

DARGLE CONSERVANCY

Action Plan Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Post Postino 4th February 2023 at 5.30pm

Present: Ashley Crookes, Jenny Goddard, Kevin Barnsley, Gilly Robartes

Apologies: Lynne Garbutt, Steve Lourens

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the last meeting held in August 2022, had been distributed and taken as read. It was noted and agreed that communication between & inclusive of all volunteers, via Whatapp and email, form an integral part of our decision making process between physical meetings. | All |
| Items carried forward from previous minutes: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean-up project to be repeated after poor uptake in 2022 Illegal signage on R103. This will remain an action item until resolved. Initiation of Midlands Conservancies communication platform Refuse sign has still not been erected at Tanglewood site. Dargle Nature Reserve signage as requested by B Booysen awaiting clarification of owner's rights etc Educational programme still to be implemented : Litter, Fire Awareness, & Water | AC KB KB/AC JG KB All |
| Clean Up Project - Maintenance | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin recommended that we do a proper reconciliation of the work undertaken vs income received. Nirvana's team has not yet cleared all the way up the P134 as planned. The work is very weather dependant, with numerous days lost to rain in Dec/Jan. It was agreed to employ the team for maintenance work for 6 days between now and end May @ R4000 per day including fuel & herbicide. This will include 2 days from Seasons to Post Postino, 1 day at D244 entrance and around Dargle & Umgeni River signage, 1 day at the 1912 Bridge/railway line area, and 2 days in the Upper Dargle (Ashley to confirm exact location) Kevin is to establish daily rate ad scope of work with Nirvana. Kevin to monitor up to D244, Ashley to monitor Upper Dargle area. | LG/KB KB/AC KB KB/AC |
| Finances: | |
| Current bank balances: Current account R15 898.83, Money Market account R53 759.37 as at 28 Feb 2023. | |
| Liaison with Conservancies KZN, Municipality, HDLA et al | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This important strategy is proving successful, with particular thanks to Kevin through his involvement with CKZN, Chairing of HDLA, and relationship with Municipal management. Kevin intends to meet with Umgeni Tourism (JP) to resolve any outstanding issues and clarify our respective roles. | KB/All KB |

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| Education | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snake education for local schools – agreed to budget for 4 x talk by Pat McKrill (Dargle, Corrie Lynn, Lions River, Misty Meadows). Dates to be finalised with Pat. • The Conservancy ideally requires a volunteer dedicated to facilitating an education programme for schools. None of the current volunteers have spare capacity. An appeal to Members will be made at the AGM but we all need to put “feelers” out in the meanwhile. | <p style="text-align: center;">KB/JG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All/AC</p> |
| Member Programme | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talks and activities held & planned so far for 2023 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Held 25th January – Tree Talk (David Johnson). Very successful. ○ 1st March – Geological/Rocks Talk ○ Mid-March – Guided Bird Walk by Shane Bennett ○ Mid- April – Bird Talk (Adam Riley from RockJumper Birding Tours) ○ May - AGM | <p style="text-align: center;">GR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC/JG/All</p> |
| Development: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Park Farm Piggery –no updates • No further communication regarding step-down health facility in Curry’s Post that we registered for as an AIP. • There remains a need for the Conservancy to have access to a qualified environmental expert for matters of this nature. | |
| General: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potholes on the P134 are “on the agenda” of the DoT but nothing has been done due to weather conditions and material shortages. • It is not feasible to consider self-funding this project (the P134 would cost at least R18k to repair @ R455 p/sqm). • Kevin will continue following up with relevant parties, and is hoping that at least crush will be used to fill the potholes in the short term and that they will be fixed in winter. | |
| <p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8.00pm</p> <p>Next Committee meeting will be held prior to AGM – 29 May 2023 via Zoom.</p> | AC/JG |