

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DaSRA
- DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 19 July 2021
Downderry and Seaton Village Hall

1. Chairman's Welcome: The Chair, Laura Done (LD) welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

She introduced Councillor Armand Toms who now represents Deviock Parish, alongside Looe East, on Cornwall Council, and also the new Chairman of Deviock Parish Council, Mark Gibbons. LD announced that Sandra Pearce, DaSRA's Secretary will be retiring from the Committee at this meeting but has been asked that she continue to take the Minutes throughout this meeting

2. Apologies for absence : Apologies were received from;
Terry and Linda Clarke, Tina Jefferis, Sacha Pearce, David Watters

3. Minutes of last AGM 26 June 2019 :

The Chair explained that as there was no AGM held in 2020 (Covid lockdown) there is the need to approve the AGM Minutes of 2019. The draft version has been available on the DaSRA website, but she would recap the main items, with some update.

- The Treasurer reported that as at June 2019 the Community Fund stood at £8905.47 and the General Fund at £473.80
- The start of the Seaton Play Park improvement plan, with meetings held between DaSRA and County Council (CC) £50,000 committed by CC as the first Phase of a 2 Phase improvement plan.
- The strengthening of DaSRA's governing documents and the publication of all relevant documents and Committee Minutes on the newly established DaSRA website was recorded.
- In his update, County Councillor Richard Pugh introduced Cornwall Council's timetable to hold a public consultation on harmonising all restrictions for dogs on beaches. A vocal discussion among the 94 residents present at the AGM demonstrated a concern about any restrictions. The September consultation resulted in the status quo for Downderry & Seaton, ie.no restrictions.
- Broads Yard - first indication from Cllr Pugh that Cornwall Council plans to transfer the ownership of the car park at Broads Yard to Deviock Parish Council. This is still ongoing as there is an issue that relates to access to a potential site for affordable housing.
- The topic of speeding, double yellow lines, speed humps all raised, discussed. These issues remain on the current agenda.

The Chair asked for acceptance of the Minutes of the AGM held on 26 June 2019. Jenny Jaycock proposed acceptance, and seconded by Alan Swabey.

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

5. Treasurer's Report on past years: Treasurer, Clare Glynn,(CG) presented the Accounts for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

CG reported that DaSRA's Annual Accounts are now reported on March 31st of each year rather than, as previously, to coincide with the date of the AGM. Income is divided between two funds; The General Fund funds activity carried out by DaSRA in support of the general running of the association; The Community Fund was set up in 2016 following a campaign to secure Post Offices services in the village. Originally focused on supporting the cost of running a post office in the village shop, once a part time outreach post office service was secured, no financial support was needed. Subscribers to this fund voted (10 Sept 2018) to continue building and growing a fund restricted to being used specifically to protect and

support other assets that are key to the local community. Two initiatives over the last two years have increased funds to the General Fund, and so are available for the DaSRA Management Committee to take action on behalf of residents. Publishing a Calendar celebrating the talent of local artists, saw our income rise in year end 2020; there was no calendar in 2021. An increase in our General Fund to March 2021 was due to the launch of DaSRA's Membership Scheme which was announced in mid February 2021. This will now secure an annual income into the General Fund. As at March 2021, there were no liabilities.

The Treasurer concluded her report with the announcement that she planned to stand down as treasurer at next year's AGM in 2022. The attached accounts are as reported. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Sue Slyfield and seconded by Elsa Guilfoyle. The Chair thanked Clare for her attention to detail on the accounts and respected her decision to move on. The Committee would seek a new treasurer over the coming months.

6. Chairman's Report

"To begin where we left off in 2019. The reporting period of April 2019 to March 2021 has been dominated by the Covid Pandemic. 2019 may seem a long time ago but there was no AGM event in the summer of 2020, so we are obliged to include a report for that year. I will summarise as much as possible

DaSRA's role as a go-to service for information for residents is achieved primarily through our website and Facebook page, and, of course, a monthly entry in Nut Tree. The development of the website was a main feature during 2019 and was certainly a critical tool in promoting the consultation re Dogs on beaches, directing residents to Cornwall Council's website - a practical example of why we continue to spend time & resources in keeping web pages up to date.

Thanks to Caroline Frith who joined the Committee in early 2020, we added a dedicated DaSRA Facebook page on which more immediate posts can be added, from us, but also, as appropriate, from individual residents. We want it to be a useful communication tool for all residents.

Throughout the Covid lockdown period, and thanks to the immediate positive response from some 40 local residents, in March 2020, we joined the Good Neighbours Group a partnership between Volunteer Cornwall, NeighbourhoodWatch and Devon and Cornwall Police. Its purpose - to facilitate Good Neighbours, giving practical support to those in a more vulnerable position as lockdown set in. While we would never make assumptions on how people did cope during these unprecedented times, it was important - it remains important - that residents know that help is there if needed.

DaSRA was pleased to support Downderry Stores when their policy of serving only local people during lockdown made front page news in the Cornish Times. The paper took the experience of one family who did not agree with the policy and, without offering a counter-balance - ie talking to residents - made it a one-sided front page story impossible to miss. Working with shop owners, Kim and Richard James, we penned a very robust response, which, to their credit, the paper did print in full on the following week's front page, but of course the damage was done. I would say more damage to the reputation of the Cornish Times whose local readers felt very let down by the aggressive nature of the article in a paper that, for many, had been their favoured read. And it was a very hurtful experience for Kim, Richard and their team. The overwhelming support in the village was for the shop and its team, who have done, and continue to do, a fantastic job in serving our community, their customers, so well. DaSRA was happy to organise a commemorative plaque, funded by donations from residents, thanking the team for their incredible, thoughtful and compassionate service, particularly to the most vulnerable in our community. I think that many would probably agree that through Covid we have seen the very best of people, but sadly, on occasions a very negative side. A constant reminder, if we needed it, of the importance

of kindness, civility, and supportiveness - values that strengthen a community and values that we can all respond to.

We know that, if the need arises, there is an army of neighbours ready to march into action, and we really appreciate that, particularly at this time when the future looks uncertain as we move into a less restrictive lifestyle. So, a big thank you to all you Good Neighbours.

As chair of DaSRA I attend the monthly Deviock Parish Council meetings and do take relevant opportunities to speak during their 10-minute Public Participation Period. In recent times I have raised issues about the continuing closure of public toilets during lockdown, the need for decisions on Seaton Play Park ownership while recognising the complexities of devolution negotiations, and overall, promoting improved communications with the Parish Council. I have shared with Cllr Toms and the Parish Council the issues that residents have highlighted to DaSRA as priorities for concern - traffic issues: speeding, car parking, pedestrian walkways, dog fouling and concern about the delay in adopting the Deviock Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Play facilities for the increasing number of young children now living locally is another priority frequently identified by residents and we're delighted that the topic of facilities for children and young people is on the Parish Council's agenda. Surely one of the delights of an ever-changing community is seeing an increase in young families calling Downton and Seaton their home.

Play facilities for children has been an active item on DaSRA's agenda since mid-2019, when we contacted Cornwall County raising concern about the deteriorating state of the play equipment in Seaton Play Park, well below the standards expected of an active play area in a prime site for residents and visitors. We were delighted when Cornwall Council agreed to commit £50,000 to the Play Park site. That budget was for Phase 1, the southern part to be completed in March 2020 after which a community-led fundraising initiative would launch an appeal to fund new equipment for the toddlers' area, ie Phase 2. DaSRA is happy to act as banker for the Appeal and we are fortunate in attracting parents to lead the fundraising. I must thank them - Michelle and Mark Davies, Ben Rumble and Este Hughes for their enthusiasm and increasing patience as we look to settle on a launch date. So, what happened to the Play Park's Appeal's original timetable? Of course, Covid happened. The site was not completed in March 2020 - it was delayed until September 2020. A couple of months later - just as we were finalising the Appeal and almost ready to go public, Cornwall Council announced a far-reaching change in policy - they planned to devolve all Play Areas to town and parish councils and to begin negotiations throughout the county. It became clear that it was impossible for us to launch a fundraising appeal when the ownership of the site to be developed through external funding was in question. This continues to the current time, but we are heartened to hear from both County and Parish that active negotiations on devolvement are ongoing, hopefully to be completed without too much further delay.

You may know that The Parish also has outstanding negotiations to complete on other sites to be devolved - Breads Yard car park, the Memorial gardens and the Slipway. Devolution is a very serious long-term business, so we wish our Cllrs well in negotiating the right terms.

Planning issues are always on our Agenda and our thanks go to Committee member Maura Swabey for taking a lead on this for our Committee and for keeping aware of planning issues that could affect the wider community. We do not take on the cause of an individual application - only those with a broader impact in the wider community. I think it's fair to say that knowledge, and experience of Planning technicalities is not evident in the Committee's background so if you know of anyone with such expertise who would be interested in joining our Committee, we'd love to hear from them.

A recent development has seen DaSRA incorporate Neighbourhood Watch into our remit following the departure of the previous co-ordinator, Jack London to his native Rugby. We began talking with Neighbourhood Watch in late 2020 and we have had the good luck to recruit a very enthusiastic resident to our Committee with the additional remit of taking on the role of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. Nigel Jones is very available if you want to discuss any aspect of community safety & crime. Email him on info@dasra.co.uk.

The partnership with DaSRA and Neighbourhood Watch is now fully established. With its remit to build safer, stronger and more active communities in which people can thrive, it is clear that Neighbourhood Watch and DaSRA share a common agenda. One such topic is dog fouling: a significant area of concern, one we have shared with our County Councillor. We know this because we hear of countless reports by frustrated residents about dog fouling, both on the beach and on the roads and lanes around our area. To that end, Nigel has established contact with the Cornwall Council Dog Wardens and the Community Protection Manager. And he will continue to investigate if our area can be included in future targeted initiatives. But the message from the County is for residents to report incidents of dog fouling to Cornwall Council, important because if there are no recorded incidents of dog fouling in our area, no action can be taken by the Council - no visits by dog wardens. Details of how to report are on the DaSRA website.

Covid affected our plans to produce a Donderry And Seaton Artists Calendar for 2021 - the sales outlets were not available to us as they had been for our 2020 Calendar which was well received. With craft and local shows cancelled, restaurants and meeting places closed, we took a year out. But now we're back. We are blessed with having such a range of artistic talent here in the village and we love to celebrate that artistic identity. We consider it an important part of what DaSRA does - to showcase the talent within our community. So, a Calendar for 2022 is available for sale. Please do buy - for home or to send to friends who have not visited for a while. It is guaranteed to bring a smile every month.

An exciting development to finish my report on, albeit one that is still very much work in progress. In February this year we launched a DaSRA Membership Scheme. This is a first for Donderry and Seaton Residents Association - signing up subscribed members to give DaSRA the committed approval to represent the views of residents on local issues: the annual subscription will help fund the running costs of DaSRA. In its first quarter, we now have direct contact with 90 households. Not so bad from a standing start, but that represents just 10% of all households in Donderry and Seaton. Surely a Residents Association can do better than that. So a big thank you to those in the room who have subscribed, perhaps you could encourage local friends and neighbours to do likewise and we appeal to those in the room who have not yet joined, please do consider it. £5 per annum for a single person: £10 pa for a whole household.

We are very grateful to Committee member Jeanette Langfeld who has taken on the role of Membership Secretary. From a position of thinking that it would be a good thing, we now have a very accessible contact system that enables us to communicate with all or with any individual member - great when we want to get feedback on any issue as we did with our recent response to Cllr Toms.

This concludes my Report for the last two years. We now go forward with an Agenda that continues to put the interest of the community to the fore. To do that we want to stay close to you - so let's stay in touch. Thank you.

7. Election of Officers.

The Chair thanked Sandra Pearce who was resigning after 6 years as Secretary to DaSRA's Management Committee. Her contribution has been significant and we remain grateful for her continuing commitment to our local community

Two new members of our community have put their names forward to be elected to the Management Committee of DaSRA. Victoria Trenerry to take up the Officer's role of Secretary, vacated by Sandra. In addition to being a full DaSRA Committee member Nigel Jones has been approved by the Devon & Cornwall Police/Neighbourhood Watch to be their representative for the Donderry and Seaton community.

The following were elected by a unanimous show of hands from DaSRA Members :

- 7.1 Chair Laura Done
- 7.2 Treasurer Clare Glynn
- 7.3 Secretary Victoria Trenerry
- 7.4 Committee Members - Caroline Frith, Nigel Jones, Jeanette Langfeld,
Maura Swabey

8. Cllr Armand Toms, Cornwall Councillor, representing Looe East and Deviock

Cllr Toms introduced himself as a long-standing Cornwall County Councillor representing Looe East and welcomed the opportunity to now serve the residents of Deviock Parish. He described himself as a "man of the sea", with connections to Donderry and Seaton; he worked as a fisherman, learning his trade from the local Hocking family. During the local elections (May 2021) he spoke with many residents and issues regarding sea defences, roads and parking were often raised. Since being elected he had visited the villages and established good relationships with Deviock Parish Chairman, Mark Gibbons and has walked the sea wall, assessing need for improvements, and visited Seaton Valley, Seaton Play Park and the Memorial Gardens with Cllr John Croft.

Cornwall Council is in detailed negotiations on devolving public areas to Deviock Parish Council, and Cllr Toms is encouraged by the current situation as discussion under Cllr Mark Gibbons have made great progress in recent weeks.

1. **Devolution.** The main areas under consideration for some time are Broads Yard Car Park, the Memorial Gardens and the Slipway. In recent months, negotiations have begun on a separate devolution package in Seaton of the Children's Play Area, The MUGA, (Multi-Use Games Area) and the exercise equipment area. Concluding these discussions are now a priority.
2. **Affordable housing:** Cllr Toms informed the audience that the Deviock Parish (Donderry, Seaton, Hessenford and outlying areas) have a requirement for 25 affordable homes ; there is also increasing concern re lack of affordable rented accommodation and incidents of gazzumping in rented as well as purchased property. Concerns were raised by several attendees about affordable houses being sold to 'second-homers' resulting in local elderly residents being forced out of the village. Cllr. Toms said clauses and covenants requiring local connections are being used successfully elsewhere in Cornwall to create local solutions to this issue. Any local solution should be clear on affordability criteria and ratio of private housing for rental/purchase.

3. **Parking** : Increasingly, bad parking continues to cause problems in both villages and Cllr Toms is already receiving complaints about parking problems especially in Seaton. Buses are regularly delayed, and emergency vehicles have had access blocked. Cllr. Toms stressed the need to report such incidents to the police and Highways. Only by recording such incidents will action get taken. He has heard residents call for a 20mph speed limits through Downderry and Seaton and he quoted examples where such a limit has been introduced.
4. **Car Parks:** The matter of people exiting via the entrance at Broads Yard was raised by a resident as this is a dangerous manoeuvre. Cllr. Gibbons responded that when the Broads Yard car park is devolved to Deviock Parish Council (DPC) possible solutions would be looked at e.g. improved signage, introducing a one way system. DPC is exploring the possibility of a Deviock Parish Councillor joining Cornwall Council's Highways Committee.
5. **Dog Fouling:** Cllr. Toms reiterated the need to report incidents to the dog warden in order to gain attention from the Cornwall Council. CC can only respond with their limited resources to reported incidents and will inevitably send dog wardens to places with the highest number of incidents. A member of the audience recommended taking phone images and submitting those. CCTV is being used elsewhere to identify such incidents.
6. **Overhanging hedges:** Residents raised an increasing problem restricting both road vision and safe passage of the buses , especially along Brenton Road . Cllr. Toms said he would report this to the county surveyor as there should be 5m clearance along the pavements.
7. **Play areas:** Seaton Children's Play Park is under discussion for devolvement to DPC. This potential change in ownership has delayed the launch of a planned community-led fund-raising initiative to equip the toddler's part of the Play Park, following Cornwall Council's investment in the southern part of the area in 2020. The cost of maintaining the play areas once they are devolved to DPC was raised by a resident as a concern. It was noted that the costs have been researched by DPC and will form part of the devolution negotiations. It was noted from one attendee that she had had a disappointing response when reporting an issue re the MUGA - an example which stressed the need to resolve the current ownership uncertainty. Cllr Mark Gibbons emphasised that DPC was determined to achieve a long-term sustainable solution to this important community asset.

The Chair thanked both Cllr Toms and Cllr Gibbons for their contributions to the AGM and looked forward to close contact over the coming months to address some of the issues that have been raised.

9. **Date of next AGM.** A date in June 2022 will be set

12 Aug 2021

DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION			
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING			
TREASURER'S REPORT 1ST APRIL 2020 - 31ST MARCH 2021	£	£	£
	YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2021	YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2020	22ND JUNE 2018 - 31ST MARCH 2019
INCOME			
COMMUNITY FUND CASH, CHEQUES AND STANDING ORDERS	2769.00	3,209.00	2,702.00
GENERAL FUND - CALENDAR	20.00	1,333.00	
GENERAL FUND - PLAQUE	195.00		
GENERAL FUND - MEMBERSHIP	430.00		
GENERAL FUND - OTHER		60.00	
MEMBERSHIP INCOME CASH	5.00		
EXPENDITURE			
GENERAL FUND	557.20	1,302.60	48.08
COMMUNITY FUND		-	866.53
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	2,861.80	3,299.40	1,787.39
BANK BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD on 1ST APRIL			
GENERAL FUND	564.20	473.80	521.88
COMMUNITY FUND	12,114.47	8,905.47	7,070.00
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	2,861.80	3,299.40	1,787.39
BANK & CASH BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH	15,540.47	12,678.67	9,379.27
ASSETS			
GENERAL FUND CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	657.00	564.20	473.80
COMMUNITY FUND CASH AT BANK	14,883.47	12,114.47	8,905.47
LIABILITIES	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL ASSETS	£15,540.47	£12,678.67	£9,379.27
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE			
PRINTING OF CALENDARS		£875.00	
WEBSITE		£150.00	
BANNER		£234.00	
HIRE OF HALL AND PHOTOCOPYING FOR AGM		£43.60	
		£1,302.60	
PRINTING OF MEMBERSHIP LEAFLETS	£207.00		
DOMAIN NAME	£19.18		
WEBSITE HOSTING	£150.00		
L DONE RE PLAQUE	£181.02		
	£557.20		

Accepted by Members present at AGM. 19 July 2021