

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of DaSRA
Downderry & Seaton Residents Association
Monday 17 July 2023 at Downderry & Seaton Village Hall

1. **Welcome** from Laura Done Chair of DaSRA to all attendees.
2. **Apologies** from Elsa Guilfoyle
3. **Approval of Minutes of AGM 18 July 2022** – proposer Neil Asprey, seconder Viv Parker
4. **Matters Arising** – none
5. **Treasurer's report & Accounts (attached) from Rajiv Chotai outgoing treasurer**
 - Income received via the Community Fund from Donations was £2598.00. An Expense of £74.36 was incurred for the installation of the Community Notice Board outside the Village Hall.
 - General Fund brought in an Income of £3986.05 through Calendar Sales, Grant Applications and Memberships
 - Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year 22/23 was £4158.06 across General and Community Fund.
 - Expenses of £2351.63 from General Fund Include Printing of Calendars, Website Hosting, Hall Hire, Postage and Stationery, Flower Boat Expenditure, Insurance, Food Bank Transfers and Printing of Leaflets
 - As of April 1st 2023 The general Fund Holds £3303.68 and the Community Fund holds £16907.03 bringing Total Assets to £20,210.71
 - The Increase in Total Assets from Year End 2022 and Year End 2023 is £4158.06proposer David Hall, seconder Roger Jamieson
6. **Chair's Report:** - DaSRA's Chair's Report for AGM held on 17 July 2023 from April 2022 to March 2023.

Last year, April 2022, a local network was formed to connect with Ukrainian families fleeing the war in their country. Resident Leanne Spencer Harper spearheaded an immediate system of support navigating the necessary bureaucracy to assist those wanting to offer practical help to Ukrainian

refugees. DaSRA was best able to help by promoting specific needs of the families and by providing ease of access to local national news and services thorough our website, Facebook and Nut Tree features. Each month during these tense and worrying times, we used our Nut Tree column to keep residents informed and to seek help in ways of making life easier for our local refugees; in this way we were keeping people informed who otherwise may not have been aware of how our villages were responding to the Ukrainian crisis. We appreciated that, during last year's AGM, a Ukrainian mother, Anna Borodina, spoke movingly from a personal perspective about the trauma of the war experience. At one time there were some 40 Ukrainians living in and around Deviock Parish and six families were welcomed into homes in Downderry & Seaton.

Planning decisions made at County Hall can have a tremendous impact on local communities. DaSRA does consider Planning Applications as an important area for attention if the impact of any one proposal affects the wider community. For example, we were happy to support the Village Hall's building project because it includes addressing the east wall of the building - if work is not done to secure its stability, the whole building will be under threat. The wider community needs the Village Hall. As an aside, but an important one, DaSRA's Management Committee would benefit from having a member with an awareness of, some experience of, and an interest in, Planning issues. Anyone interested, please contact me. Good Planning laws and processes matter and when you witness a fundamental wrong carrying on without submitting to those processes, you know we must all come together to put that wrong right. We committed ourselves to work alongside those residents who have had to endure several years now of living next to what is a commercial holiday camp in the centre of the village. Yardley House was formally a single dwelling family home but since 2019 has been operating as a holiday let site, with the potential for 30 guests to be sleeping at that site. The development from one single dwelling to 4/5 independent flats has happened without any community consultation or any planning permission for the building, its change of use and its rating as business premises. Planning decisions takes time, but the owner has now been informed that he must return the property to its original state - ie a single dwelling. This is a significant decision and it's the right one. It is now up to Cornwall Council to enforce the judgement that requires to be completed within 12 months.

The attendees at the AGM showed their appreciation and applauded the work done by DaSRA in regard to Yardley House

A successful fund raising event in December organised by Whitsand Harmony Choir demonstrated local support for our Liskeard & Looe Food Bank. We believed fundraising efforts could continue during the winter month if we made it easy for residents to give. DaSRA became a central collecting point for donations through the use of our Post Box sited in Downderry Stores. Raj

Chotai, DaSRA treasurer, worked closely with the Food Bank team to identify priority items. By bulk-buying he was able to increase the value of goods bought by 31%. A monthly purchase plan is proving to be an effective approach, as it enables the Food Bank team to rely confidently on the supply of household goods that are in greatest demand.

Laura Done acknowledged to Raj Chotai that the food bank relationship was appreciated.

In 2022 Neighbourhood Watch celebrated its 40th year and it was a good time to strengthen the shared agenda for community cohesion adopted by DaSRA and Neighbourhood Watch. We believe that it is to the benefit of all residents. DaSRA can draw on the technical and information resources of the national Neighbourhood Watch organisation with their agenda of support for safer, stronger and active communities and DaSRA can offer an established communication platform to get NW's message across our wider community. Our local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Nigel Jones sits on the DaSRA Management Committee - so much better than being a lone operator. During the last year Nigel has established The Flower Boat project which was kicked off with a grant from NW headquarters and subsequently supported by Deviock Parish Council and South West Water. It continues to be a fruitful project, increase now to 4 boats. Apart from providing a welcoming focus to those visiting Donderry and Seaton, it has brought many residents and community group members together to maintain the boats with seasonal colour. Our respective remits are increasingly complementary and Neighbourhood's Watch's latest campaign, launched in March 2023 was great timing coinciding as it did with our own campaign to make Donderry and Seaton A Better Place to Live. The main focus of the campaign for NW is to reach out to attract new members - boosting community participation - they have over 2.3 million UK members in who can't all be wrong so perhaps it is worth looking into. Nigel would love to hear from you if you would like that direct link with this very impressive grass roots charity.

A Better Place to Live sums up DaSRA's decision in March this year to explore the benefits of instituting a Considerate Builders Code in Donderry and Seaton. We wanted to respond to the many contacts we have with residents throughout the year concerned with the negative impact of building works. We wanted to answer a very general but persistent question: Can anything be done about essentially inconsiderate builders and constructors. We do stress that by far the most complaints referred to experiences with large construction works - our local builders do understand what working in a rural community is about. But we have to start somewhere and to introduce an acceptable, code of working, common in cities and towns, that could set an expectation of what we would accept as appropriate., does not seem too revolutionary. The Code reflects common sense and being a

good neighbour. A Survey was devised, responses analysed and we have devised a Code, launched here at our AGM on 17 July.

And finally our annual Calendar sets us up for the year ahead. It obviously spans two years - the year under review until December for selling the calendars and then advertising for contributions for the following year begins in February. Calendar 2024 is our fourth calendar that we have produced celebrating the artistic talent we have in the village and each year we are grateful to our local artists for donating a contribution for selection. Curating a calendar requires skill and objectivity and we are grateful to Elaine Dye of Byre Gallery, Millbrook, Helen Markes who is Course Manager for Extended BA Honours Degree at Arts University Plymouth, and Nick Warren of N9 Design Millbrook for selecting the images from all the contributions for the 12 months of the year. The Calendar 2024 is now on sale and will be at Arts and Crafts Show here at the Village Hall from this weekend and also from local venues or directly from DaSRA Committee members. Donderry Stores will be selling it until they close at the beginning of September. The shop has always been our most successful sales outlet so the shop closure is worrying but hopefully everyone will be very organised and buy calendars from the shop for all your friends and family this month or next. Being sold at £8 a copy, as last year, and once the printing costs have been covered, proceeds go to DaSRA. So thank you in advance.

7. Election of Officers & Management Committee

LD announced that Rajiv Chotai, DaSRA's Treasurer, will be resigning from the Committee at this AGM, and also Caroline Frith and Michelle Davies are leaving the Committee. Thanks to them for their time on the Committee.

Rajiv Chotai will be replaced as Treasurer by Mark Davies

The following members are standing for election:

7.1.Chair Laura Done – Proposer Janine Badcock, seconder Lynne Rees

7.2.Treasurer Mark Davies – Proposer Tim Pullin, seconder Keith Smith

7.3.Secretary Victoria Trenerry – Proposer Maura Swabey, seconder Kevin Done

7.4.Committee members – Nigel Jones, Jeanette Langfeld, Flick Murdoch, Maura Swabey – Proposer Neil Asprey, seconder Jenny Jaycock

8. AOB – none

9. Date of Next AGM - late April/May TBC

10. Considerate Builders Code for Donderry & Seaton –see Chair's report above for background: The Code was formally launched and will be hand delivered to all local households in the next week.

11. Launch of DaSRA's artist calendar 2024 – see Chair's report, available to buy from tonight price £8 each.

Laura Done concluded the AGM - April 2022 to March 2023