



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, 27TH APRIL 2026**

The meeting was opened by Chris Clarke, DaSRA Chair,
with thanks to those in attendance

1. Apologies for absence were:

David Watters/Tim Pullen/Roger Jamieson/Mark Davies/Flick Murdock/Claire and
John Croft/Peter Thompson/Brian Stone/Lane Moreley/Giles Smith/Jane Bunce/
Lindsay Jeavons/Chris Parsons.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM on 28th April 2025:

Proposer: Nigel Jones; Seconder: Keith Richards. No objections were made to the Minutes and there were no matters arising; the Minutes were accepted.

3. Treasurer's Report & Accounts, April 2025-March 2026, read by Chris Clarke on behalf of Mark Davies, ex-Treasurer, as detailed below:

01/04/2025 - Opening account £18,298.09

- **General fund: £2,837.92**
- **Community fund: £15,460.17**

Community fund Expenditure: Total £15,000.00

- **Grant - Community Shop £5,000.00**
- **Grant - Village Hall £10,000.00**

31/03/2026 - Closing account:

- **Petty Cash £50.00**
- **General fund £2,833.89**
- **Community fund £2,860.17**

Cash and bank balance - £5,744.06

DOWNDERRY AND SEATON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27TH April 2026****TREASURER'S REPORT 1ST APRIL 2025 - 31ST MARCH 2026**

	£	£
	YEAR TO	YEAR TO
	31ST	31ST
	MARCH	MARCH
	2026	2025
INCOME		
COMMUNITY FUND CASH, CHEQUES AND STANDING ORDERS	£2,400.00	£2,455.00
GENERAL FUND – MEMBERSHIP	£765.00	£1,008.00
EXPENDITURE		
GENERAL FUND	£719.03	£1,118.25
COMMUNITY FUND	£15,000.00	£3,710.00
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	-£12,554.03	-£1,115.25
BANK & CASH BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD ON 1ST APRIL 2025		
GENERAL FUND	£2,837.92	£2,698.17
COMMUNITY FUND	£15,460.17	£16,715.17
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	-£12,554.03	-£1,115.25
ASSETS		
GENERAL FUND CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	£2,883.89	£2,837.92
COMMUNITY FUND CASH AT BANK	£2,860.17	£15,460.17
LIABILITIES		
TOTAL ASSETS	£5,744.06	£18,298.09
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE		
WI - AGM REFRESHMENTS		£100.00
HIRE OF HALL		£60.00
DaSRA INSURANCE		£404.12

ADMINISTRATION COSTS (POSTERS/FLYERS/STATIONARY)	£154.91
	£719.03
COMMUNITY FUND EXPENDITURE	
GRANT -COMMUNITY SHOP	£5,000.00
GRANT - VILLAGE HALL GRANT	£10,000.00
	£15,000.00

4. **Chair's Report:** this would be covered along with item 6. The Way Forward for DaSRA.

5. **Election of Officers and Management Committee:**

The following Members are standing for election onto the Management Committee of DaSRA are: Chris Clarke (Chair - Rotating), Rosanne Povey (Secretary), Stephen Hall, Nigel Jones and Flick Murdoch. Proposer: Michelle Faraday; Seconder: Rosanne Povey. There were no other volunteers.

6. **The Way Forward for DaSRA:**

SLIDES CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING WERE SHOWN TO THE AGM

Reasons for Reviewing How DaSRA - Operates Proactive Operational Review

DaSRA is proactively reviewing how it operates to ensure continued relevance, not withdrawing from community involvement. Volunteer Challenges Volunteer roles are harder to fill, causing workload concentration and risk of burnout among few individuals. Commitment to Inclusivity DaSRA aims to remain inclusive and effective without expecting unrealistic commitment from a small group. Role in Neighborhood Watch DaSRA's role as Neighborhood Watch's home makes reliable communication vital for evolving community needs.

Strengths and Successes of DaSRA - Active Social Media Community

DaSRA's strong Facebook community enables residents and visitors to share information and support initiatives effectively. Website Redevelopment The new DaSRA website will serve as a centralised, accessible hub for village information and communication. Supporting Local Initiatives DaSRA successfully provides grants that deliver tangible benefits and support to local community projects. Trusted Community Voice DaSRA is recognised as a neutral and reliable amplifier of community concerns, fostering trust among residents

Current Pressures, Constraints & Perceptions - Volunteer Workload Imbalance

A small number of volunteers are carrying most tasks, risking burnout and reducing sustainability. Scope Overlap and Duplication DaSRA's broad scope causes overlap with other groups, leading to inefficiency and confusion. Traditional Structures Limit Engagement Conventional committee formats discourage new volunteers seeking flexible, smaller roles.

Rising Coordination Demands Increased requests to support other organisations add pressure without clear coordination or limits. Seen as Elitist? 14 27th April 2026 We wonder whether there is a perception of the association being elitist?

A Lighter-Touch, Community-Powered DaSRA - Lighter-Touch Model

DaSRA aims to reduce volunteer strain by focusing efforts where impact is greatest and supporting community-led initiatives. Central Communication Hub DaSRA serves as the main platform for sharing concerns, promoting initiatives, and amplifying community messages via Facebook and Website. A community 'amplifier'. Empowering Local Leadership The association facilitates and supports residents and groups to lead projects independently, enhancing community empowerment. Annual Grant Support Continuing simple grants encourages local activities and demonstrates clear, tangible community benefits sustainably.

Reducing Workload and Duplication - Meeting Frequency Reduction

Limiting DaSRA to two main meetings annually reduces volunteer time while maintaining engagement and accountability. Smaller Core Team A flexible core team of three to four roles focuses on coordination, communication, and continuity within the group. Clear Role Boundaries Defining clear boundaries with other village groups ensures support and avoids duplication of efforts. To become an additional route to the community To help 'amplify' messages, causes, concerns – rather than compete or take over Maintaining Governance Changes will promote efficiency and sustainability while preserving governance, transparency, and community involvement.

A New, More Flexible Approach to Volunteering - Flexible Volunteering Roles

Emphasising one-off and project-specific tasks makes volunteering more accessible and less time-consuming. We will use Facebook to shout out for project/initiative specific volunteers Community-led Efforts Encouraging community-driven contributions taps into diverse skills without long-term commitments. Valuing All Contributions Recognising every contribution fosters a culture of participation that is manageable and rewarding.

Continuity and Change Within DaSRA Core Values Maintained DaSRA continues to uphold commitment to community and support for local good causes as central values. Neighbourhood Watch Role The association remains the trusted home for Neighbourhood Watch communications, ensuring community safety. Evolving Structure and Focus DaSRA adopts a lighter, flexible structure focusing on communication and amplification, rather than running multiple projects. Clearer Group Boundaries Clearer boundaries with other village groups reduce duplication and improve coordinated efforts.

Key Questions for Members - Encouraging Member Reflection

Questions sent out to invite members to reflect on what they value and what services they would miss, fostering meaningful feedback. Discussion on Membership Fees The proposal of a

single annual fee, explaining its purpose clearly to promote transparency and democratic decision-making. Volunteering and Engagement Members are encouraged to consider how they might volunteer, supporting community involvement and future initiatives. Community Shaping Decisions This AGM is a collaborative space to listen and shape decisions together as a community.

Commentary:

- DaSRA essentially unchanged except for various issues arising.
- Time constraints and responsibilities for members takes its toll.
- We still want to remain pro-active in the community but with a lighter touch.
- We need to change going forward, using volunteers, remaining a part of the community but with not so much responsibility on individuals, plus a continued role in Neighbourhood Watch.
- What is going well? Active Social Media (3.5k members) which is now at a point of running well and users seem content with it (locals/visitors/second homes).
- We are now 95% there with the new website; it had been decided to make it more of a “signpost” than necessarily “war and peace” about everything – more friendly/contemporary. The previous version has served us well but times have changed. It is hoped the new site will be live within the next couple of weeks.
- DaSRA has successfully provided grants and tangible benefits over the years, and fairly recently there have been crisis moments with projects vying for the same resources: The Shop/The Zone/The Village Hall. These projects are now on target and with major grants having depleted funds, DaSRA now wishes to be “an amplifier” for initiatives, to support rather than own; be a community voice; stand up and be counted; trying to lead instead of championing from behind.
- The challenges are the workload and the lack of sufficient volunteers – duplication and overlap? Donderry is small; DaSRA should get behind projects and not compete. Traditional structures/committees seem to be discouraging people from joining us.
- Going forward we need to get behind something. Flick Murdock speaks to people walking on the beach or through the village; when asked if they are members, the word ‘elitist’ has come up.
- Proposed future direction as per circular – we need a lighter touch as there is less going on now. We can ‘shout’ on Facebook for one-off volunteers (not necessary to be on the Committee); there isn’t any competitive edge, we are too small, just a central platform of the website, Facebook, people in the community = an ‘Amplifier’ to empower local leadership, eg The Zone can be supported by finding expertise in the village.
- We need time to build up funds again. We are proposing grants on an annual basis unless an emergency situation.
- We wish to meet less frequently (currently four quarterly meetings with additional meetings as required, plus the AGM) – twice a year for general meetings, a smaller quorum

can meet more easily. Clear roles and boundaries – work with people rather than competing.

- The Constitution will require an update (it appears rather old and draconian now). **From floor:** difficulties highlighted of changing the Chair frequently, it taking a year to get one's feet under the table/residue of knowledge/always a struggle. It was countered that the Chair is a spokesperson for the Committee, the same team is there but the mouthpiece may change. Nothing is set in stone and the aim is to make two meetings count. The point was taken but the difficulty is obtaining Committee Members – we may need to adapt again. **From floor:** stated this was all positive and those serving had a passion for it. The Chair wanted to make it appealing/have an ownership of the village; volunteers would be requested for individual projects, etc. **From floor:** publicise to possible new members the responsibilities/hours, etc. The Chair said the way forward would include a description (attributes/qualities) for individual cases.
- The Chair asked if there was a general approval for lighter touch: the vote was passed.
- **From floor:** Facebook not recognized as part of DaSRA/not everyone reads the Nut Tree/need to email members. The Chair said Facebook is a tool of DaSRA and going forward the website and Facebook would be used for official business. There is currently a disconnect and a more 'chatty' approach is required. There is no criticism but now we need to evolve to go forward. We need to join up Facebook/the website/Neighbourhood Watch – all slightly different but messages need to be consistent. Website needs to be better. Volunteers/Participation/Initiatives, not just Committee. Value all contributions from village/expertise – long-term commitment not required.
- Natural home of Neighbourhood Watch – supports good cases – evolve structure to involve us as previously.
- No competition – we 'amplify'.

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Nigel Jones was then asked to take the floor regarding Neighbourhood Watch which he took on six years ago.

- NW relatively quiet after recent years;
- A core number are signed up to online register, but DaSRA provides much wider cover;
- Issues: Rogue traders/Major issue was the AI graffiti where liaison took place with the police; residents were encouraged to report and Crime Numbers were linked, the result being this quickly raised the profile of the incident. It went online; there were Devon and Cornwall TV reports; the likely culprit was shown on TV; Social media became "too hot";
- 'Better Place to Live': NJ worked on Shop steering groups and build; Flower boats (Top Road/Trierieve/Memorial Gardens/School – WI);
- Drugs problem – involved police/online, etc/action taken;
- Grants available (new 20mph signs);
- Useful to say there is a Residents' Association;
- Anyone can help or join online.

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The Chair:

- What do we need from DaSRA?/what does it mean to you?/What would you miss if it wasn't there? **From floor:** website requires updating. This was acknowledged, but manpower short during preparation of new website, which will be easier to use.
- Membership Fees: These have remained the same for some time (£5/£10). A new fee is suggested at £12/annum per household with an annual payment date – current payments harmonized pro rata. Standing order easier on both sides. A vote passed the new change.
- **From floor:** comment it is like building a wall without cement = Community. We need to continue in a more sustainable way.

7. External Speakers

7a The Shop: Adrian Ward and Gordon McCrea

Slides

The Story ***“From Idea to Reality”*****

- *This time last year, we didn't have a shop*
- *Community came together to build it*
- *Now: a functioning shop & café at the heart of the village*

What We've Built ***“What the Community Has Achieved”****

- Shop open and trading
 - Hitting (or close to) financial targets
 - Strong customer feedback
 - Growing product range
 - “A reliable local service”
 - “A place people meet”
 - “Supporting local suppliers”
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****What It Takes to Run It **“The Reality Behind the Shop” ****

- Weekly performance tracking
- Managing stock complexity (growing lines)
- Volunteer-led model
- Supervisor structure

****Key Challenges**“Where We’re Learning Fast”****

***1. People**

- Volunteer pressure
- Supervisor capacity

2. Operations**

- Scaling product range
- Maintaining consistency

****3. Financial****

- VAT introduction
- Cash flow discipline

The Next Phase“Building a Sustainable Future”****

- Summer ramp-up opportunity
- Share issue
- Strengthening operating model
- Moving from “startup” → “sustainable business”

****The Bigger Opportunity **“More Than a Shop”****

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- A community hub
- Supporting local producers
- Reinvesting in the village
- A model that can grow and evolve

“This is not just about running a shop—it’s about building something the community owns and shapes for the future.”

Commentary:

- *This time last year there was no shop; we have come a really long way; what is amazing is how the community steps up. DaSRA gave £5k, tradesmen volunteered, designers*

engaged. Now there are volunteers. We as a community = customers; awe inspiring, thank you.

- Where we are cf original plan. We are now operational; 12 months ago, figures in air – encouraging numbers now, closer to what we thought - we are generating cash. All of that is a fantastic start, but we are not out of the woods; we need more volunteers. Concerned about the summer when it is believed we will not have enough volunteers to staff to shop during this period. We need double the number than we have now. We need everyone to sell the shop. From floor: possibility of using 16/17 year-olds (cv addition). It was felt a good idea and would be considered. We haven't thought of everything. The Shop is being run with the plan originally put together until the end of the year. We will then have a full year's trading and a final quarter's profile.*
- Great start but not out of the woods.*
- Shelves show how shop has grown and what has been done for community.*
- c. six months since The Shop opened and café running; we are receiving good feedback; shop grown re what is sold; every community shop is different; wine for residents/ pasties for builders etc; we are finding out what sells ; we are growing – brilliant.*
- Please use the suggestions box as we are still learning what works; goods can be ordered specially on request; we are trying to become more personal.*
- Targets are being hit; past couple of days, we have reached £1k per day. But, as said before, summer is worrying.*
- The Shop is now a place to mee; possible customers encouraged to shop; delivery can be arranged for the elderly/ill.*
- We are using local suppliers, Cornish goods.*
- We are growing, growing, growing – really proud.*
- It was found that volunteers knew each other by sight but didn't know names. We are creating a community within a community, but we need more people to be part of it. It is your shop - make a contribution.*
- Shortage of volunteers which puts a strain of the current ones; we have 75 volunteers on books; 12/13 supervisors (supervisors a challenge as one required per shift, so pressure definitely found there).*
- Systems and training working.*
- A great story. No pressure!*
- The Shop is a reflection of DaSRA, people built the place in the first place, drawing on everyone's skills in this village, which makes all this happen.*
- Most of money is made in the three months, June to September; make sure stocks and staff give people what they want.*
- How will create wealth; share with everyone involved in the village (effort/volunteers/workers) - offer a share in the business; changing constitution so everyone who contributed has a right to be part of business. Builds between shop and community; at that stage by end of summer; it is believed shop will make money and,*

once stable, constitute 25% of profits to community causes, working with the likes of DaSRA. Building something that lasts.

- *Being average or mediocre is not enough.*
- *In summary: something more than a shop/a place to belong/community owned/built to evolve.*
- *Sustainable/refillables below expectations but we can make decisions quickly.*
- *Supporting local producers.*
- *No reason why we shouldn't be working together with other community shops to improve buying power; hope to work with other entities within communities; Village Hall Producers another outlet.*
- *Building something community owns and makes a better future for us.*
- *Introducing papers (potentially on Monday or the following Monday) but people need to request; will be reviewed after 6-8 weeks.*

The Chair said this is a case where DaSRA can amplify messages.

7b The Village Hall: Keith Richards

DASRA 2026 AGM

Ladies and Gentlemen, 2 years ago I stood here and said we intended to launch the 'Save our Village Hall' appeal.

With your help and support as of the end of March 2026, we have raised £145,000.

This is an amazing amount and the Trustees would like to thank all the organisations for their grants, including DaSRA for their amazing grant of £10,000.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to the appeal be it a donation, pledge, membership, hiring the hall or attending Events and Activities in the Village Hall. We are thrilled to have your support.

It has been a Roller Coaster of a year. We have applied for several grants, some of which were successful, but not all.

Our Village Hall is a community owned asset and is ingrained in the history of our village.

*A lot of dedication, time and hard work has gone into making our Village Hall the heart of our community. It is very important to our community that **we don't lose it!***

We were granted Planning Permission in March 2023.

Unfortunately this has expired and we were unable to extend it. So, Jim Lockyer, a resident in the village, who is helping us with this project, has resubmitted our application. We had push back on a few issues which Jim has dealt with. This included having the tree at the front of the Village Hall and the one at the side checked that the building work will not affect them. Which we have had confirmation that it wont. And a Bat, Owl and Nesting Bird survey which is being done this week.

This building work is not, a nice to do. It is a must do!

The local building company that will do the work has estimated it at £240,000 which includes making it fully accessible. Something that is a high priority for the Trustees.

So it's business as usual. We will continue applying for grants and holding Fundraising Events. Please speak to a Trustee if you have ideas for new events, activities or facilities, or complete the form on our website.

We will also continue to be open and transparent by keeping everyone informed on progress.

We appreciate that many of you have already given a donation, for which we are so grateful. However, if you are in position to give a little more it would be appreciated.

However, there are other ways you can help and show your support:

- *giving your expertise or time prior to and during the building phase*
- *renewing or becoming a member, joining our groups and using our Snooker Room*
- *attending our Fundraising Events*
- *supporting local organisations and residents by attending their events and activities in our Village Hall*
- *organising Fundraising Events with proceeds going to our Village Hall, we have several happening soon*
- *hiring this main hall as we still have availability for events, activities and for family celebrations.*

You will not only be saving our Village Hall, but also investing in the future of our amazing community.

Please go to our website or speak to a Trustee for more information. My final message to you is:

***THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE HALL IS IN YOUR HANDS!
SUPPORT IT - USE IT - OR LOSE IT***

7c The Zone: Biddy Daniel

Update on the Zone April 2026:

We have come on a very long way in just 12 months. It has been a really exciting and, at times, a rollercoaster ride. Despite having secured funding for the purchase of the building, and phenomenal public support, ongoing negotiations with the Methodists halted and consequently the Zone Health and Wellbeing charity were forced to vacate the building in August. During this time we were given vital support by other organisations in the village, allowing our regular groups to temporarily relocate. Great thanks go to Nicolas Church who not only allowed us to place a storage unit on their land, but to continue to thrive as a charity whilst using their hall space for many of our regular users including Bread and Babes, WI and DAG, as well as regular classes. The community really pulled together to make this possible, not least with the practical issue of moving everything down the road! This move allowed us space and time to re start purchase negotiations, with advice and unwavering support from a dedicated and knowledgeable group of volunteers, including Cornwall Councillor Mark Gibbons. We also thank our local MP Anna Gelderd who wrote several letters of support and Cornwall Council who provided a total of £220,000 allowing the purchase to take place, and kept a real ‘can do ‘ attitude from start to finish throughout any hiccoughs we encountered. The planning consent for community use that had been awarded the previous year thanks to funding from DASRA was pivotal in moving forward and we are extremely grateful to you. Our offer letter was finally accepted in October. The sale was completed and we received the keys to the building in early December. The building was a little overgrown and very dusty but the day a small group of us opened the doors again and stepped inside it felt like magic. We held 2 major events in December. Our usual Carol concert was held in partnership with St Nicolas Church and took place at the church. Thanks also to Whitsand Harmony and to Deviock Brass. In the future we plan to alternate the concert between venues as a celebration of our wonderful friendship and mutual support. Following a lot of hard work to clean and air the Zone, our second event was a really well attended community Christmas dinner – the first event in our now community owned building! So a new chapter has started for the Zone. A full timetable of groups have moved back in and restarted. We have continued to receive amazing community support throughout, as we face new challenges involved with the transition from former church to that of a community building with different regulatory requirements. Some of the urgent work will be expensive, and in the coming months we may need to reach out to our generous community. We also continue to work hard to find ways of securing grant funding to improve the building and to develop and enhance our programme of activities, based on current consultation needs. We have had a wide community consultation via questionnaires and now are hosting informal drop in events to ensure that our strategic plans for the future are co designed with current and future users. Our public consultations has highlighted that the ‘Zone’ is widely seen as a community hub that should serve all ages. Issues that we are now addressing include updating the heating system, expansion of training opportunities and even more wellbeing and Arts sessions. We have welcomed 2 new skilled and experienced trustees on board, and many more volunteers have

come forward from those willing to help with events through to regular gardening maintenance! Our new website is now up and running so please check it out. We continue to manage a vibrant, busy and well-loved community asset whilst considering future direction and sustainability. We recognise the challenges ahead but the emerging possibilities are very exciting. Over the past year it has become abundantly clear how much the Zone means to so many people here in Deviock parish.

The Chair stated that Councillor Mark Gibbons had hoped to be our final speaker, but unfortunately this was not possible.

8. Any Other Business: None.

9. Date of Next AGM: Monday, 26th April 2027

The meeting then concluded with the Chair thanking everyone for attending and commenting that refreshments were available, provided by our local WI.

We will now go forward with a more positive approach/get messages out/get more volunteers.