

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Action Plan Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9th December 2020 at 5.30pm

Constantia Farm (Barnsley Homestead)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous meeting/s, having been re-circulated, were taken as read • Thanks to Kevin & Linda Barnsley for hosting the meeting at the last minute due to Post Postino's opening times having changed. 	
Items carried forward from previous meeting/s:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is noted that "meetings" since April this year have mainly been virtual, telephonic and via email. Fortunately, it had been agreed some time ago that decisions could constitutionally be formalised in this manner. Despite the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, our volunteer committee have remained in regular contact, thus enabling the work of the Conservancy to go on relatively unhindered. • The need for a legally/professionally qualified environmental specialist willing to volunteer services to the Conservancy is still desperately needed : Some discussion around this resulted in the decision to start building a "Go-To" list of experts we can consult informally in need. Names tabled as a start were Brent Coverdale (Ezemvelo), Kevan Zunkel and Claire Janisch. Kevin will chat to them to confirm willingness. • Education and programmes for our local youth and schools remains a challenge. A proper agenda of events needs to be formalised for 2020 (now 2021). (Litter Management, Fire Awareness, Water Conservation (WESSA) are proposals previously suggested). • Signage at the refuse points, sponsored by the Conservancy, will go ahead as planned. Kevin to follow up. 	<p style="text-align: center;">c/f KB/All</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c/f GZ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c/f KB</p>
Finances:	
<p>Current bank balances: Current account R4818.55. Money Market account R72321.74</p>	
Members' Programme:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas/Proposed Member Events & Talks for 2020 – <u>all to be carried forward to 2021:</u> <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 ○ 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) ○ Kevin will do a talk on "Sustainable Energy". Venue? Posters? ○ Stephen's involvement via the Natal Falconry Club and Ezemvelo in the relocation of Black Eagle to the area is very interesting and is potentially the topic of a future talk. ○ Stephen suggested that we consider a talk aimed at farmers on bush pig and jackal management. 	<p style="text-align: center;">AC/JG/LG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC/KB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC/SL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SL</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other ideas mooted were Recycling (Wildlands), and a river “Walk & Talk” (sampling etc). Kevin to follow up. ○ No further proposals or ideas were tabled pending more certainty around COVID-19 restrictions. 	KB
Education:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Items Carried Forward. 	GZ
Development:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report 	
General:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic alliance the Conservancy has formed with Midlands Food Bank is proving to be extremely valuable. The regular “think-tank” meetings are a great way to share information and ideas, it creates a platform to work together in achieving common goals for conservation and upliftment of the Midlands as a whole. • The long awaited Dargle Conservancy sign at the beginning of the road is at last ready to be erected. Thanks to Tekwani for kindly sponsoring the cost. • The MY MIDLANDS app developers (Bunny & Josh) are looking for content to include - things like walks, hiking/biking trails & picnic sites. Locals willing to guide walks etc would add a lot of value to this initiative. It was suggested that Nikki Brighton might be the ideal mentor for guides. A request will go out to Dargle members and community via social media. This process is going to take some time to get going, but a start has to be made! • Many illegally placed signs are popping up on the sides of our roads. The Department cannot be relied upon to monitor this, so using the auspices of the Conservancy we need to “self-police” as required. This principal will also apply to anything else deemed irregular e.g. land usage. • Our membership numbers have become stagnant, and a membership drive will take place in the new year via social media • DARGLE CLEAN UP INITIATIVE: Devised and driven by Kevin, this exercise has proven to be a huge success. Donations received from private individuals & local businesses have supplemented the funding made available by the Conservancy. There has been high awareness through social media and pop-up signage. Positive feedback and community involvement also gave momentum to this programme. Job creation, clearing alien vegetation and verge litter are a few of the benefits gained. The initial purpose has been proficiently achieved (end of the P134 will be reached soon!) and Kevin is now working on the longevity of the project. Early indications are that private landowners are very willing to make use of the “crew”. Once the P134 has been completed, a proper spreadsheet will be developed to manage the crew. Ashley mentioned that the P132 (Everglades road) is also in dire need of clearing and Kevin will look into extending the scope of the crew to this area (funding reliant). We are also relying on the donation of herbicide promised by Blake McKenzie. It was agreed that the Dargle Conservancy will be the umbrella under which this will be housed going forward (provides support and credibility – a win-win!) . 	<p>All</p> <p>KB/AC/All</p> <p>All</p> <p>AC</p> <p>KB/All</p> <p>KB/JG</p> <p>AC/KB</p> <p>All</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nxamalala : Gugu reported back on the following : A community vegetable garden is being established and is in need of the donation of seedlings. We will make an appeal via social media and personal contacts. Lynne will speak to Manny about seedlings, and perhaps even take him there to view the project. (Liaison in this regard via Gugu’s grandmother). A complaint from the villagers is the crop sprayers that persist in spraying over their houses. Kevin has a relationship with the farmer involved and will engage with him in an attempt to find common ground. • AGM – our AGM was unable be held this year with good enough reason. It was decided that our only option is to send out a notice explaining the situation and asking for agreement that the current volunteer committee be re-elected to office pending the next AGM which will hopefully be held in May 2021. Chairman’s and Treasurer’s reports, together with audited financial statements, will be distributed to members via email (MailChimp) 	<p>GZ/KB</p> <p>AC/LG/JG</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8.15 pm Next Committee meeting will be held on 24th Feb 2021 (to be confirmed). 	<p>AC/JG</p>