

## DARGLE CONSERVANCY

**Action Plan Minutes of Committee Meeting held via ZOOM on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 5.30 pm**

**Present:** Ashley Crookes, Jenny Goddard, Kevin Barnsley, Gilly Robartes, Lynne Garbutt, Stephen Lourens

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes of the last meeting held in February 2023, had been distributed and taken as read.</li> <li>• Jenny confirmed that Michael will no longer be an active volunteer. Ashley will update Whatsapp group accordingly.</li> </ul>	AC
<b>Items carried forward from previous minutes:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c/f Illegal signage on R103. This will remain an action item until resolved.</li> <li>• Initiation of Midlands Conservancies communication platform : <b>Done.</b> Ashley &amp; Kevin are members of this group (2 per Conservancy). Communication between Conservancies is going well, and 2 meetings have already taken place.</li> <li>• c/f Refuse sign has still not been erected at Tanglewood site.</li> <li>• c/f Dargle Nature Reserve signage as requested by B Booysen awaiting clarification of owner's rights etc</li> <li>• c/f Educational programme still to be implemented : Litter, Fire Awareness, &amp; Water</li> <li>• The need for a volunteer to facilitate our Education programme is very important.</li> </ul>	KB KB/AC JG KB All All
<b>Clean Up Project - Maintenance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing new to report, but will remain an active item on our agenda.</li> </ul>	KB/All
<b>Finances:</b>	
Current bank balances: Current account R 29,891.95, Money Market account 54,204.26.	LG
<b>Liaison with Conservancies KZN, Municipality, HDLA et al</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin met with Umgeni Tourism (JP). The meeting was constructive and Kevin was able to explain that we do not have funds set aside for tourism <i>per se</i>. However, it was agreed that there are opportunities to work together e.g. FreeMe for purposes of mutual benefit.</li> </ul>	Info
<b>Education</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snake education for local schools – very successful talks given by Pat KcKrill to our 4 local schools on 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup> March. Ashley confirmed that Pat will be able to repeat this next year. Funds to be budgeted for.</li> </ul>	AC/LG
<b>Member Programme</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talks and activities held &amp; planned so far for 2023 include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Held 25<sup>th</sup> January – Tree Talk (David Johnson).</li> <li>○ Held 1<sup>st</sup> March – Geological/Rocks Talk (John Roff)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Held 12<sup>th</sup> March – Guided Bird Walk by Shane Bennett</li> <li>○ Held 26th April – Bird Talk (Adam Riley)</li> <li>○ Planned 31<sup>st</sup> May – AGM</li> <li>○ Planned 21<sup>st</sup> June – Rise of the Phoenix (Tammy Caine)</li> </ul>	
<b>Development:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There remains a need for the Conservancy to have access to a qualified environmental expert</li> </ul>	
<b>AGM Preparation Discussion</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Very disappointing response to AGM attendance so far. In order to have a quorum we require 40% of our members to be represented (in person or by proxy). Ashley to send out further reminders, and all volunteers will make a concerted effort in the next few days to encourage attendance (or submission of proxies).</li> <li>● Lynne will send everyone an updated member list for ease of contact.</li> <li>● Ashley to speak to Kirsty at Hebron regarding catering requirements.</li> <li>● Videos for the Chairman’s report/presentation are being collated by Ashley. To include footage from Kevin &amp; Andrew Fowler as agreed.</li> <li>● It was agreed that Kevin will prepare a presentation re-capping activities he has been directly involved in, including CKZN feedback.</li> <li>● A point was made that attendance at our talks and events are made up largely by non-members. We need to invite these people, especially regulars, to join the Conservancy.</li> <li>● Ashley will present the Treasurer’s report on behalf of Lynne.</li> <li>● Other than Jenny (who is leaving the Dargle), all volunteers confirmed that they are happy to stand for nomination.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">AC/All</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LG AC AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LG/AC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Info</p>
<b>General</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The only item under General was the off-road motorbike riding (Ironhorse) event. A lengthy discussion took place, summarised as follows: The organisers have requested that the conservancy endorse this event. A sizeable donation has been offered from the proceeds. The topic is controversial and whilst there is merit in holding events of this nature it was agreed that an endorsement would not be in line with the conservancy’s image. This probably needs to fall under the banner of “tourism”? There is a difference between organised, well controlled events and the informal riding already taking place. Involved parties, including landowners, should be encouraged to get together and reach mutual agreement on how this can be managed on a “win-win” basis.</li> </ul>	
<p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7.00pm</p> <p>Next Committee meeting will be held on 2 Aug 2023.</p>	AC