

FARG  
Fife Amphibian & Reptile Group  
Draft Minutes of Fife AGM Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 1900 hours  
at the Albert Tavern, Freuchie

**1. Welcome**

David Bell welcomed everyone to the 6<sup>th</sup> AGM of FARG. Appended to these minutes is a list of the seven attendees.

**2. Apologies**

There were apologies from Derek Abbott, Ruairidh Bell, Patrick Bowden-Smith, Jodie Cranmer, Angela Forrester, Tim Jones, Simon Mitchell and Karen Sneddon.

**3. Consideration of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had been distributed with the notice of the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 David Bell and seconded by Ian Lewis.

**4. Chairperson's Report**

Bob Weston presented his report and it was approved. Ian Lewis presented a report on the events which FARG had attended since the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM and future events at which FARG will be in attendance.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Debbie Cranmer presented the accounts to the meeting, making copies available.

**6. Resolution to approve the accounts for period 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Alexa Tweddle proposed approval of the accounts, seconded by Johanna Willi 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 David Bell, seconded by Debbie Cranmer and approved by the meeting.
- b) Treasurer – Kate Morison had previously offered her resignation from this role which was accepted by the meeting. Johanna Willi was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by David Bell and approved by the meeting.
- c) Secretary – David Bell offered his resignation from this role which was accepted by the meeting. Debbie Cranmer was proposed by David Bell, seconded by Bob Weston and approved by the meeting.
- d) Recording Officer – Alexa Tweddle was proposed by David Bell, seconded by Ian Lewis and approved by the meeting.

- e) Membership Secretary – Alexa Tweddle was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by David Bell and approved by the meeting.

It was decided to amalgamate the roles of East Fife and West Fife Representative to create a new 'Regional Representative' role.

- f) Regional Representative – Ian Lewis was proposed by David Bell, seconded by Bob Weston and approved by the meeting.

## 8. AOCB

### Promotional Material

Ian Lewis highlighted the need to have promotional material available at events which people could take away with them.

Bob Weston mentioned that the grant of £250 offered by CSV Action Earth will only cover the cost of promotional material as part of a wider project. The postcards produced by the Fife Red Squirrel Group were mentioned as they are well designed and engaging and could possibly be replicated by FARG.

Ian Lewis has previously designed business cards, bookmarks and fridge magnets which proved popular at past events and could be re-printed for up-coming events. Ian also created several possible designs for a FARG logo which could be taken to a designer for finalisation.

Rosalind Garton suggested creating posters which could be displayed in libraries and schools to promote FARG.

Ian Lewis mentioned that tablecloths are needed for FARG events and that branded clothing to identify FARG members would add a professional touch.

David Bell offered his portfolio of photographs for use in any promotional material.

### Events

There was general discussion about the lack of active participation from the FARG membership in practical conservation days. It was agreed that this problem wasn't particular to just FARG and that more should be done to attract new members. David Bell suggested an event to draw people in, such a challenge to hand-dig three ponds in an afternoon. Johanna Willi mentioned that Fife Council have greenspace on which events could take place and highlighted the Dunnikier Park Open Day in May as an event at which FARG could have a presence.

Rosalind Garton noted that St Andrews University have a practical conservation volunteer group which FARG may be able to utilise. Bob Weston thought this could be useful for activities where a large number of people are needed such as the work to be completed at Patrick Bowden-Smith's farm. **AP1. Bob Weston will speak to Ranald Strachan (Coastal Ranger covering St Andrews) about a contact for the group.** David Bell suggested inviting Young Farmers groups to participate in events taking place on farms such as Patrick's.

Debbie Cranmer proposed holding another 'Meeting a Newt Night' as this event always proves popular and suggested Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April as the date. Debbie suggested changing the format of the event slightly starting with a tour of the ponds while it's still light then having a tea break before surveying the ponds by torchlight. The event could also include games and activities for children including a 'frog race' game which David Bell mentioned had been popular at previous events. Victoria Pendry of Elmwood College is bringing a group of students along to the Meeting a Newt Night and it was suggested that that other ARG groups could also be invited. **AP2. Bob Weston/Alexa Tweddle to invite Tayside ARG and Friends of Angus Herptofauna to the Meet a Newt Night. AP3. David Bell will contact Robin Lofthouse of the Forestry Commission to seek the relevant permissions.**

Other groups which it was suggested that FARG could engage with include:

- Elmwood College students
- Fife College students
- Scout groups
- Air Cadet groups
- Those who are completing their Duke of Edinburgh awards

#### Promotion

There was discussion about how to reach a wider audience and it was agreed that FARG would benefit from a Facebook page. **AP4. Alexa Tweddle to create a Facebook page for FARG.**

Bob Weston mentioned that an appearance on the BBC's Countryfile or Landward programmes would raise the profile of FARG.

#### Website

Karen Sneddon had asked if anyone would be willing to assist her in maintaining the FARG website. There was general discussion about the website and blog which it was agreed needs to be regularly updated. David Bell suggested sending regular memos to the FARG Committee to encourage members to submit updates to appear on the website. Alexa Tweddle offered to undertake the necessary training in order to be able to maintain the website. **AP5. Alexa Tweddle to complete the appropriate Digital Fife training.**

#### Other

Johanna Willi handed round materials produced for Froglife's 'Dragon Finder' project which launched recently. This project includes a smartphone app to identify and record amphibians and reptiles.

David Bell suggested creating a fund to sponsor a FARG member to attend the annual Herptofauna Workers Meeting organised by the Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK (ARG UK).

David Bell showcased a new type of newt trap, the Dewsbury Newt Trap available from nhbs for £24.96, which FARG could use as an education resource.

Alexa Tweddle mentioned that all of the e-mail correspondence sent to the FARG members comes from her Fife Council account and it might be more appropriate to create a FARG account. **AP6. Alexa Tweddle to set-up a FARG e-mail account.**

**9. DONM**

To be confirmed.

**10. Vote of thanks**

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

**List of attendees at AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

David Bell  
Debbie Cranmer  
Rosalind Garton  
Ian Lewis  
Alexa Tweddle  
Bob Weston  
Johanna Willi