

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DaSRA -DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 26 JUNE 2019

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed the attendees to the meeting. There were approximately 95 attendees.

2. Apologies for absence : Apologies were received from; Laurence Barnes, Trish and Janine Babcock, Elsa and Tony Guilfoyle, Tim Jefferies, Jan and Brian Johnston, Ron and Jenny Paige, Amanda Ratsey and Janet Westwood

3. Minutes of last AGM 25 June 2018 : David Watters proposed acceptance, and seconded by Roger Jamieson.

4. Matters Arising : There were no matters arising that were not covered in the agenda

5. Treasurer's Report on past year : Clare Glynn explained the structure of funding between the General Fund and the Downderry and Seaton Community 'fighting fund'. The figures below were reported and, as of 31/3/2019, there are no liabilities. Maura Swabey proposed acceptance, this was seconded by Tim Pullin .

DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26th JUNE 2019	
TREASURER'S REPORT 22nd JUNE 2018 -31st MARCH 2019	£
INCOME	
COMMUNITY FUND CASH, CHEQUES AND STANDING ORDERS	2,702.00
EXPENDITURE	
GENERAL FUND	48.08
COMMUNITY FUND	866.53
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE 22/6/18 - 31/03/2019	1,787.39
BANK BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD on 21/06/18	
GENERAL FUND	521.88
COMMUNITY FUND	7070.00
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE 22/06/18 - 31/03/19	1,787.39
BANK BALANCE AS AT 31/03/19	9,379.27
ASSETS	
GENERAL FUND CASH AT BANK	473.80
COMMUNITY FUND CASH AT BANK	8,905.47
LIABILITIES	NIL
TOTAL ASSETS	9,379.27

The Chairman thanked Clare for her report and for keeping such close scrutiny of DaSRA Accounts.

6. Chairman's Report

Laura Done introduced herself as Chairman of the Management Committee, appointed in July 2018 after a period of 12 months when DaSRA was without a Chair-

man. She thanked Vice Chairman Dave Gatland for taking on that role during this time.

The key focus over the last year has been to move from being a reactive organisation to one being more proactive, necessary in a changing environment which requires greater transparency and more effective communication, values which will remain a priority for the Committee. LD revealed a new Publicity Banner setting out the role of, and contact points for, DaSRA to be used at public events to increase awareness. She summarised DaSRA's role as to

Be a **collective voice** for residents of Downton and Seaton

Seek to **influence** decision makers and **campaign** on matters that affect the wider community

Offer a **go-to Information Service via its website**

Play a **lead role in safeguarding assets** deemed to be of community value

Build **The Downton and Seaton Community Fund** to address local needs.

LD went on to highlight some of the activities during the past year.

In **Planning** matters, DaSRA adopts an advisory role, talking to affected residents, understanding their concerns and advising how representations can be made. The most recent case, last autumn, concerned a Breads Yard development when DaSRA facilitated Cornwall Rural Housing Association to run public events, giving residents the chance to ask questions about the proposed development and giving the developer, The Cornwall Rural Housing Association, the opportunity to understand local realities. No Planning Application has since been received and LD reminded the audience that updates on Planning Applications and other relevant information can be found on the DaSRA website. If Residents have a concern which will affect the wider community - LD stressed that DaSRA does not take up the cause of an individual resident - DaSRA considers how to influence - DaSRA has no power, no authority, cannot make decisions. But DaSRA can influence: on behalf of residents DaSRA can ask questions, lobby, campaign for changes. For example, earlier this year LD met with parents from the PTA who told DaSRA of their concern about the deteriorating state of the Children's Play Area in Seaton. As Chair of DaSRA, LD wrote to Cornwall Council, who owns and maintains the site, to express residents' concern, and asked about future plans for the area. CC agreed to a meeting. A couple of parents, and LD met with a Cornwall Council's representative, and a few days later the Council told DaSRA that they were introducing a 3 Phase programme, allocating £50k, and seeking the views and aspirations of local residents for the Play Area. LD said that there would be more such examples of collective representation and encouraged residents to use DaSRA to assist in the resolution of issues which could affect the wider community.

DaSRA is a channel for communication using the website and emails. On that point, LD reminded the audience that individual consent for contact must be given before DaSRA can email updates of topics of interest. She asked those wanting to be on the Dasra mailing list, and had not yet given consent, to contact DaSRA. DaSRA offers a go-to Information Service using its new website to inform and update residents on facts, and hopefully quashing any unfounded rumours. She highlighted, as an example, DaSRA's engagement re the closure for refurbishment of Inn on the Shore in November 2018 when LD contacted the owners, Punch Taverns, to

ask them to give official statements as to what was to happen. The website also gives an opportunity for local groups to highlight what they do - and for residents and visitors to know what events and activities are available.

Finally, the Chairman focused on the very important topic of community assets - assets which add value to our community and to the quality of day-to-day living - physical areas and services. DaSRA established the Community Fund in 2016 with regular donations from local residents to enable the community to keep a post office - an unusual approach to take, but effective. A meeting of subscribers to the Community Fund was held in Sept 2018 to discuss the future of the Community Fund, no longer needed to maintain a post office service. At that meeting, the potential for other much valued community assets needing action in the future was recognised. The outcome of the meeting was that those present voted to continue to build "a fighting fund", to be managed by DaSRA, so that the village would have resources to take future action as needed. The Chairman expressed the hope that more residents will agree to this approach, and would want to build the Fund, which, no matter what the future holds, will always be restricted to supporting causes benefitting residents of Downton and Seaton. Information about donating to the Fund is on the [website. www.dasra.co.uk](http://www.dasra.co.uk).

This responsibility has required the DaSRA Management Committee to be on a much stronger footing, and to move from what was described as a relatively informal group of volunteers, which Committee Members still are, to a more structured organisation that is open to scrutiny over practices and processes. Therefore, over the last 9 months, the Committee has finalised a Constitution defining the Governance of DaSRA as an Unincorporated Association, existing to benefit the residents of Downton and Seaton who, by living in the villages, are all recognised as members of the Association. Committee Members are very mindful of the responsibilities and accountability of managing the Community Fund in an open and transparent way and are confident that there are now appropriate measures in place to better achieve that. All these documents, plus Minutes of Committee Meetings can be accessed on the website. www.dasra.co.uk.

The Chairman confirmed DaSRA's agenda for next year - to continue to keep close to residents, to listen and talk, and when there is something that is of concern to the wider community, to be proactive and to take whatever action is deemed appropriate. DaSRA also celebrates local assets, for example, our local Artists living in Downton and Seaton and plan to produce a calendar for 2020 that illustrates and celebrates their talent. Profits from sales will go towards DaSRA's General Fund. For the coming year, we will see what the new year brings, certainly a vastly improved Children Play Area in Seaton, keeping close to Cornwall Council on future consultations, increased links with the Parish Council and keeping aware of Planning developments, and remain mindful of whatever else comes up that affects our lovely villages - the positive and the negative.

7. Election of Officers The Chairman began by making a plea. DaSRA seeks to represent a population of some 1400 living in Downton and Seaton - perhaps 1000 are adults. 2 members of the Committee are leaving for personal reasons, so there will be 6 residents on the Management Committee of DaSRA. LD stressed this is

not enough to be recognised as being representative. The Committee should be made up of residents whom we seek to represent. She set out what was needed: residents with skills, knowledge base, but most importantly, residents who have an active interest in knowing more about the issues of interest to the local community. DaSRA needs Committee members willing to listen and to talk to residents about matters that affect the wider community and be interested in addressing such concerns. Without such people, DaSRA can not fulfil its remit. Anyone interested, should contact the Chairman or any other Committee member.

LD gave notice that 2 Committee members were not standing for re-election.

Laurence Barnes, with his wife Gill, is leaving Downterry to go and live near their family in Greater Manchester. She thanked Laurence for his active involvement with the Residents Association over many years, it has been much appreciated.

Dave Gatland has made a valued contribution to keeping the Residents Association active and relevant over the past few years and, in particular, acting as Vice Chairman in the absence of a formal Chairman for over a year. Dave has shown tenacity and pragmatism in identifying and addressing issues and has helped the Residents Association reinforce a healthy and open relationship with Parish and County Councillors. For health reasons Dave has decided it's time to step back from serving on the Committee of DaSRA and revert to being a committed resident. The Chairman thanked Dave for all that he had done and the time he has given to supporting residents and wishes him and Pam well for the future.

The remaining Members of the Committee are happy to continue on the Management Committee and the residents are asked to support their continuation:
Chairman Laura Done, Treasurer Clare Glynn, Secretary Sandra Miles Taylor, Matt Belding, Elsa Guilfoyle, Maura Swabey
Proposer Alan Sawbey Seconder David Watters

8. Richard Pugh, Cornwall Councillor for Downterry and Seaton

8.1 Cllr Pugh reported that the **Dog Prohibition Order** on beaches for the whole of Cornwall is reviewed every three years as standard practice and a public consultation always occurs. The current Orders run out in April 2020 and, as he was concerned that local residents knew about the consultation, he was giving advance notice ahead of its launch in August 2019. He mentioned Cornwall Council are considering harmonising all dog restrictions so that, where they exist, there is consistency across the County. There followed a prolonged, and, at times, heated discussion with the audience as Cllr Pugh sought to clarify that this is advance notice of a routine process and is not designed as a plan to ban dogs on Downterry and Seaton beaches. He urged attendees to respond to the consultation when it becomes public. Until the consultation is launched across the county in August, there were no more details available and he suggested that residents monitored the websites of DaSRA and Cornwall Council for up-to-date information.

8.2 **Affordable housing.** Regarding the car park at Broads Yard, Cllr Pugh announced that Cornwall Council have indicated that they wish to transfer the ownership/management of the car park to Deviock Parish Council. They will not expedite the change until the issue of access to the field across the stream has been re-

solved which will allow some affordable housing to be built. Cornwall Council have said they would word a covenant to make it illegal to build anything in the field apart from affordable houses and make any other access available only to vehicles for the sole purpose of agriculture. It now has to be seen that the covenant is strong enough to meet the requirements of the Parish Council.

8.3 Highway matters. Speeding in the Parish

Cllr Pugh explained that there was no technology available to enable a 20 MPH limit to be enforced. He estimated that two signs showing the speed at which traffic travels, for example by the school, would cost £11,000 and that is a matter for the Parish Council. Suggestions from the audience proposed more double yellow lines and speed humps in the village, and Cllr Pugh responded that people were welcome to come and speak about this matter in the public participation period at any Parish council meeting.

8.4 Planning : Cllr Pugh reminded the audience that the current National Planning Policy Framework required Councils to grant planning permission unless there are valid reasons why not to approve, reversing the previous approach when planning was refused unless there was a reason to approve. This change explains why planning applications in the village now tend to be approved. Residents present expressed concern re the increase in the number of lorries coming down Seaton Valley Road causing increased wear and tear. Cllr Pugh responded that Cornwall Council have an obligation to repair the road. He announced that on the following day, there was to be a visit by Cornwall Council Highways Management to assess the situation.

9. Date of next AGM. A date in June 2020 will be set

8 July 2019