

**Dargle Conservancy Minutes
Committee Meeting
11 March 2014**

These minutes also include a compilation of email discussion points from February 2014.

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

Minutes	Action	
1. Nature Reserve MCF-BSP	<p>Article appearing in Country Life April edition The KZN BSP manager (Greg Martindale) is overseeing the process of requesting the MEC to proceed with the declaration process of these protected areas. NB has arranged with Barend Booysen to host 2 walks through Kilgobbin Forest/Dargle Nature Reserve (13 April and 21 September). DNR Landowners to be invited to a pizza evening to discuss any issues they may have and future plans. 8th or 15th April?</p>	NB
2. Dassie relocation	Nothing further.	
3. Alien Plants	<p>The clearing at the Dargle bridge achieved a fair amount. There was a follow up visit by Mr Zuma in early Feb. Mr Zuma to return in November 2014 for follow-up work on this site. Pretorius and Crookes have engaged this team as a result to do clearing on their properties. Member Josie Rowe-Setz provided BD information on a pom-pom weed bio-control option recently released by DAFF, wondering if some could be accessed by the DC. BD has passed the information on to Mike Farley of DUCT who will investigate.</p>	NB BD
4. Liaison with KZNCA and other conservancies	Nothing further.	
5. Living Local	Market move to LRC appears successful.	
6. Committee tasks and portfolios	<p>Sue Harms – Treasurer Ashley Crookes – Trail cams, some movie nights, wildlife sightings</p>	
7. Finances: treasurers report (Clive)	<p>Welcome to Sue in taking over the role of Treasurer.</p> <p>Sue and Nikki revisited unallocated payments. NB to contact members to check on “ownership” of said unallocated payments.</p> <p>NB to provide Eidin Griffin’s details.</p> <p>Agreed to make an effort to send personal “Thank you” notes to members on payment of fees etc., or to issue statements nicely worded thanking those who’ve already paid.</p> <p>DC bank account signatories:</p> <p>Agreed to change signatories. BD to draft DC Committee letter of authorization</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove Clive Shippey and Barry Downard? What about the bus/fairy scenario? Surely we need to have 3? (should he have signing powers) as signatories. 2. Instate Sue Harms as new signatory, whilst retaining Nikki Brighton. 3. Close access to internet banking for Clive Shippey and open an internet banking option with its own login for the Dargle Conservancy. <p>NB to check requirements with FNB. Ask RB for assistance in understanding bank requirements.</p>	SH NB NB SH BD RB

	<p>Financials for the period 5th February to 10 March, from CS.</p> <p>Expenses R1348.31 Income R2439.00 Bank Balances: Current a/c R2528.62 M/Market R56012.11</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>	CS
8. Communications	<p>With regular monthly wildlife sightings going out, facebook etc two Newsletters per year should suffice. Facebook page doing well – 245 likes and postings by others in Dargle. RvB submitted Facebook stats, RvB circulated a notice to DC members about the social media opportunities which got no response, besides Josie RS for a website banner for Dieter, which they already have. Dargle Website now has great “search” feature to enable visitors to find exactly what they are looking for. Software and time donated by Paul. BD to produce DC Get Together/Gatherings/Movie Nights/Walks branding to include in notices to print and for email. NB to send notice to all regarding Nature Reserve article in Country Life.</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 Bremem. Penny in agreement. Cost to Dargle R500 per workshop.</p> <p>RB to follow up with Ian Guthrie for talk on grassland management. Suggested 19 or 26 March, at Hebron Haven Kevin Barnsley has suggested a fire talk series in autumn 2014 (March/April). RB to follow up please. Gillie Robartes to present on yoghurt making. Lyndsay Fannin to do Soughdough bread making 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: automatic submission to N3TC Calendar competition, 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>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>AC</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>BD</p> <p>ALL</p>
10. Development monitoring	<p>uMngeni Municipality issued a notice of meeting of LUMS Steering Committee for 28th March. BD submitted comment on Graeme Griffin's poultry expansion proposal. (No objection in principle, but requesting due care with regard to it's location adjacent to the Dargle River). DC also supports the comment submitted by DUCT. Agreed no need to engage with proposed PMB bypass road.</p>	<p>BD</p> <p>RB</p>

11. Membership management & Recruitment	Heather MacKenzie has joined as a member.	ALL
12. Education	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).	NB
13. Wildlife Camera traps	Use of the trailcams on Booyesen's Kilgobbin, and McKenzie's Manor Farm have produced interesting records of blue duiker, aardvark, caracul, spotted genet, amongst others. The trail cams are now being made available to members at R100 per month. Requests from Simon Hayes and Pat Merrick. BD has drawn up a loan agreement form for members to sign when loaning a trailcam.	BD AC

14. AGM 2014	AGM 14 th May at Tanglewood. Agreed to make the AGM a celebration over locally sourced dinner, no guest speakers, and the business side of the AGM to be kept short and informal. NB to work on slide/movie presentation. BD to design poster.	All NB BD
15. Dargle River	Walk completed in January – story on DLL blog and all details on River Walk blog. DC hosted pizza dinner for walkers, NB did all other catering. Carl Bronner provided accommodation. MCF paid Penny Rees of DUCT R1000 to conduct the workshop at Howard Long's on Sat 8 th March. Attended by about 12 people. NB presented Penny Rees with a Cape Union Mart voucher for each of the three walkers as thanks for their efforts on behalf of our river. All agreed to ask Mike Farley (DUCT) to prepare a Plan of Action for the Dargle River, as well as engage with land owners individually, or with a training workshop for staff. NB has been in contact with Mike – he says no response from landowners when he has left messages with. Might need NB or BD to phone individually and explain the process. NB sent emails to all Dargle River landowners explaining the offer and that Mike would contact them. We'll need to get a budget amount from Mike for committee approval. R5000? DUCT has created a "river custodians" award since the Dargle River walk and finding Howard's property in such great shape. So as usual, Dargle inspires and leads the pack..... Not sure when presentation will be, three Dargle landowners are in line to receive the award for work on the uMngeni and Dargle.	NB
16. DC liaison with Lions River Club	NB has spoken with Lions River Club re the DC taking a 1/4 page slot every newsletter. They agree at no cost. BD to design a standard template with DC branding. Offer of use of facilities to screen movies/host talks. Apparently, Jennifer Long prepared to do necessary catering. Will likely screen Winged Migration joint LRC/DC affair to raise money for Crane Foundation Wattled Crane Iso-Rear facility. Proposed by Eidin Griffin.	BD

Next meeting date: To be discussed.