

FARG
Fife Amphibian & Reptile Group
Notice of FIFTH AGM

FARG AGM will take place on:

Thursday 14th March 2013 at The Albert Tavern, Freuchie at 7.30 pm

All members are welcome to attend the Fifth Annual General Meeting.
Nominations for committee members (with proposers and seconders) must be sent to the secretary before Tuesday 1st March 2013.

The Agenda for the AGM is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Consideration of Minutes of the 4th AGM held on 21st February 2012.
4. Chairperson's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Resolution to approve annual accounts for 2011/12
7. Resignations from and appointments to the committee
 - (a) appointment of chairperson
 - (b) appointment of treasurer
 - (c) appointment of secretary
 - (d) appointment of recording officer
 - (e) appointment of membership secretary
 - (f) appointment of West Fife representative
 - (g) appointment of East Fife representative
8. AOCB

Copies of the accounts will be available at the meeting.

Draft Minutes of the 4th AGM with a copy of the Chairman's report and Accounts 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 david.ecos@btinternet.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 Fourth AGM Tuesday 21st February 2012 at 1945 hours
at the Albert Tavern, Freuchie

1. Welcome

David Bell welcomed everyone to the 4th AGM of FARG. Appended to these minutes is a list of the 13 attendees.

2. Apologies

There were apologies from Alison Smith, Ian Lewis and Simon Mitchell.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2012

The minutes of the meeting had been distributed with the notice of the 4th AGM and copies were available. No matters arose from the minutes and they were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Graeme Walla and seconded by Jennifer Davidson.

4. Chairperson's Report

Bob Weston presented his report (a copy of which is appended) and it was approved.

5. Treasurer's Report

Kate Morison presented the accounts to the meeting, making copies of the accounts available.

6. Resolution to approve the accounts for period 1st April 2011 to 21st February 2012

Sarah Jupp proposed approval of the accounts, seconded by Neil Blanco 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 was proposed by Sarah Jupp, seconded by Johanna Willi and approved by the meeting.
- b) Treasurer – Kate Morison was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by Bob Weston and approved by the meeting.
- c) Secretary – David Bell was proposed by Bob Weston, seconded by Karen Sneddon and approved by the meeting.
- d) Recording Officer – Jennifer Davidson offered her resignation from this role which was accepted by the meeting. Alexa Tweddle was proposed by Bob Weston, seconded by Johanna Willi and approved by the meeting.
- e) Membership Secretary – Jennifer Davidson was proposed by Graeme Walla, seconded by Kate Morison and approved by the meeting.

- f) West Fife Representative – Sophie Eastwood was proposed by Graeme Walla, seconded by Alexa Tweddle and approved by the meeting.
- g) East Fife Representative – Graeme Walla was proposed by Sophie Eastwood, seconded by David Bell and approved by the meeting.

8. AOCB

David Bell thanked Karen Sneddon for her efforts in maintaining the FARG website which was praised by other amphibian and reptile groups at the Scottish Herpetology Meeting held at the University of Glasgow on Saturday 5th November 2011.

Karen Sneddon requested that FARG members submit details of press articles, photographs and anything else of interest that could be put on the website. It was also suggested that some FARG members could be trained in how to update and/or add to the website.

Johanna Willi provided details of actions to be included in the revised 4th edition of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) concerning amphibians and reptiles. These actions had been put forward by Bob Weston and Kate Morison. Lynn Jopling mentioned that Crail, Kingarroch (also known as Hill of Tarvit) and Fairmont golf courses have ponds which they would like to be surveyed, possibly as a joint action between Scottish Golf Environment Group (SGEG) and FARG.

Lynn Jopling asked about the availability of equipment for carrying out amphibian surveys and was advised that she could borrow FARG equipment. It was suggested that some of FARG funds could be used to purchase new torches. Kate Morison provided prices of some torches, taken from a website but emphasised the need to make an inventory of the FARG equipment and test all equipment to make sure everything works (disposing of those that don't). Lynn Jopling mentioned that Trevor Rose had received torches as a donation and endeavoured to find out who had donated the torches so that FARG could approach them.

The programme of activities and events outlined at the meeting held on 24th January 2012 was discussed. It was agreed that all dates for activities and events should be made available on the website. Lynn Jopling confirmed her intention to survey golf course ponds during the Spring.

- February – survey of Townhill Ponds by Kate Morison, Sarah Jupp and Sophie Eastwood. Kate Morison to let Karen Sneddon know of the survey dates so they can go on the website.
- March to June – a six-visit programme to Pitmedden by David Bell providing an opportunity for members to train for a great crested newt licence. Jennifer Davidson is to put a note on the website about the visits.
- 4th May – “Meet a Newt Night” with the Pitcairn Society.
- March/April – a visit to Dumfries to a natterjack toad site, being organised by David Bell, who gave members an update highlighting the fact that the trip was weather dependent. Bob Weston pointed out the limited availability of

accommodation in the area and David Bell suggested camping. If the trip goes ahead, it is likely to be the second week of April but David Bell will confirm this at a later date.

- End April – survey of the Goosepools at the Eden Estuary. This was originally planned to take place on 26th May to tie-in with an event being organised by Graeme Walla but the decision was taken that this date would be too late to survey for amphibians.
- May – survey of the ponds at the Limekilns in the Lomond Hills and a possible translocation of palmate newts from a pond in Kirkcaldy after receiving an e-mail from a concerned resident.
- October – pond restoration at Balgonie Castle.
- November – assessment of Drumdreel Pond.

9. DONM

TBC but likely to be June or early July.

10. Vote of thanks

David Bell thanked everyone for attending the AGM and wished FARG another successful year.

List of attendees at AGM on 21st February 2012

David Bell
Bob Weston
Jennifer Davidson
Kate Morison
Graeme Walla
Sophie Eastwood
Sarah Jupp
Johanna Willi
Alexa Tweddle
Debbie Cranmer
Karen Sneddon
Lynn Jopling
Neil Blanco

FIFE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE GROUP

CHAIRS REPORT FOR 2012

When it comes to this time in the FARG calendar, thinking back, it always seems that the group haven't been very active. On the contrary 2011 had been a busy one with plenty of very productive activities, with group carrying out some really important work throughout Fife.

We began the year with some valuable Amphibian and Reptile training provided by Trevor Rose which included classroom sessions followed by some really productive field work.

During May we undertook work in conjunction with national survey swabbing for the chytrus virus in amphibians within Pitmedden forest ponds, no results have come back yet...no news is good news!!

Several public shows events were attended with great interaction and reaction from the general public and plenty of interest in the specimens on display. So we should look forward to more of these which keep up the profile of the group.

Restoration of a number of ponds was undertaken with the new pond at Drumdreel turning out to be a very successful project.

So the coming year should see the continuation of training and activities for members to become involved in here in Fife and as part of national initiatives so hopefully with 2012 being the Chinese year of the water dragon we should all be able to get out more and find some of our own water dragons!

FIFE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE GROUP

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1st April 2011 TO 21st February 2012

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|----------|----------|------------------------|---|----------|
| BROUGHT FORWARD | OPENING BANK BALANCE | £ | 882.78 | 01.04.11 | 10011 STRATH HALL HIRE | £ | 40.00 |
| BROUGHT FORWARD | CASH IN HAND | £ | 61.09 | 24.04.11 | 10012 VANE FARM HIRE | £ | 40.00 |
| FOR YEAR | BANK INTEREST | £ | 0.22 | 13.05.11 | 10013 BADGEMAKER | £ | 190.00 |
| | LESS TAX DEDUCTED | £ | 0.03 | 13.05.11 | 10014 FARGUS STANDEE | £ | 126.00 |
| FOR YEAR | MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS | £ | 51.26 | 27.06.11 | CASH DIESEL FOR TRIP | £ | 51.26 |
| 6.7.11 | ARG TRAINING CHEQUE 000352 | £ | 80.00 | 16.08.11 | 10015 MINIBUS HIRE | £ | 118.15 |
| 24.10.11 | PAYMENT FROM FIFE COUNCIL | £ | 800.00 | 21.02.12 | CASH PIES FOR AGM | £ | 23.60 |
| | | £ | 1,875.32 | 21.02.12 | CASH IN HAND | £ | 37.49 |
| | | | | 21.02.12 | BALANCE AT BANK | £ | 1,248.82 |
| | | | | | | £ | 1,875.32 |