

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Action Plan Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20th April

Present : Nikki Brighton, Ashley Crookes, Lynne Garbutt, Jenny Goddard, Gugu Zuma, Brenda Grant, Pauline Holden, Irene Warner (by invitation)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous meeting, having been re-circulated, were taken as read 	
Items carried forward from previous meeting:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BG's email address has now been set up 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPO documents for SARS are being discussed by LG with Vanusha (Auditors) 	LG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inundation of the wetland in the Nxamalala Village will unfortunately need to be considered a "lost cause" 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhlosane Trail restoration – agreed that this should remain on the agenda due to it's importance 	AC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dargle River Picnic – agreed to carry this item forward. The picnic will hopefully be arranged later in the year 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road signs (wildlife warning) – still no response from DoT, but NB will continue trying 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LG confirmed that income/expenditure budgets for the coming year have been finalised 	
Finances:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Financials have been completed and the books balanced. AFS will be ready for presentation by LG at the AGM, and it was agreed that it is unnecessary to distribute beforehand, however we will be doing so to give members a change to peruse them at leisure. 	LG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current bank balances: Current account R10 612,43, Money Market account R55 104,35 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All invoices for annual membership have been sent out and payments are coming in. LG is personally thanking each member when they pay. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Me donation – LG to check (R100 p.m.) 	
Members' Programme:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NB reported that the walk on Ubunye Farm (Mpophoma Falls) was very successful 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lions River walk is coming up on 13th May 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Trashion Show will be held on 6th June. GZ advised that there has been a very good response from the schools, and approximately 200 participants are expected. 	GZ/NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JG and PH agreed to assist with eats (popcorn, oranges) 	JG/PH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year will include a "tech" element, e.g. wind up toys, musical wall, which is very exciting, and partners Mpophomeni Conservation Group and Midlands Meander Education Project. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The possibility of securing Jethro Bronner to give a talk on his Dargle-to-Dargle trip remains an option 	NB/IW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Val Payne, author of "Gardener's Ecological Handbook" is happy to do a talk to members. IW will pursue. 	IW

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH offered to arrange a talk on vulture/raptor rescue and will forward pertinent material to NB. • In addition, LG will get Daniel Dolpire to give a talk on cranes • NB urged everyone to remain on the lookout for opportunities such as the abovementioned talks 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is keen to arrange another Snake Talk, and this will be budgeted for in Spring. It was agreed to incorporate the 3 participating schools together with members for this event, and GZ will co-ordinate. 	GZ
Education:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GZ advised that the visit to Free Me did not take place due to holidays 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMEP has taken over admin of the Impendle Sustainable Schools Programme – DC to pay all additional cost to complete the project in April. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GZ is actively promoting the Trashion Show amongst schools in the area 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed to a continuation of the R10k grant to the Midlands Meander Education Programme, for Environmental Education in our schools and enabling Grade 7 classes to participate in forest walks. 	
AGM:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB will prepare the Chairman’s report and presentation 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As JG will be away, BG kindly agreed to attend to secretarial duties (minutes, attendance register etc). • JG to forward necessary documentation to BG beforehand • secretary@dargleconservancy emails will be forwarded to BG w.e.f. 5th May • JG to send a AGM poster to ALL names on our distribution lists (excl Fracking) next week • NB to send out reminder to members the week before 	BG JG NB/BG JG NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Sightings competition – AC will send out photos to the committee for judging in the categories Best Photo, Most Interesting Sighting, Most Contributions, and Newest Contributor • Steampunk and Il Postino have donated generous prizes, and JG will get the envelopes to PH prior to the AGM • Letters of thanks will be sent by JG to both donors 	AC JG/PH JG
General:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife sightings now has “click to link” capability. There has been a mixed reaction, but mostly positive. We now have our own record of the sightings under our control, rather than relying on the MCF blog. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB confirmed that she is not available for reselection as Chairperson, but will remain on the committee and continue to fulfil the tasks she undertakes in terms of media, newsletters, promotion, design etc. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After some debate it was unanimously agreed that the most suitable successor to this role should be AC. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irene Warner was officially proposed by NB as a committee member, which proposal was seconded by BG. Welcome Irene! 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed with NB’s proposal that Paul Alford, wildlife expert, should be invited to join the committee. Seconded by PH. Paul might be interested in running the Game Count. 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member updates have largely been attended to through the invoicing exercise. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is keen to support the Owl Box project. NB will prepare an appropriate flyer which JG will send out. 	NB/JG

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH reported that all ordered herbicides have been delivered/collected, and some stock still remains. NB to mention this in the next newsletter, and thank DUCT, and PH to take photos of recipients if possible. 	PH/NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB advised of Spekboom Cycle Tour – route is through the Dargle with 50% of profits donated to the conservancy in return for publicity. All happy to support. 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservancy will not have any involvement in the Lions River Club Trails Festival, but we will publicise. 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB offered to prepare a “How to organise a Dargle Conservancy event” guide for use by committee members 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB is investigating the use of MailChimp vs YLMP mailing system, which has become rather expensive. All agreed that YMLP was a great service. 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB tasked with collating Dummies Guide to Dargle Living – paid for by DC 	NB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7.00 pm • Next Committee meeting will be held in August, date to be advised. 	AC/JG