



**Minutes of Dargle Conservancy
Tanglewood Country House - 22 May 2013**

1. Barry Downard, conducting the meeting on behalf of the chairman welcomed everybody, outlined the agenda for the meeting. There would be a break from the traditional AGM format, while still fulfilling the requirements. BD explained that previous Chairman, Andrew Anderson resigned and withdrew from the committee towards the end of 2012, due to business commitments in Zululand. The committee elected Nikki Brighton to fill the Chair role. NB had requested that BD chair the AGM meeting.

2. Apologies and proxies.

Apologies:

Members: David Schneiderman, Tim Baynes, Jeanette Maree, Josie Rowe-Setz, Irving & Jessie Hertogs, Laurence Stuart-Hill, Serene de Chazal, Sam Rose, the Hodgkinson family, the Bates, Merril King, the O'Flaherty's, Jacques & Margie Pretorius, Gilly & Wyndham Robartes, Justin & Karin Herd, Sally Cumming, Iain Sinclair, Claire & Cassey Janisch, the Hulley's, Jenny Goddard, Charles & Lesley Hughes.

Other: Brandon Powell, Walter Addison, Andrew Ferendines, Malcolm Stainbank, Judy Bell, Sarah Allen, Pam & Ross Haynes, Hazel Lake

The receipt of 6 proxy forms, all in favour of the Chairman were noted.

3. AGM 2012 minutes were taken as read.

Proposed: Dieter Rowe-Setz

Seconded: Robin Barnsley

4. BD introduced Nikki Brighton to present her Chairman's Report.

NB made an interesting, and colourful visual presentation of the DC's activities enjoyed during the past year. It was also an insightful and timely commentary on the degree of irreplaceability of the ecosystems and biodiversity of the Dargle, and of our responsibilities as landowners. NB also announced the plans for our "Dargle

Decade" 10th anniversary celebrations scheduled to take place over the weekend over 9th, 10th and 11th August. The theme is to be "Icons of the Dargle".

Friday night sees a dinner at Corrie Lynn barn, with David Johnson as guest speaker. Saturday sees a walk up iNshlosane for a picnic lunch, and Sunday sees a walk led by Barend Booysen through Kilgobbin forest, the surrounding moist mistbelt grassland properties of the Dargle Nature Reserve, and down through Lemonwood forest, ending with a casual lunch of soup at Lemonwood.

The report also included a presentation of the Treasurer's Report.

Questions and comments were encouraged during the presentation. The presentation was enjoyed by all. NB also outlined the need for members to interact with and assist in the running of DC activities. She outlined some of the tasks where members could help, along with an estimate of how much time the tasks would entail. A number of members approached NB after the meeting with offers of help.

5. BD thanked NB for her presentation, and asked the meeting adopt both the Chairman's report and the Treasurer's report.

Proposed: Barend Booysen

Seconded: Bernard Janisch

6. Election of Committee members.

BD announced that the incumbent committee of Nikki Brighton, Robin Barnsley, Sam Rose, Clive Shippey, Rowena van Breemen and Barry Downard had indicated its availability for re-election. Having received no nominations since the sending out of the Notice of AGM, BD proposed that the meeting endorse and re-elect the incumbent committee.

Proposed: Robin Fowler

Seconded: Vaughan Koopman

The incumbent committee was duly re-elected.

Barend Booysen indicated he has some ideas regarding involving the youth in the DC, and has agreed to meet with the committee to discuss.

7. As noted in the Notice of AGM, the subject of raising the annual membership fee (which has remained at R250 for the past 5 years) was proposed. The new fee of R280 was proposed, as a minimal increase, but something that would help cover DC admin costs, whilst freeing up funds for education projects, in line with the DC constitution.

The following questions and comments were made:

Helen Booyesen suggested that R280 was not enough, and that the membership fee should be raised to R300, effective from next year, and running for the following five years. Shine Murphy concurred. BD put the proposal to the meeting and it was unanimously accepted. BD asked for any objections, or any further comments, with no-one responding.

BD asked for a proposer and seconder to adopt the motion.

Proposed: Mike Wheedon

Seconded: Shine Murphy

The annual membership fee was duly increased to R300 per annum.

8. BD noted that no other motions had been submitted prior to the meeting, as had been requested in the Notice of AGM.
9. BD called for any other business/matters arising.

Barend Booyesen tabled a motion of "Thank you" to the committee, which was endorsed by the meeting.

10. There being no further business/matters arising, BD reminded all members to collect their new Member signs, thanked all for attending, as well as Katie Robinson for supplying snacks, and Nicky Farqharson of Tanglewood for hosting the AGM.