

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DaSRA
DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

18 July 2022 Downderry and Seaton Village Hall

1.Chairman's Welcome:

The Chair, Laura Done (LD) welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She introduced the guest speakers: from the Ukrainian Refugee Support Group – Leanne Spencer-Harper and Anna Borodina. For the Neighbourhood Development Plan -NDP - Councillor Armand Toms who represents Deviock and Looe East on Cornwall Council; Mark Gibbons, the Chairman of Deviock Parish Council, and Amanda Ratsey, Deviock NDP lead. LD announced that Clare Glynn, DaSRA's Treasurer, will be retiring from the Committee at this AGM.

2. Apologies for absence : apologies were received from; Raj Chotai, Clare Glynn, David Watters, Heather Smithurst, Mark Davies, Jane & Jem Hall, Ben Rumble, Lynne & Jeff Rees

3. Minutes of last AGM 19 July 2021 : The Chair introduced the item

“The Minutes of our last AGM 19 July 2021 has been on our website throughout the year and were emailed to all Members of DaSRA who have the authority to approve the Minutes. A quick recap on main items covered over what had been a two year period 2019 /2020 and 2020/to March 2021 as Covid prevented a meeting being held in 2020.

- The Treasurer reported that as at March 2021 the Community Fund stood at £14,883.47 and the General Fund at £657
- The Chair's report covered the period April 2019 - March 2021
- In March 2020 at the start of Covid lockdown, some 40 residents joined a Good Neighbours Group with DaSRA working in partnership with Volunteer Cornwall, with Devon & Cornwall Police and with Neighbourhood Watch. Its purpose was to offer practical support to those in a vulnerable position. Overall our community fared well in that first lockdown, thanks in large part to Downderry Stores whose priority was steadfast in staying open and servicing our local community. DaSRA was pleased to pen a robust response to a negative front page article in Cornish Times regarding the shop's policy of only serving residents. The paper did publish our front page response but the paper's one-sided approach was heavily resented by local people. It was an upsetting experience for the shop's staff team and DaSRA was pleased to present them with a wall plaque, funded by residents' donations, to record the community's appreciation.
- A big step forward for DaSRA was the launch of its own Facebook page in 2020, thanks to new Committee member, Caroline Frith
- The pausing of a fundraising project to better equip the toddlers area of The Seaton Play Park was documented, as Cornwall Council and Deviock Parish councillors consider the wider Implications of a devolution programme - which is still being negotiated.
- The incorporation of the villages' Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was progressed with the election of newly appointed Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Nigel Jones to the DaSRA Management Committee
- A significant development for DaSRA was the launch of DaSRA's own Membership Scheme in February 2021, effective from April 2021. This was the first time that residents have been asked to sign up as members giving DaSRA their committed approval to represent the views of residents on local issues

- Sandra Pearce resigned from her role as Secretary, leaving the Committee after seven years and Vicky Trenerry was elected as Secretary. Nigel Jones was also elected onto the Committee, all other Committee members were re-elected.
- County Councillor Armand Toms and the newly elected chairman of Deviock Parish Council Mark Gibbons were present and updated the audience on the current situation regarding devolution, affordable housing, parking issues, dog fouling, and play areas.”

Approval of the the Minutes were proposed by Brian Johnston and seconded by Alan Swabey.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes - there were none

5. Treasurer's Report - read by the Chair in absence of Clare Glynn, the Treasurer

- The accounts have been prepared for the year ended 31st March 2022 and have been emailed to all residents on our emailing list.
- The year ended with healthy balances on both the General Fund and the Community Fund. (**£1,669 and £14,383** respectively). DaSRA does need a level of funding to be available for us to carry out our work and this is covered within our **General Fund**. The annual running costs of DaSRA's General Fund include Website Hosting (£178) and Insurance (£269), plus the costs of meetings and leaflets as needed. The highest single figure for spend is for the printing of the Calendar but we seek to replace that with income from sales.
- Income comes, in the main, from two sources - membership and calendar sales. This is the first year that we have been able to grow our General Fund by £570 through membership fees. Income from the sale of calendars is critical. Artists kindly donate their artwork to us and once we have covered the cost of printing, any surplus goes into our General Fund. In the year to March 2022 we received £350 from Neighbourhood Watch headquarters for our local Downderry & Seaton Flower Boats. This money is ring-fenced for the sole purpose of providing plants and soil etc for our Flower Boats: we have to account to Neighbourhood Watch very specifically on how that £350 has been spent.
- Our other Fund within our Accounts is the **Community Fund** which is also ring fenced. It is there to fund any necessary action if a village asset is under threat. It is a tremendous, and I would say enviable, resource to have at a community's disposal because when problems come, there is often little time to get funds in place for the fight back. So a very big thank you to all who donate into the Community Fund. **£2,848** was paid in last year - through standing orders - and the fund at year end totalled **£14,383** at year end.
- We did expend money from the fund last year on two causes: one amount was for **£1,348** to purchase the Community Notice Board which was way past its life and needed to be pulled down. The other payment contributed during the final hours of a crowdfunding appeal initiated by Deviock Parish Council to buy a piece of land in Seaton which was described in the auction sales blurb as offering “income-raising opportunities”. We stayed in close contact with the Parish Chairman as funds came in - there was tremendous community support and we donated **£2,000** to help take the appeal over the line to secure an area now protected for the benefit of residents, visitors and future generations. The Parish Council is working with Cornwall Wildlife Trust and other supporters on a sustainable, long term management plan for this habitat and its wildlife. The Community Fund is a great asset - a resource there for

the unexpected. There is information on our website for any one interested in knowing more, or please contact DaSRA

The attached accounts are as reported - see below

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Nigel Jones and seconded by Flick Murdoch. The Chair thanked Clare for her attention to detail on the accounts.

6. Chairman's Report

This reporting period of April 2021 to March 2022 has been a year for continuing our relationships with other organisations active in our community.

We all became more aware of our interdependency in February this year when half of the village lost all power for 48 hours under the impact of Storm Eunice. Many households were without broadband for days after that. The impact of the storm showed how vulnerable we can be to a loss of vital utilities, and demonstrated the need for the community to have a strategy to deal with future emergencies. DaSRA is in discussions with Deviock Parish Council, who are preparing an emergency plan which will involve a working group of key community stakeholders. More of this over the coming months.

Our relationship with Deviock Parish Council and with Cornwall's County Councillor Armand Toms has strengthened since we last reported. DaSRA represents the community at the monthly general meetings of Parish Council and we've spoken several times during the year in their Public Participation session. Our Committee member Maura Swabey takes a lead on Planning for DaSRA and attends their monthly Planning meetings when there are applications which could have an impact on the wider community.

We started the last year welcoming Nigel Jones onto our DaSRA Management Committee as the approved Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Co-ordinator for Downton and Seaton. Residents have alerted Nigel to crime related /anti social behaviour issues throughout the year, and he has built good relationship with NW nationally, the local police unit based in Torpoint, also an off duty police officer resident in the village who has become a useful contact. DaSRA received into our bank account a grant for £350 from NW HQ which to fund the first of three flower boats to site in Downton and Seaton and that project is bringing together Neighbourhood Watch, DaSRA, the WI, St Nicolas School and Memorial Garden volunteers as well as individual residents giving practical help

This last year we have continued to invest in the tools available to us to deliver a Go-To- For Information service for residents. We do this through our website and our Facebook page and a monthly entry in Nut Tree. At the start of our year, we launched a Membership Scheme effective from April 2021 and we appreciate the signup of some 100 households by our year end. Our thanks to those who have joined DaSRA; and our message to those who have not yet done so, please do. It is important, as our members give us the voice to speak on behalf of residents in our community and that voice will be so much stronger the greater the number of households who sign up to DaSRA. As there are many more than 100 households in our villages, there's more to do to attract new members. We do have Membership leaflets here tonight, and there are leaflets next to our postbox in the shop and of course you can join online, at any time. I would like to thank Committee member Jeanette Langfeld for setting up a very active and efficient admin system - which is proving to be pretty sustainable with the minimum of fuss.

Alongside that, we introduced a Welcome programme. When we hear of someone new coming to live in our villages, new committee member Flick Murdoch knocks on their door and says Welcome, introduces them to DaSRA and leaves a card that directs them to our website where they can find out more about their new community. We have strengthened

our Local Links section on our website which is a quick way to find who is doing what, when, and where in Donderry and Seaton. New residents soon realise that there is a great deal going on; we live in a great active community. Do think about telling us if you have new neighbours - we all like to be welcomed! Thanks to committee member Caroline Frith, our Facebook page is increasingly used by residents and community groups who have events or services they want to publicise. We want it to be a help to all.

Increasingly, we are able to be a resource to those volunteers who want to get new community activities up and running but may not have the resources to set up their own website - to manage their own Facebook page. Example; The Community Bus list all their trips on our website; the newly formed Deviock Activities Group at the Zone promote their Arts and Crafts' weekly meetings, and their monthly Well-Being sessions. Their Table Tennis sessions are all promoted through our website and Facebook pages. We also offer a direct link to the website of the Village Hall where so much happens. You'll hear of another example from our guest speakers later.

We use social media as best we can, but we don't forget the traditional methods and during the last year we made, what to us, was a significant investment in buying a new Community Notice Board - positioned right in the centre of the village. For decades, a Notice Board has been there in a prime site but disintegrating before our eyes. When a resident told us that snails had taken up residence - enough was enough. The Committee took the decision to take on the responsibility for the Notice Board, replace it and maintain a new one for the future. We are grateful to Deviock Parish Council for part funding its purchase with us. Thanks to our previous Secretary, Sandra Pearce who researched the best model, and a very special thanks to resident, Jem Hall, for installing it for us; The Community Notice Board is no longer an eye sore and has been positively received in the community.

Residents Associations don't only have to focus on problems and worries - we are also here to highlight the good things in our midst and the artistic talent of local residents is worthy of celebration. Our annual calendar gives an insight into that talent and we consider it an important part of what DaSRA does. We are blessed with having such a range of artistic talent here in the village and we love to showcase that identity. We thank this year's contributors for donating a piece of their art. This year's calendar celebrates the memory and artistic talent of Jan Doyle, who sadly died in 2021. Her contribution to village life over the years gave pleasure to many, whether as director and actor in many drama group performances, as a member of Whitsand Harmony Choir, or as an artist with her paintings expressing life and joy. Indeed, Exhilaration is the title of her image for July 2023. We are grateful to her husband, Robin, for providing entries for selection this year, and we hope that the new calendar does Jan proud. The 2023 Calendar is now on sale and will be at the Arts and Crafts Show here in the Village Hall from this weekend and also from Donderry Stores, and other local venues. Also available directly from us at £8 a copy, and once the printing costs have been covered the proceeds going to DaSRA.

We welcome all contact with residents and many are in touch on a wide range of topics. During this past year alone, we've actively responded to contacts about dog fouling, speeding, parking, street lighting, erosion of Looe Hill, noise levels, pedestrian walkways. Some residents want to share experiences or ask questions - re allotments, the designated naturist beach, beehives, boat storage, the progress of adopting the Deviock Neighbourhood Development Plan - of which more of later. We're always happy to hear from residents.

That concludes my Report for the last year. We now go forward with an agenda that continues to put the interest of the community to the fore.

7. Election of Officers.

The Chair thanked Clare Glynn who was resigning after seven years as Treasurer to DaSRA's Management Committee. Her contribution has been significant and we are grateful for her work with the Committee.

Four new members of our community have put their names forward to be elected to the Management Committee of DaSRA. Raj Chotai (to take up the Officer's role of Treasurer) Flick Murdoch, Michelle Davies, and Mark Davies.

Elected as follows:

Laura Done - Chair – proposed Maura Swabey, seconded Nigel Jones

Raj Chotai -Treasurer – proposed Kevin Done, seconded Brian Johnstone

Vicky Trenerry - Secretary – proposed Caroline Frith, seconded Keith Smith

The following were elected by a show of hands from DaSRA Members : Committee Members - Caroline Frith, Nigel Jones, Jeanette Langfeld, Maura Swabey, Flick Murdoch, Michelle Davies, and Mark Davies.

8. Guest speakers:

The Chair introduced our guest speakers from the Ukrainian Refugee Support Group. During those early days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine we also saw the impact on the ordinary residents of Ukraine. Individuals all over the world responded with compassion offering their home and support to fleeing families. This happened in Donderry and Seaton, indeed throughout Cornwall and elsewhere. I would now like to introduce local resident Leanne Spencer Harper who has taken a lead in establishing the Ukrainian Refugee Support Group, and together with Anna Boradina, will now speak of how Donderry and Seaton responded.

Ukrainian Refugee Support Group – Leanne Spencer-Harper began by thanking the wider community for their phenomenal response to welcoming the Ukrainian refugee families. What began as an opportunity to match hosts to Ukrainians resulted in five Ukrainian families (thirteen people in total) in Donderry and Seaton with four more arriving at the end of summer. Thirty Ukrainians in Looe have connected to our group along with Torpoint, Duloe, Narkurs, Saltash and St Germans, using Donderry & Seaton as a hub. There are specific needs for the Ukrainians such as teaching English to the non-English speakers in the village, and transport for those looking for work and attending job centre visits. There are 123 members on the Facebook Support Group but we need to find ways to help Ukrainians get to appointments and sustain more wrap-around support, to help them rebuild their lives and become financially independent with jobs and extra-curricular activities for the children. We must not lose our passion to help with the support network and to continue to find ways to help. If anyone can offer support or have ideas how help can be given, please make contact and keep the momentum going. Leanne then introduced Anna Borodina who is now living in Donderry with her daughter Lera.

Anna thanked everyone for coming to hear of her experience as a Ukrainian refugee and she especially thanked Leanne for everything she has done. Anna comes from Kiev and at the beginning of the year had a happy life with normal dreams. Then, in one moment, on 24th February 2020, everything changed for all Ukrainians. Thousands of buildings were destroyed in one moment. Maybe you only see some things on TV but people opening their homes have saved her life. Anna's parents and friends are still in Kiev but she made the decision after a couple of months of war to take the step to leave and get help. Anna took the most important things, her daughter and her values. She only wanted one thing, to save her daughter's life. Anna was afraid of the application process but Leanne said she would do

all the forms and then step by step and, trusting in the process, little pieces of the puzzle came together, helped by all the support from this country. The sponsors have helped step by step to complete forms and the processes. There was a lot of stress and then the community helped them to get to a position of safety. Her daughter has dealt with Covid and war, and has lost part of her childhood but the kids at school have been very kind, she has started to learn English and now she knows she is safe is starting to enjoy her childhood again. There are only 5 families with children at St Nicolas School which has been fantastic. Now Anna feels that there are opportunities and she has a job at Exeter University, working remotely. She does not know what happens after the 6 months is up, and if the Ukrainian Support Scheme will continue. They will not be able to return home if there is still a war and they will have to continue to make a life here. There are transport problems though; perhaps sharing an old car may solve transport problems. The Ukrainian identity and culture will remain with them but it is good to learn other cultures. All five families are open to communication and different support. She finished with the words: "Many thanks to each of you for real support. I hope to return in the future to Ukraine and that one day, you can be guests in my country."

Deviocck Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Mark Gibbons, the Chairman of Deviocck Parish Council, began by giving a timeline of the NDP. It started with community surveys conducted in 2015 which was followed by consultations and meetings with various agencies with the submission point in 2019. Then Covid hit and everything was delayed. The submission is now under way and in the coming months, the public will get to view it, there will be Q & A sessions at the Zone in due course, and then there will be a public referendum with yes/no approval. There are various benefits to the Parish having a Neighbourhood Plan, it gives a say in planning. He thanked Amanda Ratsey who has been working hard with a team of volunteers to get us to current position. Even though time has passed, it is still a valid and important document which we are moving forward as soon as possible. It will be soon be able to be viewed on www.deviocckneighbourhoodplan.co.uk where you can find all the supporting documents.

Councillor Armand Toms who represents Deviocck Parish and Looe East on Cornwall Council gave the wider perspective from around Cornwall where there are 200 parishes in Cornwall; a vast majority have now completed, and had their Neighbourhood Development Plan approved. Looe had professional help with theirs, it is 60 pages long and has thousands and thousands of questionnaires and pieces of evidence detailing what the community and people want, all available to view on the website. It has taken 8 years to complete, and its referendum was held some weeks ago - and approved

Amanda Ratsey, Deviocck NDP volunteer lead, gave the local update. Thousands of pieces of evidence and data had to be reviewed and consolidated into a Plan by a team of local residents, volunteering their time. In the 8 years since it began, there have been legislation changes and some things have been strengthened. We were one of the first to put in a 2nd homes clause following St Ives, this has now become national guidelines. Deviocck Parish Council has funding to complete the Community Infrastructure Plan and planning decisions are a priority. We have obtained a vast amount of evidence in consultation with landowners and is a very involved process. There is another round to go with Cornwall Council, but this should not put volunteers off as it is a very good thorough process. She stressed that the content of the Deviocck Neighbourhood Plan will be on the DNP website to be viewed by residents before the referendum

The Chair offered special thanks to our guest speakers

9. AOB – There were none

10. Date of next AGM: a date in July 2023 will be set

DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION		
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
TREASURER'S REPORT 1ST APRIL 2021 - 31ST MARCH 2022	£	£
	YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2022	YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2021
INCOME		
COMMUNITY FUND CASH, CHEQUES AND STANDING ORDERS	2848.00	2769.00
GENERAL FUND - CALENDAR	1507.50	20.00
GENERAL FUND - PLAQUE - Downderry Stores	-	195.00
GENERAL FUND - MEMBERSHIP	570.00	435.00
GENERAL FUND - NW GRANT (RING FENCED FOR FLOWER BOATS)\	350.00	
GENERAL FUND - OTHER	103.00	
EXPENDITURE		
GENERAL FUND	1518.24	557.20
COMMUNITY FUND	3348.08	
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	512.18	2,861.80
BANK & CASH BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD on 1ST APRIL		
GENERAL FUND	657.00	564.20
COMMUNITY FUND	14,883.47	12,114.47

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	512.18	2,861.80
BANK & CASH BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH	16,052.65	15,540.47
ASSETS		
GENERAL FUND CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	1,669.26	657.00
COMMUNITY FUND CASH AT BANK	14,383.39	14,883.47
LIABILITIES	NIL	NIL
TOTAL ASSETS	£16,052.65	£15,540.47
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE		
PRINTING OF CALENDARS	£960.00	
WEBSITE HOSTING	£178.08	£150.00
HIRE OF HALL AND PHOTOCOPYING FOR MEETINGS	£99.60	
PRINTING OF MEMBERSHIP LEAFLETS		£207.00
DOMAIN NAME		£19.18
L DONE RE PLAQUE		£181.02
INSURANCE	£268.96	
CRAFT FAIR, XMAS FAIR, POSTER PRINTING	£11.60	
	£1,518.24	£557.20
COMMUNITY FUND EXPENDITURE		
DONATION TO DPC - Seaton Wildlife Sanctuary	£2,000.00	
COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD	£1,348.08	
	£3,348.08	

