the community spaces are harder to acquire for meetings etc, Townhall will be shut down for renovation. (PH) proposed that this should be used for housing rather than proposed housing in Priestland. DDCC are still concerned that any proposed housing in Priestland is not a good idea. (JO) also suggested that maybe a Car park that could be used by Darvel Football but this did not gather much support. (LM) Commented that the Darvel Football Club are now able to use the Factory Car Park with space for 100 cars. The Darvel Football Club Car park condition is deteriating as the Car Park is used by council lorries which is damaging the car park
* Facebook Page
  + Continue to monitor the DDCC Facebook page to ensure that no advertising is put on the site. Continue to monitor.

***Date of next DDCC meeting 26the February 2025***