

FARG
Fife Amphibian & Reptile Group
Draft Minutes of 11th AGM
held Tuesday
28th May 2019 at 7p.m.
at the Fairmont, St Andrews

1. Welcome

Dallas Seawright welcomed everyone to the 11th AGM of FARG, including new attendees. Thanks were given to Neil Blanco for his hospitality and for organising and leading the Fairmont walkover prior to the AGM.

2. Apologies

There were apologies from Ian Lewis, Angela Forrester and Ruaidhri Forrester

3. Consideration of the minutes of the 10th AGM held on 10th April 2018

The minutes of the 10th AGM had been distributed with the notice of the 11th 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 Dallas Seawright and seconded by Johanna Willi.

4. Chairperson's Report

Dallas Seawright presented his report and it was approved by the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Johanna Willi presented the accounts to the meeting, making copies available, and it was approved by the meeting.

6. Resolution to approve the accounts for period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

Dave Bell 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

Appointments were dealt with during the meeting as follows:

- a) **Chairperson** – Dallas Seawright was proposed by Dave Bell, seconded by Neil Blanco and approved by the meeting.
- b) **Treasurer** – Johanna Willi was proposed by Dallas Seawright, seconded by Dave Bell and approved by the meeting.

- c) **Secretary** – Dave Bell was proposed by Johanna Willi, seconded by Neil Blanco and approved by the meeting.
- d) **Recording Officer** – Johanna Willi was proposed by Dave Bell, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.
- e) **Membership Secretary** – Dave Bell was proposed by Bryan Smith, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.
- f) **Events Co-ordinator** – Ian Lewis was proposed by Dave Bell, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.
- g) **New FARG Golf Advisor** - Neil Blanco was proposed by Dave Bell, seconded by Johanna Willi and approved by the meeting.
- h) **New Great Crested Newt Species Action Plan Coordinator** - Ceile Boyle was proposed by Bryan Smith, seconded by Dallas Seawright and approved by the meeting.
- i) **Co-opted Member** – Robert Bonner was proposed by Dave Bell and seconded by Johanna Willi and approved by the meeting

8. AOCB

Promotional Events

- A key point made during the Chairperson's Report was the recommendation that, in future, FARG continue to attend the Loch Leven public event, but not the Dunnikier public event. This was based on the past level of interest shown in the FARG display and was supported by the members.
- Ian Lewis to be contacted for advice on promotional activities over the next 12 months.
- Dave Bell suggested inviting someone to speak at the next AGM, with intention of attracting a larger attendance and adding to the pool of knowledge within FARG. Pete Minting was one suggestion.

Project review

- Dallas Seawright and Johanna Willi impressed all with their upcoming large scale projects, including the Fife Living Waters Project. Both stated that their projects were in the early stages of scoping and funding and FARG would be involved when the timing was appropriate.
- Robert Bonner raised concerns over declining water levels in a small wetland near Methil, which he visited regularly. It was

agreed that this should be investigated, and a site visit arranged as soon as possible.

- Johanna Willi updated everyone on the Fife Biodiversity Action Plan and will be reviewing FARG commitments. Ceile Boyle and Bryan Smith agreed to lead on a new strategy for great crested newts in Fife.

- Bank Account

Johanna Willi reported that due to a number of members leaving Fife and therefore FARG, there were now only two signatories to the bank account and it would be advisable to have additional signatories. The bank mandate should be completed ASAP. Two new signatories were agreed.

David Bell

Neil Blanco

Both new signatories will complete the relevant forms to be submitted by JW to the Bank"

Practical task days

- Dallas Seawright highlighted his work with Fife Volunteers and agreed to advise FARG members when suitable days were planned. Coul Reservoir meadow being an obvious choice due to the need for amphibian rescue during mowing early August.
- Patrick Bowden-Smith had been in touch with Dave Bell, by email, requesting a FARG task day on his farm. It was agreed to set one up in October or November 2019.

Other

- A lengthy discussion took place regarding coastal saltmarshes adjoining Fairmont and Neil Blanco agreed to investigate management options for creating amphibian habitat on the adjacent SSSI. Dave Bell agreed to send on some background papers.
- Dave Bell summarised opportunities at Blair House Open Cast Coal Site, which is currently being restored and, on completion October 2019, will be handed over to Forest Land Scotland. The site holds a medium sized population of great crested newts, in addition to good populations of four other native amphibian species, and it was hoped that FARG could develop a relationship with FLS that was similar to Pitmedden Forest. Johanna Willi agreed to investigate.

9. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

10. Vote of thanks

Dallas Seawright thanked everyone for attending the AGM and wished FARG another successful year.

List of attendees at AGM on 28th May 2019

Dallas Seawright;
Johanna Willi
Dave Bell
Bryan Smith
Ceile Boyle
Neil Blanco
Robert Bonner
Anne Bonner

DRAFT