

## **Fife Amphibian & Reptile Group (FARG)**

### **Notice of 11<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The FARG AGM will take place at:

*1900hrs, Tuesday 28th May 2019  
Fairmont, by St Andrews*

All members are welcome to attend the  
Eleventh Annual General Meeting.

Nominations for committee members (with proposers and seconders) must be sent to the secretary *before 14th May 2019*.

The Agenda for the AGM is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Consideration of Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 10 April 2018
4. Chairperson's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Resolution to approve accounts for 2018/2019
7. Resignations from and appointments to the Committee
8. AOCB

Copies of the accounts will be available at the meeting.

Draft Minutes of the 10th AGM with a copy of the Chairman's report as presented at the 10th AGM are attached.

14 days notice is required for any resolution at the AGM. If any member wants to present a resolution please contact the secretary [fife.arg@gmail.com](mailto:fife.arg@gmail.com) with details of the resolution and the details of the proposer and seconder.

David Bell

Secretary FARG

**FARG**  
**Fife Amphibian & Reptile Group**  
**Draft Minutes of Fife AGM Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 1900 hours**  
**at the Strathmiglo Tavern, Strathmiglo**

**1. Welcome**

Bob Weston welcomed everyone to the 10<sup>th</sup> AGM of FARG. Appended to these minutes is a list of the attendees.

**2. Apologies**

There were apologies from Debbie Cranmer, Angela Forrester, Rhuardhi Bell and Rosalind Garton.

**3. Consideration of the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> AGM had been distributed with the notice of the 10<sup>th</sup> AGM and copies were available at the meeting. No matters arose from the minutes and they were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Dave Bell and seconded by Johanna Willi.

**4. Chairperson's Report**

Bob Weston presented his report and it was approved.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Bob Weston presented the accounts to the meeting, making copies available.

**6. Resolution to approve the accounts for period 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

Ian Lewis proposed approval of the accounts, seconded by Dallas Seawright and the accounts were approved by the meeting.

**7. Resignations from and appointments to the committee**

No nominations had been received for any of the office bearing roles in FARG so each of these roles was dealt with during the meeting as follows:

- a) Chairperson – Bob Weston resigned as Chairperson. Dallas Seawright was proposed by Dave Bell, seconded by Alexa Tweddle and approved by the meeting.
- b) Treasurer – Johanna Willi was proposed by Dallas Seawright, seconded by Ian Lewis and approved by the meeting.

- c) Secretary – Debbie Cranmer resigned as Secretary. Dave Bell was proposed by Alexa Tweddle, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.
- d) Recording Officer – Bob Weston resigned as Recording Officer. Johanna Willi was proposed by Dave Bell, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.
- e) Membership Secretary – Alexa Tweddle resigned as Membership Secretary. Dave Bell was proposed by Bob Weston, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.
- f) Events Co-ordinator – Ian Lewis was proposed by Alexa Tweddle, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.

## **8. AOCB**

### Promotional Events

- Ian Lewis has contacted SNH to confirm that FARG will not be able to attend the Loch Leven Discovery Day but are interested in future events.
- Johanna Willi confirmed that there is a new organiser for the Fife Show who may not have FARG contact details to send an invitation.
- Ian Lewis suggested posters could be displayed when attending events to
  - Advertise other FARG events e.g. Meet a Newt Night
  - Encourage people to be 'activists' to encourage participation in practical events

### Practical Events

- There was general discussion about how to encourage people to take part in practical events by advertising via the Facebook page.
- Dallas Seawright mentioned the Access All Areas festival is keen for details of outdoor-based events which they could promote.
- Johanna Willi mentioned that there are seven municipal golf courses, several of which have ponds and could be used as a venue for practical events.
  - Fife Golf Trust are keen to undertake freshwater sampling to indicate water quality.
- Drumdreel Pond was mentioned as a venue for an event although there are difficulties in getting groups of people to the location. Previous work there has been done in conjunction with Sam Docherty of Falkland Centre for Stewardship. Work to be carried out includes
  - Maintenance of the willow dome

- Maintenance of the inflow
- The Fire Station ponds at Cupar are maintained by the Fruit and Blossom (FAB) group
  - One of the ponds previously had an issue with sewage contamination so care needs to be taken when working at the ponds.
- Fife Collage are seeking to create ponds on their campuses.
- Bob Weston suggested FARG could contact Victoria Pendry of SRUC Elmwood and invite students to attend events.
- The ponds at Townhill Wood and Muir could be surveyed for newts in conjunction with Cara Donald, Fife Council Ranger.
  - Dave Bell suggested FARG could support these surveys.
  - Ideally, a minimum of four visits would be conducted between April and June.
  - Given time constraints, Dave Bell suggested a torchlight survey could be conducted in early May followed by larval surveys later in the year.
  - There was agreement that these surveys would be limited to FARG committee members.
- AP – Dave Bell to organise great crested newt surveys at Pitmedden Forest as training for FARG committee members who do not hold a GNC licence.
  - Dave Bell and Bob Weston can provide references for the licence application.

#### Equipment

- Most of the FARG equipment is being stored in a container at Lochore Meadows Country Park.
- There are spades, chomies and waders being stored at Pitcairn Centre.
  - AP. Dallas Seawright to ensure that all FARG equipment stored at Pitcairn is labelled as FARG.
- Dave Bell has Dewsbury traps purchased by FARG.

#### General Data Protection Act (GDPA)

- Alexa Tweddle highlighted that the GDPA coming into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May could have implications for the collection and storage of the personal details of FARG members.
- There was a discussion about how FARG could inform members of how their data are stored and used
  - Update the text on the website and/or Facebook group.
  - Email membership asking if people want to remain on the list.
- AP – Dallas Seawright will speak to Meg of FCCT to ascertain what they are doing to inform their conservation volunteers of how personal data are stored and used.

#### Bank Account

- Bob Weston has been liaising with the bank about amending the details of the signatories to include Johanna Willi and Dallas Seawright and to remove the details of those who are no longer part of FARG.
  - Dallas Seawright will need to go into the Cupar branch with proof of ID and address.
  - The contact address can remain as Pitcairn and Dallas Seawright has offered to collect any post.
- A mandate is being posted to Johanna Willi to be completed.
- All present agreed that it was permissible for one existing full power signatory only to sign the mandate and authorise the changes, namely that two new signatories be added to the account. This is due to the absence of the second existing signatory, Catherine Dickson.

## **9. DONM**

To be confirmed.

## **10. Vote of thanks**

Bob Weston thanked everyone for attending the AGM and wished FARG another successful year.

## **List of attendees at AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Alexa Tweddle  
 Bob Weston  
 Dallas Seawright  
 Dave Bell  
 Ian Lewis  
 Johanna Willi

Chairs Report.

April 10/04/2018

In the words of Robert Alan Zimmerman 'For the times they are a changing' and so it's time for me to hand over the Pond Nets and Torches to someone new to take over the reins of FARG.

Due to many work/life commitments it's been a quiet year this year for FARG, with Loch Leven open day being the only event attended. However great work has just been completed with Johanna teaming up with Frog-Life to carry out a number of very worthwhile projects at Lethem Glen, Riverside Park and Leven.

Since its foundation in 2009 FARG has carried out a huge array of work to help out the 'Herps' of Fife and beyond! With pond creation and restoration, Survey work, PR activities and the completion of nearly all the Biodiversity Action plan targets set all those years ago.

I think we, as a group, have above and beyond the call of duty for the species in Fife and built up a respectable skill base, knowledge and experience which has made it an organisation for the general public and others to come to for information on the native amphibian and reptiles, not just in Fife. We are still receiving request for information via our Facebook page and Web site.

Hopefully this great work and commitment will continue into the future, and I wish you all happy surveying and pond digging in the future.

For me, I will hopefully be linking up with the ARGers in South & West Wales, who are very active surveying, working to protect and finding plenty of Amphibians & Reptiles on a regular basis, including Adders, Slow worms, Grass Snakes and Lizards. Also keeping a lookout for 'Piny' the 7ft Louisiana Pine Snake which made a break for it last year!