

**Dargle Conservancy Minutes
Committee Meeting
28 April 2014**

Present	Apologies
Barry Downard	Samantha Rose
Nikki Brighton	Rowena van Breemen
Robin Barnsley	Sue Harms
Ashley Crookes	Clive Shippey

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Nature Reserve MCF-BSP</p> <p>Notes from the landowners meeting held at il Postino: While we all recognise that the Dargle Nature Reserve(DNR) is made up of a diverse group of people, there were definitely some things everyone agreed on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are custodians of this land and privileged to live here. Graham: "it is the right thing to do" • The wording in the Dargle Conservancy (DC) constitution is to be altered slightly to make more sense, but in essence the DNR landowners will form a sub committee of the DC which oversees the management of the reserve. This is a requirement of the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme (BSP). DNR forms the 'core' of Conservancy and is a 'child' of DC. • No one wants to spend time in meetings or dealing with red tape/admin. • There is to be no DNR signage • Access is to be controlled. Regular walks are the best way to do this, as we have done in the past and will continue to do. • No one wants to be told what to do with the land they are custodians of, however, being part of the BSP does mean there is a commitment to protecting ecosystems and implementing best practices for the whole environment. • Everyone would like more info on best practice/new research – the main issues raised were jackals, invasive alien plants, grazing and burning strategies. • Free or subsidised herbicide would be a real bonus. However, it must come with proper instructions and training. Mike Farley may contact you to create a work plan. • Training for staff preferred over teams coming in to do the work (except Katie) • We are happy to support research projects on this land, with limited offers of reduced cost accommodation to be made if the need arises. • We should look for opportunities to make the DNR work commercially – always charge for walks, possible camping under the stars. • While this formal protection may be coming too late to save some of our grasslands, we know that if we leave Nature alone it has an incredible ability to heal. • There is a draft Management Plan which will need to be formalised/completed. References should be made to the early management plan in Barend's possession. • Expansion – some direct neighbours already keen, but others will come on board when they observe that being part of DNR is not too onerous. • Dargle Conservancy is the point of contact, not the implementing agency. Landowners are responsible for action. 	NB
2. Dassie relocation	Nothing further.
3. Alien Plants	NB
4. Liaison with KZNCA and other conservancies	Nothing further.
5. Living Local	Nothing further.
6. Committee tasks	Sue Harms – Treasurer

and portfolios	Ashley Crookes – Trail cams, some movie nights, wildlife sightings																																															
7. Finances: treasurers report (Clive)	<p>Unallocated payments have been sorted out.</p> <p>Change of signatories completed successfully. SH and NB have access. BD has passwords as well. NB has bank card for purchasing and cash withdrawals.</p> <p>Kevin Culverwell's firm is currently working on the outstanding audits. Auditor submitted an email to CB with queries regarding a number of issues. Queries (mostly relating to MCF issues) have been passed on to Andrew Anderson for clarification.</p> <p>Bank Balances as at end of Feb 2014: Current account: R2 437.62 Call Account: R56 168.68</p> <p>Bank Balances as at end of April 2014: Current account: R9 910.98 Call Account: R56 168.68</p> <p>SH to send out statements for subs end April.</p> <p>NB has drawn up 2014 DC budget Dargle Conservancy 2014 Budget</p> <p>Estimated income (based on 2013)</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Subscriptions</td><td>R23 000</td></tr> <tr><td>Walks</td><td>R 3 500 (more because of 2 DNR walks)</td></tr> <tr><td>Talks</td><td>R 2 000</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundry</td><td>R 1 500</td></tr> <tr><td>Camera Hire</td><td>R 1 200</td></tr> <tr><td>Interest</td><td>R 2 000</td></tr> <tr><td>banner ads web</td><td>R 500</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>R33 700</td></tr> </table> <p>2014 Budget</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Speakers</td><td>R1000</td></tr> <tr><td>Education</td><td>R10200 (see details on E Educ 2014)</td></tr> <tr><td>Free Me</td><td>R1200</td></tr> <tr><td>Subs (MCF, KZNCA)</td><td>R350</td></tr> <tr><td>Dev monitor MCF</td><td>R1200</td></tr> <tr><td>Invasive clearing</td><td>R5000 (Zuma team follow up)</td></tr> <tr><td>Invasive PLAN</td><td>R5000 (Mike Farley)</td></tr> <tr><td>YMLP</td><td>R1200</td></tr> <tr><td>Website hosting</td><td>R1000</td></tr> <tr><td>Post Box</td><td>R260</td></tr> <tr><td>Auditors</td><td>R1500</td></tr> <tr><td>Bank Charges</td><td>R200</td></tr> <tr><td>Stationery etc</td><td>R1500</td></tr> <tr><td>Gifts</td><td>R500</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>R33 760</td></tr> </table> <p>Dargle environmental education 2014 3 day Holiday Club in Nxamalala village – was a trade. see: http://darglelocaliving.wordpress.com/2014/04/11/holiday-fun-at-nxamalala/ Zandile will be doing 3 days of Water and Waste lessons in two Impendle Schools (Gomane and Hlelolusha) soon (also a trade) We will pay for: Snake man visit to Impendle Schools – R2000 MMAEP – R6000 Wetland lesson excursion for Lion's River Primary on 4 May, facilitated by Eidin Griffin (MMAEP) and Nkanyiso Ndlela (KZNCF) R400 to Nkanyiso Forest excursion for Dargle Primary school to Kilgobbin on 4 September, facilitated by</p>	Subscriptions	R23 000	Walks	R 3 500 (more because of 2 DNR walks)	Talks	R 2 000	Sundry	R 1 500	Camera Hire	R 1 200	Interest	R 2 000	banner ads web	R 500	Total	R33 700	Speakers	R1000	Education	R10200 (see details on E Educ 2014)	Free Me	R1200	Subs (MCF, KZNCA)	R350	Dev monitor MCF	R1200	Invasive clearing	R5000 (Zuma team follow up)	Invasive PLAN	R5000 (Mike Farley)	YMLP	R1200	Website hosting	R1000	Post Box	R260	Auditors	R1500	Bank Charges	R200	Stationery etc	R1500	Gifts	R500	TOTAL	R33 760	<p>SH NB</p> <p>SH</p>
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	<p>MMAEP Corrie Lynn School have requested a Gardening Workshop for the whole community in Spring which will be facilitated by MMAEP Gugu Zuma's holiday club at Nxamalala R200 per day x 3 days per holiday = R1800</p> <p>Snakes R2000 MMAEP R6000 Nka KZNCF R400 Holiday Club R1800 TOTAL R10 200</p>	
8. Communications	<p>Nothing further. BD to design branding for Get-Togethers, Newsletter etc to replace tired "tree frog" font. Use Gizmo instead as for Decade Celebrations</p>	NB
9. Membership Programme (Nikki)	<p>Howard Long hosted walk/water workshop on 8 March. Penny Rees did a presentation on our river with miniSASS workshop. Wyndham Robartes very keen on looking after river, suggest workshop on his property as well as at Evert van Breemen. Penny in agreement. Cost to Dargle R500 per workshop.</p> <p>RB to follow up with Ian Guthrie for talk on grassland management. Kevin Barnsley has suggested a fire talk series in autumn 2014 (March/April). RB to follow up please. RB to arrange an alien clearing demo again for spring. AC movie nights at Everglades. Gillie Robartes to host movie nights at Hebron Haven – first one in April, probably Food Inc Neville van Leyleveld offered to host a workshop on wildlife spoor and scat. NB proposed another group hike up Inhlosane. Date to be decided. BD suggests late summer/early autumn when it's a bit cooler, and less chance of thunderstorms.</p> <p>Wildlife Sightings Best picture award: All agreed on the concept, suggested by Dieter Setz. Agreed to prizes being: Dargle market vouchers, and 1 month free trailcam usage. All agreed that committee members pics are ineligible. Agreed that there be prizes for "Pic of the Year" in 3 categories: i) Best photograph, ii) Most interesting/unusual, and iii) Most dedicated contributor. Announcement and prizegiving to be made annually at the AGM. BD to design the certificate.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>AC</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>BD</p> <p>ALL</p>
10. Development monitoring	<p>Follow up on Southdowns proposal. Agreed need to engage with proposed PMB bypass road. BD met with Judy Bell to discuss comments on LUMS, and submitted note of support to municipality for MCF submission.</p>	<p>BD</p> <p>RB</p>
11. Membership management & Recruitment	<p>Bridgette Bolton has joined as a member.</p>	ALL
12. Education	<p>Sam Rose to set dates with Pat McKrill for Impendle Schools in Autumn. Gugu Zuma (MMAEP) is doing 3 lessons related to wetlands and water on our behalf with Corrie Lynn School soon. Funded by MCF. Request to fund a forest trip for Dargle School in Spring to Kilgobbin forest. Request to fund Chameleon presentation at Corrie Lynn and Dargle Schools Will also be assisting Lion's River School – Eidin Griffin to advise on need. Need to decide budget. R10 000 as usual? Shall we transfer to MMAEP with list of our requirements (which will include the above).</p>	NB
13. Wildlife Camera traps	<p>The trail cams are now being made available to members at R100 per month. Requests from Simon Hayes and Pat Merrick, Robin Fowler BD has drawn up a loan agreement form for members to sign when loaning a trailcam.</p>	<p>BD</p> <p>AC</p>

14. AGM 2014	<p>Poster and initial AGM notice has been emailed out to members. BD to compile and send out printed copies to members not on email. BD to supply NB with notes on development monitoring for 2014. BD to be MC at AGM, and to present Treasurer's report from SH. Meeting to approve the appointment of Kevin Culverwell's firm, Culverwell & Co. AC to compile Wildlife Sightings of the year. NB to check with RvB as regards committee member status. SH and Rose Downard to man the Treasurer's desk at the entrance. Nicky Mann providing complimentary snacks beforehand. Decided not to include Constitution changes this AGM, but call special meeting (can adopt 2014 finances at the same time)</p>	<p>All NB BD</p>
15. Dargle River	<p>DUCT starting River Custodians Project, and the Dargle River has been selected. This will provide help to landowners on the river.</p>	<p>NB</p>
16. DC liaison with Lions River Club	<p>BD to design a standard template with DC branding for inclusion in their newsletter to publicise DC events/news</p>	<p>BD</p>

Next meeting dates: June 2nd, July 21st, September 15th, November 24th, January