

Minutes of DaSRA Meeting on Monday 7 April 2025
at 6.45pm at St Nicolas Church, DOWNDERRY.

Present:

Maura Swabey (MS)
Di Twist (DT)
Mark Davies (MD)
Laura Done (LD)
Nigel Jones (NJ)
Jeanette Langfeld (JL)
Steve Hall (SH)
Chris Clarke (CC)
Flick Murdoch (FM)
<u>Apologies: None</u>

1. Items for A.O.B.

Maura Swabey (MS) welcomed everyone to the Meeting and it was noted that the Community Fair at DOWNDERRY and Seaton Village Hall and the Nudist Beach issue would be discussed under A.O.B.

2. Discussion

2a. Facebook

Chris Clarke (CC) told the Committee that there have been anonymous postings on Facebook which were unsavoury and insulting. He stated that he

had managed to stop it and further explained that he along with Nigel Jones (NJ) and 2 other administrators were handling Facebook well and collaborating effectively together. MS specifically thanked CC for how he dealt with the difficult issue and she also thanked NJ and the other administrators for their essential contributions.

Action: None needed.

2b. Future administration of the DaSRA website.

MS talked about the advantages of the website and explained that Laura Done (LD) had been administering it single handedly for years since its inception. CC said that he, along with Michelle Davies and others had looked at the website, looking at it with fresh eyes. They are currently assessing it and looking at the option of possibly streamlining it. CC remarked that DaSRA has been fortunate in the past, that Nick Warren of N9 Design (Laura's son) hosts the website and gives technical help, pro bono as needed but a fee may be expected in the future. Mark Davies (MD) said that he and CC would talk to Nick about ways to move forward. CC reported that they had looked at using Wix which is very user friendly. It was suggested that maybe Nick could help in forward developments and LD kindly offered to help facilitate a meeting. MD and CC agreed that they may use AI to help modernise and once all was set up then the management would not be too onerous. CC made the point that if a few people managed the website then ongoing it would be more practical. MD agreed. MS thanked them for their hard work.

Action: LD will speak to Nick and CC and MD will talk more about workable solutions.

2c Village Hall

MS reminded the Committee that there is approximately £ 15,000 in the DaSRA bank account and explained that residents within the villages may wonder why we haven't actually spent this money if the Village Hall is in great need of funds. She reiterated the point made in previous meetings that we need to be mindful that this money is to be spent on a structural community asset. It was reported that the Village Hall Committee have applied for a

large grant and they should know about the success of this by the end of April and it was agreed that once this was determined DaSRA could identify how much they may possibly donate. Letters of intent (CC) and ring fencing of monies (NJ) were discussed but it was concluded that no absolute decision would be made until the community had a clearer picture regarding the status of the grant application. MS stated that she was pleased that the DaSRA letter of support had been well received by Mandy Smith and the Village Hall Committee.

Action: None Needed.

Post meeting note: The Village Hall Secretary informed DaSRA (email 9/4/25) that the grant application to Cornwall Council was not successful. As a result of this news, Maura Swabey and Stephen Hall met with the Chair and Secretary of the Village Hall for a site visit and it was abundantly obvious that this very important community asset was in need of some input from the DaSRA Community Fund. At the meeting, Maura and Stephen were shown a specific part of the building which needs to be demolished in order to ensure the structural integrity works can take place. As a result, it was suggested that a sum of £10,000 from the Community Fund should be set aside to give to the Village Hall to allow this piece of work to be done.

2d. Attendance at the Main Parish Council Meetings

MS began by saying that these monthly meetings are on the second Thursday and she is unable to attend. She explained that DaSRA has built up a good relationship with the Parish Council and she would like this to continue. She also noted that there is going to be a new Chair as Mark Gibbons is running for election in May's County Council election to replace Cllr Armand Toms for the ward. Steve Hall (SH) kindly said that he would go as he has already been to a few meetings and LD commented that it is good for one person from DaSRA to do this as it helps build up personal relationships with the Council. LD remarked that very few residents attend these meetings which is a shame. SH then offered to go to most meetings and NJ said he would be happy to cover if SH could not do it. MS thanked them.

LD concluded by remarking that Armand Toms had written a letter saying that he had enjoyed his association with DaSRA which he considers "the strongest association in this area".

Action: SH and NJ may attend some Parish Council meetings.

2.e. The Community Shop

NJ explained that legal issues have delayed the purchase of the lease but he explained that Tim Pullin , Chair of the Downderry Community Shop Steering Committee had had a productive talk with Heidi (the current leaseholder of the proposed shop site) and it is hopeful that the initiative is going to go ahead. JL noted that it is unclear to many what the actual sticking point is and NJ explained that it is a complex situation involving a 15 year lease and 3 separate sets of solicitors, one for the Community Shop, one for the leaseholder and one for the owners of the property. The Community Shop team will talk to the community at the DaSRA AGM to describe the current situation and ask the residents what they think. There was a general discussion initiated by LD about how hard the team has worked to try and secure the deal.

Action: None needed.

2f. Agenda for the AGM. Monday 28th April 2025 at Village Hall. Doors open 6.45 pm to start at 7.15 pm.

MS began by stating that the Downderry and Seaton WI has kindly offered to provide the cakes and refreshments again. She said that she had written to the Shop, the Village hall , the Zone and Coombe Park representatives and all are coming including Mark Gibbon who is only days away from election day. NJ enquired whether the Parish Council has been invited to talk about devolution and though it was agreed that this was a good idea, it hasn't happened because of the elections. It was hoped that Armand Toms may come along anyway and LD noted that if he did so it would be a good opportunity to thank him as he has been a fantastic Councillor. LD then suggested that we give him a present and it was agreed that she would talk to local artists about a possible gift and liaise with MS.

Action: LD to source a gift and liaise with MS.

2g. Fireworks on the beach.

MS distributed a document prepared by MD which could be put out to all residents. Suggestions of ways to share this included Nut Tree within the article that DaSRA does for Nut Tree and MS said that MD should be given credit for a clear and well written article which was very informative. MS said that the point of the article is to encourage people to be considerate and MD remarked that it is about being respectful.

Action: MD agreed that he would write the article and send it to MS by 10th April 2025.

3. Approval of the Minutes- 20 January 2025

All approved. MD proposed and NJ seconded.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 20 January 2025

4a Donderry Beach Dog Day

This was an idea which was enthusiastically received by all. CC said it could be done as a carnival/fete creating an afternoon that is informative and fun as well as possibly raising revenue. He suggested that vet practices/trainers and groomers could be invited alongside the organisation of various competitions like the prettiest dog etc! MS remarked that in the past Seaton had held an event on the green in front of the Smugglers Inn. It was noted that we may possibly be able to include Julie Green who has judged dog shows. CC commented that it is important how we market it- possibly a dog show but with ancillary things around it so that it is fun and educational. MS said that we need to decide when to hold the event and CC noted that timing is crucial, if the event is too far away we may struggle to get commitment from participants. MS said we are one of the only beaches in Cornwall that is open to dogs all year round, that this is a unique feature and it may be opportune to look at this commercially and see how the idea develops. CC noted that monetising it might be tricky. We could ask for a percentage of bookings possibly or maybe ask for donations. NJ remarked that there had been a dog event years ago in the village hall which had been over subscribed so hopefully the idea would be a popular one. To explore the idea, CC suggested that we start with a wish list, then work out how we can monetarise it and then discuss how to do it. MD suggested possibly getting a sponsor and MS asked if we could do a feasibility study including looking at legal obligations and insurances etc. CC offered to speak to Julie Green and SH noted that she may be able to provide us with some useful advice. CC said that he runs a corporate events company and could help advise us. Furthermore, he suggested that we could consider including food vans etc. There was a short discussion about where to locate the nucleus of the beach day and SH and NJ both agreed that maybe Seaton is more central and better for parking.

Action: CC to talk to Julie Green

4b. The possibility of businesses advertising on the DaSRA website

MD commented that they really need to master the website first before deciding on the business aspect and all agreed.

Action: None Needed.

5. Accounts & Treasurer's Report.

[Full Accounts at end of Minutes]

DaSRA 3 monthly account from 01.01.2025 to 31.03.2025 Treasurer's Report:

Income:

- The income into the Community Fund was £585.00. These were monthly donations.
- Membership amount received - £ 130.00.
- Community Fund Expenditure – No money was spent from the Community Fund.

General fund expenditure

- £ 198.00 – Hosting website costs, £ 397.89- renewal of insurance
- Petty Cash £50
- Community Fund £15,460.17 General fund £2,787.92
Cash and bank balance - £18,298.09

MD presented the accounts and also noted that he had sent out the end of year accounts which had been emailed to all Committee Members. He explained that he had submitted information to Santander regarding access changes to the bank account. The Chair, Laura Done and the Secretary, Vicky Trenerry have left the DaSRA executive. The Committee has agreed to remove Laura and Vicky from the bank account. The Committee has agreed to grant bank access to the New Chair, Maura Swabey and Secretary, Diana Twist and Jeanette Langfeld (Membership).

MS thanked MD for all his work with the accounts.

6. Membership

Jeanette Langfield (JL) advised the Committee of 1 new member only. She further explained that much of the membership money is due to come into the bank account in April which is in the next accounting period. She reported that DaSRA now has about 150 members.

7. Welcome Update

Flick Murdoch (FM) reported that she had visited 4 or 5 new people in the last quarter but that it is frustrating not actually knowing when new people have arrived in the village. CC asked if FM would like to put something on Facebook so that she could get her message out to more people and FM said that would be helpful and she gave him some information about welcoming people to the village and introducing DaSRA. There was a discussion about possibly putting something in Nut Tree and CC suggested that FM not put her phone number on Facebook for privacy reasons. It was agreed that her email would suffice.

MS also wanted to particularly thank FM and JL for how professional the notice board looks. FM said that they sometimes have to juggle with deciding which items actually appear on the board but it works well.

Post Meeting Note: Chris Clarke has re-written copy with various amendments. This was ultimately passed back for a decision from the Committee Members of the Management Committee. A difference of opinions has meant that this is still under discussion.

8. Neighbourhood Watch

NJ reported that there have been no antisocial problems but there has been an upsurge in reports about dog fouling. NJ said that he may contact the dog warden with a view to getting some signs.

NJ then talked about the 20mph speed limit and put forward the suggestion that school children make some posters that we could put up to help encourage motorists to reduce speed. It was suggested that there could be a competition with a book voucher as a prize and that DaSRA could spend money on printing the posters as well as providing the prize. MD noted that getting school children to do it would send out a strong message and MS agreed that there should be a prize to encourage children. FM remarked that it is a great idea and asked how we could make it work. MD said he would talk to Michelle Davies who may be able to speak to the Head Teacher. For a future time, CC talked about another idea in a different village where there was a competition for kids to design a Christmas light- food for thought for

another season. CC cautioned about being aware that the posters could possibly be a distraction. It was agreed that “20 is plenty” would be the core message and there was a discussion about how much to donate for this initiative. All voted for £ 500 to fund it.

NJ then discussed the flower boats and drew our attention to the wonderful job done by Anne Mace.

NJ then talked about the need to get new helpers as he said he could do with some more input or support for Neighbourhood Watch. He said he would particularly appreciate help with articles or general support.

MS then asked MD and NJ if they would formulate a plan regarding the posters and MD said he knows someone who builds signs.

Action: MD and NJ agreed to update MS regarding the poster idea. NJ to possibly contact the dog warden.

9. Residents Issues

MS asked LD to report.

South Shore. Retrospective planning is the issue and most points have been resolved. It has been much appreciated that the pothole issue in particular has been addressed. LD commented that this shows where good relations are invaluable. It was stated that South Shore can now be off the Agenda.

Yardley House. LD explained that the owner of Yardley House had taken the original decision made by the County Council to return the property to a single dwelling property to appeal and then a planning inspector went to site on 5th February 2025. The report is not out yet but the planning inspector will report formally to the County Council and we will keep an eye out to see what happens. LD hoped that we will know the decision within the month. The issue of coastal walls was discussed and SH remarked that the structure needs to be able to last for 100 years. LD remarked that we have worked closely with the neighbours of Yardley House.

10. A.O.B.

The Community Fair. This to be held at Downterry and Seaton Village Hall on the 24th May 2025 from 2pm- 5 pm and it was agreed that DaSRA would have a table there as they have done in previous years. DaSRA will do this alongside Neighbourhood Watch and NJ agreed to come along if he is available.

Action: JL and FM said they will help MS. NJ may join if possible.

Nudist Beach. It was suggested that an email is written to the Clerk of the Parish Council to see if there is going to be any reaction in terms of signs or actions owing to the fact that the naturist beach is more publicised now because of Facebook.

Action: DT and MS to write to the Parish Council

11. Dates of next meetings.

The next Meeting is the AGM. This will be held at Dowlerry and Seaton Village Hall on Monday 28th April 2025. Doors open at 6.45 pm and the Meeting begins at 7.15 pm.

FM gave her apologies as she will not be present at the AGM.

Further dates for the diary:

14 July 2025

13 October 2025

12 January 2026

30 March 2026

27 April 2026- AGM

DaSRA Committee Meeting. 7th April 2025: Report from Treasurer

DaSRA 3 monthly account from 01.01.2025 to 31.03.2025

Treasurer's Report:

Income:

- The income into the community fund was £585.00 which were monthly donations.
- Membership amount received - £130.00

Community fund Expenditure

- £0.00

General fund expenditure

- N9 DESIGN - Website £198.00
- Wrightsure - DaSRA Insurance £397.89

Grant money balance in general fund account - £149.82

Petty Cash £50.00

Community fund £15,460.17

General fund £2,787.92

Cash and bank balance - £18,298.09

Mark Davies

Treasurer, DaSRA
3rd April 2025

DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING 7TH APRIL 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT 01 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2025

£

INCOME

COMMUNITY FUND

COMMUNITY FUND DONATIONS

£585.00

TOTAL COMMUNITY FUND INCOME FOR QUARTER

£585.00

COMMUNITY FUND EXPENDITURE

£0.00

£0.00

COMMUNITY FUND TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£0.00

GENERAL FUND INCOME

MEMBERSHIPS

£130.00

TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR QUARTER

£130.00

EXPENDITURE

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE

N9 DESIGN - Website

£198.00

Wrightsure - DaSRA Insurance

£397.89

GENERAL FUND TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£595.89

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

£119.11

BANK AND CASH BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD

GENERAL FUND

£3,253.81

COMMUNITY FUND

£14,875.17

CASH & BANK BALANCE AS AT 31 December 2024

£18,128.98

EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME 01 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2024

£119.11

BALANCE AS AT 31 APRIL 2024

£18,248.09

ASSETS

PETTY CASH GENERAL FUND

£50.00

GENERAL FUND BANK	£2,787.92
COMMUNITY FUND BANK	<u>£15,460.17</u>
	£18,298.09

NET ASSETS

PETTY CASH GENERAL FUND	£50.00
GENERAL FUND CASH AT BANK	£2,787.92
COMMUNITY FUND CASH AT BANK	£15,460.17
TOTAL	<u>18,298.09</u>

BALANCE PER STATEMENT 31 MARCH 2025	<u>£18,248.09</u>
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PETTY CASH HELD	<u>£50.00</u>
	<u>£18,298.09</u>

BANK & CASH BALANCES PER ACCOUNTS	<u><u>£18,298.09</u></u>
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