

FARG
Fife Amphibian & Reptile Group
Draft Minutes of Fife AGM Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 1900 hours
at the Albert Tavern, Freuchie

1. Welcome

Debbie Cranmer welcomed everyone to the 8th AGM of FARG. Appended to these minutes is a list of the attendees.

2. Apologies

There were apologies from David Bell, Jodie Cranmer, Jack Matthews and Karen Sneddon.

3. Consideration of the minutes of the 7th AGM held on 24th March 2015

The minutes of the 7th AGM had been distributed with the notice of the 8th 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 Johanna Willi and seconded by Bob Weston.

4. Chairperson's Report

Bob Weston presented his report and it was approved.

5. Treasurer's Report

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

6. Resolution to approve the accounts for period 25th March 2015 to 22nd March 2016

Bob Weston proposed approval of the accounts, seconded by Ian Lewis 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 Alexa Tweddle, seconded by Debbie Cranmer and approved by the meeting.
- b) Treasurer – Johanna Willi was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by Ian Lewis and approved by the meeting.
- c) Secretary – Debbie Cranmer was proposed by Ian Lewis, seconded by Alexa Tweddle and approved by the meeting.
- d) Recording Officer – Bob Weston was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by Ian Lewis and approved by the meeting.
- e) Membership Secretary – Alexa Tweddle was proposed by Ian Lewis, seconded by Johanna Willi and approved by the meeting.
- f) Events Co-ordinator – Ian Lewis was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by Alexa Tweddle and approved by the meeting.

8. AOCB

Promotional Events

Ian Lewis presented a report on the events which FARG had attended since the 7th AGM and future events at which FARG will be in attendance. Pertinent points were:

- It was agreed that FARG would attend the Fife Show and Loch Leven Discovery Day.
- FARG had been invited to attend a weekend event at the Scottish Deer Centre. A discussion followed regarding the value to FARG of attending this event. It was agreed that if FARG did attend, it would be for one day only (Saturday). **DC will liaise with the Scottish Deer Centre regarding attendance.**
- JW mentioned that the Dunnikier Country Park Fayre is unlikely to go ahead this year.
- The date of the Birnie & Gaddon Lochs Open Day is still to be confirmed.
- It was proposed to alter the format of the 'Meet a Newt' event – rather than an evening event, it was decided that holding it on a Saturday morning would attract a greater audience. The proposed date is Saturday 30th April, 10 am to 1 pm in Pitmedden Forest. **Suggestions of activities are welcome. IL offered to draft promotional material for the event.**

Practical Events

- JW suggested that there are two sites, listed in the Fife LBAP that FARG could visit to undertake habitat restoration work – Coble Shore Pools and Townhill Muir.
- BW confirmed that he had spoken with Ranald Strachan, Countryside Ranger, regarding the work at Coble Shore Pools. The water levels have dropped considerably and remedial work may need to be undertaken to resolve this. However, BW feels that this would not be a suitable site for amphibians given the vegetation, presence of wildfowl and poor water quality. Trampling by livestock is also an issue. BW has made suggestions for managing the site for amphibians including fencing the pools, planting to increase habitat mosaics and creating woodpiles to attract insects and act as hibernacula. However, any work would require the consent of the landowner which hasn't been granted.
- Other suggestions of practical events for winter 2016/17 were given as Coul pond, Tentsmuir fire-ponds and Balbirnie Pond.

Equipment

- DC asked for suggestions of equipment that could be purchased. IL requested a Coleman shelter which could be used at events. **BW will ensure that there are enough materials for the badge-making activity.**

Other

- It was agreed that there should always be funds in the FARG account (suggested amount £300).

9. DONM

To be confirmed.

10. Vote of thanks

Debbie Cranmer thanked everyone for attending the AGM and wished FARG another successful year.

List of attendees at AGM on 22nd March 2016

Debbie Cranmer

Bob Weston

Ian Lewis

Alexa Tweddle

Johanna Willi