

**DaSRA**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held at 7.00pm on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at Firside, Donderry**

**Present:** Maura Swabey (MS)  
Steve Hall (SH)  
Flick Murdock (FM)  
Pat Wotherspoon (PW)  
Rosanne Povey

**Apologies:** Chris Clarke (CC)  
Mark Davies (MD)  
Nigel Jones (NJ)  
Jeanette Langfeld (JL)

1. **WELCOME (MS)**

MS welcomed the Committee, introducing Rosanne Povey as the new Secretary together with Pat Wotherspoon: MS said it was wonderful to have new skills brought to the Committee.

Apologies were noted as above.

The meeting had been convened at Firside due to the Hall not being available.

**Items of Any Other Business**

**Donderry and Seaton Beach Day**

This would be discussed later in the meeting, but the event would probably now take place next year.

2. **DISCUSSION**

**Facebook**

In his absence, CC forwarded the following for inclusion in the minutes:

*Our Facebook page continues to be one of the best ways to discover what's happening around the area in 'real time', as well as a great way to communicate with friends and neighbours. We have improved the value of the page recently by introducing a directory of businesses that service the local area, which it is hoped will be useful. This directory will be updated once or twice a year.*

MS/JL/SH had had a discussion previously concerning problems raised by residents. CC wanted the page to be open and free; there was a lot of unnecessary content. SH mentioned the advertising traffic, which took a lot of time to approve for people within the area. A decision was made to take off the advertising section. Advertisers were now to apply to be part of a databank on the FB page – 15/16 businesses had applied so far. The content will be re-assessed at Christmas. Community entries can be entered immediately but businesses, such as taxis, etc, will only appear in the business section. CC is keeping on top of day-to-day traffic. Our FB page is meant for local items only, ie helping the community, etc. It is now working OK.

### **Future Administration of the Website**

Laura Done, the previous Chairperson had been in touch with MS. In CC's absence, SH gave some background: Laura's son, Nick had started the website when she took over as Chairperson of DaSRA and he did it a certain way and LD then entered a lot of content; she now wishes to be relieved of the job. When LD left the Committee and MS took over, there was a meeting (Nick/MD/NJ) to discuss the format: user-friendly and light and easy. It was then agreed one person would maintain the FB page (CC), but Nick would be brought back into the picture as necessary and paid accordingly. Discussion continued regarding community news (ie Rob Gascoine has stated he very much wishes information concerning the bus to appear on our website – it was suggested a link could be entered to take residents to their information). We should not be updating our website every time there are changes to other activities; ie just provide a link). LD to be told not to worry and that the necessary formalities will be taken, the updates however will take a while to implement. PW gave information on having a website "Downderry online, etc" which becomes a "shop front" providing icons to link to other sections. SH said that essentially is what we are doing: our DaSRA website – with links to Neighbourhood Watch; Village Hall; The Zone; Community Shop, etc. SH also mentioned the possibility of when purchasing items, residents could go to Google/Downderry business hairdresser, etc ..... For now, we need to streamline what we have and MS/NJ/Nick are putting this together in order to minimise what has to be loaded every week. At the last meeting, one person was nominated for FB, and CC was proposed going forward. The more people on the Committee, the better, in order to spread the workload.

**Action Point:** The website is under review at the moment. MS to contact Laura Done. **AP1**

### **Community Fund – Marketing Ideas and Action Plan to be devised**

In absence of MD, SH briefly stated content of the Treasurer's Report (provided below): two streams of monies – Community Fund and Membership Fees (Community Fund had recently been used to give £10,000 to the Village Hall to ensure the structural integrity of the east wall; we had paid for the demolition). The Community Fund was now depleted (c. £6,000) and the General Fund (c. £3,000). The Committee would like to generate more money (possibly look at advertising

charges or donations in future?). Crowd-funding is a possibility if there is a particular problem. The Community Fund was started in the '70's due to an issue that had arisen at the time. MS said we have a bedrock on which to go forward, perhaps to help the Community Shop, etc. It was noted that The Zone had received monies, as well as the bus, but that the large amount for the Village Hall was a special donation. PW queried the membership and when payments were made: this was explained to her. Our goal should be to increase the membership (only c. 150 households at present, the vast majority being from Downton, as opposed to Seaton).

There is little to be done at the moment with the Seaton Event, which will be a large event and will require major marketing. This is seen as a way of pushing our organisation in Seaton in order to raise more money. DaSRA should be well represented on the day in order to attract new members and monies for the Community Fund. It had been hoped to do something at the Raft Race, but nothing transpired due to the change of date. This will now have to be considered in about 6 months' time, perhaps along the lines of a fete.

We went to the school regarding the 20mph issue and the children did pictures. MD intended prizes to be given but the Council is now arranging for the best to go up on the posts – enamelled pictures, the same size as the 20mph signs.

"Easyfunding" was mentioned, ie the WI obtained c. £250 in this way: perhaps this should be considered for the future.

**Action Point:** MS to look further into "Easyfunding".

**AP2**

### **Community Shop**

When the Shop starts to make a profit, some of the profits could be ploughed back into the community: link between shop and DaSRA? We are an "umbrella organisation". We have a history of helping the Shop. Perhaps a brainstorming meeting could be arranged? Look at Community Fund and decide how to increase its efficacy. Monies need to be used for a specific asset for the community (no changes at the moment).

PW reported that the keys had been acquired and the shop would be inspected, with measurements being taken and contractors involved, etc. The lease has been drawn up by the landlord's solicitors. Initially, a pop-up shop would be looked at (the front section of the property). There would be a minimum number of lines to get started, which would then be increased as expansion took place further into the building. There was a meeting of the Village Shop Committee in the Church currently taking place. Some professionals had come forward and were interested in assisting (but not being part of a committee); they have been given parameters to prepare a design/ideas and have skills – architect/project manager. Presentations soon, then decisions. They are using Facebook to recruit a manager; volunteers will be contacted soon for training, etc (based on original and new lists). Volunteers' possible commitments to be collated.

MS stated we would need to thank the Shop Committee for all their work to date and we look forward to the continued take-up of this project. Youngsters need to be involved for the future (raise money).

Discussion went back to the Shop and the fact that it must be used, and later become a Community Hub. With the recent news regarding The Zone, perhaps their users will be able to use the Shop facilities, as well as other organisations.

**Action Point:** Make sure everyone knows what our function is; we do not wish to go down a route we should not. MS to action “thank-you” to Shop Committee. **AP3**

**Tanver Yate:** A short, general discussion of Tanver Yate took place.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Committee Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were confirmed as approved.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

**Village Hall Donation to Provide Integrity for the East Wall**

This was confirmed.

**Downderry & Seaton Summer Event**

The Committee discussed the event; MS said the purpose is to make sure the DaSRA Group is more visible. We would be the main organisers, bringing in others (CC would be involved). It would be like a traditional fete plus a dog show, promoting one of the main beaches for dogs all year round. CC looking into trade stalls. It was stated that it would be nice if Julie Green could be involved – she had been a judge at Crufts – as well as others. Perhaps a Police dog demonstration? The Council should be asked if we could use the Country Park as a demonstration area. SH said he would speak to John Croft on the Council, as they would want to be involved. A working Group will be required (NJ/Julie Green/Debbie from The Smugglers.....). CC to decide when, say next year pre-summer holiday? This would help to involve Seaton more. This needs to be discussed outside of this Committee, ie a working party.

**Action Point:** Appoint a Chair of a Steering Committee (CC - relevant qualifications?). The Council would wish to be involved. MS to meet with CC for a discussion. **AP4**

Finally, it was noted that all Action Points had been completed.

5. **ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT (MD)**

***DaSRA Committee Meeting. 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025: Report from Treasurer***

*DaSRA 3 monthly account from 01.04.2025 to 30.06.2025*

*Treasurer's Report:*

*Income:*

- *The income into the community fund was £750.00 which were monthly donations.*
- *Membership amount received - £280.00*

*Community fund Expenditure*

- *Village Hall Grant* *£10,000.00*

*General fund expenditure*

- *DaSRA Hall Hire* *£20.00*
- *DaSRA AGM – WI Refreshments* *£100.00*

*Grant money balance in general fund account - £149.82*

<i>Petty Cash</i>	<i>£50.00</i>
<i>Community fund</i>	<i>£6,210.17</i>
<i>General fund</i>	<i>£2,947.92</i>

*Cash and bank balance - £9,208.09*

*Mark Davies, Treasurer, DaSRA, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025*

A comment was made regarding the Santander Bank: MD okay/JL still to be on it.

6. **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (JL)**

As JL was absent, an update will be provided covering two quarters in due course.

7. **WELCOME – FELICITY (FM)**

FM has become frustrated in tracking down new residents, it being difficult to pinpoint the relevant properties. Rightmove was suggested. RP will give her information on Buttlegate. The assistance of estate agents was considered, also our postman/lady (they might be the best option). This would be followed up.

**Action Point:** Follow-up to take place (RP/FM).

**AP5**

## 8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NJ)

As NJ was absent, FM mentioned the anti-social behaviour of various parties. Our fantastic beach is getting bad press. The Parish Council will be responsible for cleaning the beach graffiti (if on a private wall, the householder is responsible/if on rocks, Cornwall Council is responsible).

“Cold Callers” were mentioned by FM: door signs should be used. It was agreed supplies would be acquired for collection from the Village Hall and The Smugglers.

NJ organises and advertises in the next Nut Tree (DaSRA provides an entry (MS) every month/Parish Council pay for the printing, Steve at Hessenford does collation and there are volunteer deliverers.

**Action Point:** Obtain supply of signs (MS).

**AP6**

### **ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES:**

#### **Report from Nigel Jones - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

*Our normally quiet Neighbourhood Watch has had a few issues this summer. We started with the door knocking by children which turned into indecent exposure and filming themselves with a member of the community. A relatively small number of children were involved, and I am pleased to report that following engagement with the local police and at my request funding being made available for antisocial behaviour intervention. This has resulted in the children taking part in group activities designed to alter behaviour. I have spoken several times with the parent who is now a lot happier and I believe the problem has gone away. This remains TBC.*

*Nudist indecent behaviour on the beach. This has been reported and I also managed to get a Cornwall Live article advertising Downderry Beach.*

*One elderly lady was having problems with rogue roofers who called several times causing distress as they insisted that they could work on her roof for free. Advice was provided to contact the police and report via the online system. Again there was engagement with the local police with pictures from FB shared with the police. As far as I am aware the problem has been resolved.*

*Finally last week we had a spate of cold callers reported on our FB. Advice to report was provided and now the police have posted guidance on line which I shared to our FB group. Police advise "No Cold Calling "signs at the front door and to report.*

*Going forward the lesson is to use the system, report all events as multiple reports will attract attention of the police.*

*I hope the above summary provides a flavour of what has gone on.*

9. **RESIDENTS' ISSUES – PERMISSIVE PATH AT THE END OF KEVERAL LANE**

MS said this matter was going to the Parish Council; one of the residents has also written. There is Keveral Gardens, Keveral Lane, then a single-track road at the end in the woodland area. This had been made a Permissive Footpath. The landowner/s were not going to continue the upkeep. "Oak" had been paid to do the cutting down, but no longer, as it was expensive. A neighbour had paid "Oak" £250 to do this job. Could the Parish Council do anything? – no reply.

**Action Point:** SH to take forward if possible. PW will look at description; check who is liable for maintenance. **AP7**

**ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES:**

*Note received from PW following the meeting:*

*The usual route to establishing a permissive footpath involves a formal agreement between the landowner and the local authority. In our case that would be Cornwall County Council. One of the most important terms of such an agreement would be to set out the arrangements for maintaining the path - with the burden most likely to fall on the council. So, I would have thought that the first step would be to contact the Rights of Way team to see if there is an agreement in place and, if one exists, what the terms of that agreement might be. The contact details are in the pic below. I hope this will prove helpful.*

11:35 Tue 15 Jul \*\*\*  
cornwall.gov.uk

---

**Further information**

Please see the [Institute of Public Rights of Way Good Practice Guide](#) for further information on:

- permissive paths
- standard wording for notices
- recommendations about how to install signs

Please contact the Countryside Access Team for further advice [pro@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:pro@cornwall.gov.uk).

---

**Need help?**

Most issues can be resolved online, it's the quickest and most convenient way to get help.

Public Rights of Way Team

Regulatory Services  
Cornwall Council  
P O Box 676  
Threemilestone  
Truro  
TR1 9EQ

0300 1234 202

[pro@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:pro@cornwall.gov.uk)

**CORNWALL COUNCIL**  
one and all - omen haq oll

[Report something](#)  
[Pay for something](#)  
[Apply for something](#)  
[Contacting the Council](#)  
[Website help and information](#)  
[Terms of use](#)

**Stay in touch**  
[Sign up to our Council newsletter](#)

**Watch next live Council webcast**  
15 Jul 2025

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Laura Done had contacted the Chair/Secretary to request that her exit from the Committee/Website Maintenance be acknowledged. This was duly actioned, the Committee stating that they were extremely grateful for her service.

PW notified the Committee that she would be absent for the next meeting and it was wondered whether an Extraordinary Committee Meeting would be useful in the interim period.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**ACTION POINTS FROM MEETING ON  
Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

<b><u>MINUTE</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>RESPONSIBILITY</u></b>
<b>AP1</b>	The website is under review at the moment. MS to contact Laura Done.	<b>MS</b>
<b>AP2</b>	MS to look further into "Easyfunding".	<b>MS</b>
<b>AP3</b>	Make sure everyone knows what our function is; we do not wish to go down a route we should not. MS to action "thank-you" to Shop Committee.	<b>MS</b>
<b>AP4</b>	Appoint a Chair of a Steering Committee (CC - relevant qualifications?). The Council would wish to be involved. MS to meet with CC for a discussion.	<b>MS/CC</b>
<b>AP5</b>	Follow-up to take place (RP/FM).	<b>RP/FM</b>
<b>AP6</b>	Obtain a supply of signs.	<b>MS</b>
<b>AP7</b>	SH to take forward if possible. PW will look at description; check who is liable for maintenance.	<b>SH</b>