

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

AGM Minutes · 15th of April 2015

The AGM was chaired by Barry Downard, outgoing Vice-Chairman of the Dargle Conservancy Committee, at Tanglewood at 18h00, with a minimum of fuss and formality as is traditional at our AGMs.

Apologies

Members: Brenda Grant, The Groesbeeks, Gillian Addison, Warren & Michelle Campbell, Clive Shippey, Jenny Fly.

Friends: Penny Letley (Rosetta Nottingham Road Conservancy)

Proxies

Brenda Grant, The Groesbeeks, Gillian Addison, Warren & Michelle Campbell, Clive Shippey – Nikki Brighton, as Chairman, represented these members by proxy.

Confirmation of Minutes from the 2014 AGM

Proposed: Robin Fowler – Seconded: Wyndham Robartes

Adoption of Changes to Constitution

No objections or reservations were noted.

Proposed: Barend Booysen – Seconded: Wyndham Robartes

Member of the DC Simon Francis (son of Priscilla Francis) wrote to the Chair to say that he thought the draft constitution was an 'excellent document' and was full of praise for the work and enthusiasm of the Dargle Conservancy and its members.

Treasurer's Report

Rounded-off figures for the past financial year:

Income: R38 500

Expenditure: 28 400

Surplus: R10 100

Cash in the Bank: 69 900

Many thanks to DC member Pam Smit for keeping the books in order and to Kevin Culverwell and Vinusha Panday of Culverwell & Co. for auditing us.

Chairman's Report

Nikki Brighton delivered the chairman's report in the form of wonderful photographic presentation celebrating DC activities of the past year. The theme of the report was 'What does Conservancy mean to you?' Nikki spoke of the Conservancy being a voice for the voiceless and aiming to inspire people to conserve the biodiversity entrusted to us.

As part of the presentation, we watched Ashley Crookes' excellent short film – *Spring Hike up Inhlosane*.

Annual Financial Statements

Barry Downard announced that the Conservancy's Annual Financial Statements were still being wound up (due to our AGM being earlier than usual) and will be sent out to DC members with the AGM minutes and financials.

Proposed: Wyndham Robartes – Seconded: Robin Fowler

New Members

We welcomed our newest members to the Dargle Conservancy:

Jeremy & Debbie Barlow

Warren & Michelle Campbell

Brenda Grant & Jessica Francis

Gugu Zuma

New Committee Members

Brenda Grant, a labour lawyer at UKZN and former board member of KZN Wildlife, newly moved to the Dargle.

Proposed: Nikki Brighton – Seconded: Wyndham Robartes

Gugu Zuma, Nxamalala Enviro Club organiser and lifetime resident of Dargle.

Proposed: Brandon Powell – Seconded: Barend Booysen

Committee for 2015

Chairman: Nikki Brighton

Committee Members: Brenda Grant, Gugu Zuma,

Robin Barnsley, Ashley Crookes & Brandon Powell (Secretary)

Any other business

No other business was offered.

Wildlife Sightings Film

The committee would like to thank Ashley Crookes for his sterling work running the never-ending, wonderfully enjoyable drama that is the Dargle Wildlife Sightings. The members expressed fervent approval!

Ashley's 2014 collection of Wildlife Sightings followed and was enthusiastically received.

Prizes were awarded to the following members:

Most Unusual to Jenny Fly for *Fungi* – **Most New Submissions** to Helen Booyesen – **Best Overall** to Marashene Lewis for *Sunrise* – **Best Camera Trapper** to Gilly Robartes.

A Vote of thanks to Barry Downard

Nikki Brighton paid tribute to Barry's years of work in the founding, running and supporting the Dargle Conservancy and screened a presentation illustrating some of his most inspiring projects. Instead of a present the Conservancy made a donation to Free Me to thank him for his efforts. The committee is grateful for his offer of continued poster design for our events. He was applauded heartily by all present.

Dargle Conservancy Supper

Our thanks to Nikki Farquharson and her brilliant staff at Tanglewood for the wonderful supper that followed.

Simon Francis "I love your monthly 'sightings' and pics and congratulate you and your committee on your success in stimulating interest in the biodiversity of the magnificent Dargle valley in which you are privileged to live. In co-founding the initial conservancy at Balgowan, my parents could only have dreamt of what you have now got going in the Dargle, made more possible in this new IT age with email connection, night photography and the like."