

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Action Plan Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23rd October 2019 at 4.00 pm

Present: Ashley Crookes, Jenny Goddard, Pauline Holden, Kevin Barnsley, Robin Barnsley, Ian King (Guest)

Apologies: Gugu Zuma, Lynne Garbutt

<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"> • Lynne to advise on collection of outstanding membership fees. • The need for a legally/professionally qualified environmental specialist willing to volunteer services to the Conservancy is still desperately needed. 	<p style="text-align: center;">LG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
Finances:	
<p>Current bank balances: Current account R10 724.66, Money Market account R94 717.36</p>	
SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM : PROPOSED CHICKEN HOUSE DEVELOPMENT (Highlands Farm)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have already documented and circulated information (to members and via social media) in respect of the proposed chicken house development on Highlands Farm • The Conservancy have registered as an Interested and Affected Party and participated in the public meeting on 18th October. • The Conservancy's role in this matter is to remain neutral and monitor the process to ensure that it is being legally and thoroughly undertaken. By obtaining professional opinion we will be better equipped to fulfil our mandate. • Robin provided the following feedback that is noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geo-hydrologist Kevan Zunckel has been retained to represent neighbouring farmer Braam van den Hooven. It is Mr Zunckel's opinion that the consultant employed by the proponent has a fundamental lack of understanding of the project and has thus far not followed proper legal guidelines regarding the process. The Conservancy has been invited to attend a meeting with Mr Zunckel on 1st Nov. (Robin to advise details. Pauline & Ashley will attend and share pertinent information with the committee). ○ In terms of protocol the consultant is still required to inform/obtain sign-off from numerous parties (amongst others: Marc Hattingh UDM Green Scorpion, Ian Felton & Kim Van Heerden Dept of Environmental Affairs). Robin will be contacting these people check they are involved as required. Ezemvelo are already aware of the project. ○ HDLA (Bobby Hoole) are on hand as a further source of monitoring the legal process. ○ Another requirement in the consultant's scope of work is to present an Impact Tool. ○ The "deadline" of 31st Oct as stated by the consultant is unrealistic in terms of meeting legalities and allowing sufficient time for further consultation. 	<p style="text-align: center;">All</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RB/AC/PH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JG</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In pursuance of information gathered at the public meeting and following additional comments from members, the Conservancy will submit supplementary points, as agreed, to the consultant. ○ Ashley mentioned that there is another potential chicken development planned on a farm opposite Mount Park that we need to be aware of. ○ Of utmost importance is for the Conservancy to act in accordance with it's mission : “To actively conserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Dargle area for the benefit of present and future generations, by stimulating interest and awareness of conservation issues within the community as a whole, through education and community involvement”. 	<p style="text-align: center;">AC/All</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
Members' Programme:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ideas/Proposed Member Events & Talks for 2019 - update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was agreed that we would look at supporting all available venues in the area e.g. Hebron Haven, Tanglewood etc, depending on nature of the event, catering requirements and numbers expected ○ The Lemonwood/Kilgobbin walk was extremely popular and oversubscribed, with 60+ participants. ○ Frog talk has been arranged by Ashley for 20th November. Venue is Tanglewood, and RSVPs will be handled by them directly. ○ Ideas carried forward for 2020: Water (Jenny via Duncan Hay), Biomimicry (Lynne via Claire), DUCT (Jenny via Penny Rees) and the film Stroop (Lynne/Ashley via Michaelhouse contact) ○ Pauline is in the process of auditing and updating the list (on our website and published in local newspapers and groups) of existing walks in the area. ○ To widen this communication network it was suggested contacting Meander Chronicle. We also need to consider using the newly formed KZN Conservancies Forum to share information. ○ The Karkloof Conservancy have expressed an interest in combining ideas and events. Ashley to follow up (invite them to our talks etc). ○ We will continue asking members for ideas regarding talks and events. 	<p style="text-align: center;">AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC/JG/LG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PH/AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC</p>
Education:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education and programmes for our local youth and schools remains a challenge. A proper agenda of events needs to be formalised for 2020. (Litter Management, Fire Awareness, Water Conservation (WESSA) are proposals previously suggested). ● The Durban-based collection of items for the Dargle School still continues, and it was decided that the latest bakkie-load of donations will be given to Corrie Lynn School. Pauline will liaise with Gugu regarding handover, and will provide Jenny with photos that will be supplied to the donors. Photos of this and previous handovers at Dargle School will be sent to Ashley who will share via social media. ● Suggestions for donations of any surplus goods were the AIDS Centre and Funda Njnja in Mphopomeni. Kevin will provide Jenny with a list and it will be discussed further if the need arises. ● Jenny mentioned that her son Michael and friends have recently planted a vegetable garden and spekboom plants at the Dargle School. Photos will be sent to Ashley. 	<p style="text-align: center;">GZ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PH/GZ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JG/AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KB/JG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JG</p>
Development:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM above. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unfortunate that we do not have a formal mechanism of monitoring development and other applications. KB suggested that the Conservancy could be used as a conduit for any person wishing to raise awareness of such matters. The more people scanning media the better! 	AC
General:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALIEN CLEARANCE – great progress made on the Dargle stream by Mr Zuma and his team in recent weeks. LG has send photos. REFUSE MANAGEMENT AND LITTERING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks to Kevin for arranging additional refuse pickup points (now up as far as Tanglewood) with UDM. This seems to be working very well and will continue to be monitored. Signage at the refuse points, sponsored by the Conservancy, will go ahead as planned. Kevin to follow up. A recycling depot is a much needed facility in the area and will remain on our agenda. “Clean Up Day” was met with moderate interest, but served the purpose of raising awareness. Email management: 1) Jenny needs help in accessing DC mails on her phone, 2) the info@dargleconservancy mails are still going to Nikki and must be redirected (to who??) 	<p>LG/AC</p> <p>KB</p> <p>All</p> <p>JG/AC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6.15pm Next Committee meeting will be held on 29th January 2020 (to be confirmed) 	AC/JG