

FARG
Fife Amphibian & Reptile Group

Draft Minutes of FARG AGM - Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 1900 hours
at the Albert Tavern, Freuchie

1. Welcome

Debbie Cranmer welcomed everyone to the 9th AGM of FARG. Appended to these minutes is a list of the attendees.

2. Apologies

There were apologies from Johanna Willi.

3. Consideration of the minutes of the 8th AGM held on 22nd March 2016

The minutes of the 8th AGM had been distributed with the notice of the 9th 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 Debbie Cranmer and seconded by Dallas Seawright.

4. Chairperson's Report

Bob Weston presented his report and it was approved. During consideration of the Chairperson's Report there was discussion of a proposal to create a series of ponds close to the car park for Kilminning Nature Reserve which is being instigated by Crail resident Will Cresswell who has created a leaflet to generate interest. There was also discussion about the potential to restore Mossmorran, which is home to Common Lizard, by removing tree cover. The reduction in reliance on coal provides an opportunity to restore Mossmorran.

5. Treasurer's Report

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

6. Resolution to approve the accounts for period 22nd March 2016 to 16th May 2017

Ian Lewis proposed approval of the accounts, seconded by Dave Bell 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 Jodie Cranmer, seconded by Debbie Cranmer and approved by the meeting.
- b) Treasurer – Johanna Willi was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by Bob Weston and approved by the meeting.
- c) Secretary – Debbie Cranmer was proposed by Dave Bell, seconded by Bob Weston and approved by the meeting.
- d) Recording Officer – Bob Weston was proposed by Debbie Cranmer, seconded by Dave Bell and approved by the meeting.

- e) Membership Secretary – Alexa Tweddle was proposed by Bob Weston, seconded by Jodie Cranmer 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

- FARG will not be attending the 2017 Fife Show as no invitation has been received from the organiser.
- Bob Weston and Ian Lewis are representing FARG at the Loch Leven Discovery Day on Sunday 28th May 2017.

Project Work

- Bob Weston updated the Committee on the changes proposed to FCCT staffing with Fife Council's Access and Biodiversity Teams set to move to FCCT.
 - It is hoped that this will facilitate partnership working and could result in more projects being proposed for FARG to undertake.
- Dave Bell suggested putting out mats at Mossmorran and Clune Plantation (suggested by Dallas Seawright) in July to conduct a presence/absence survey for Common Lizard.
- The Pitcairn Volunteers have assisted in practical work and could be called upon for future projects.
- Coble Shore Pools update - work undertaken as part of the biomass plant development at Guardbridge (to provide heating to St Andrews university) has resulted in higher water levels which has restored the wetland habitat although it is still of limited value for amphibians and reptiles.
- Suggestions for project work
 - Petries Pond (suggested by Dallas Seawright) – the inflow from the burn could be dug out to allow water to flow through.
 - Townhill Woods – conduct a visit to assess ponds and the need for more work.
 - Dave Bell asked if there were any community projects FARG could get involved with. Potential at Riverside Park, Glenrothes, Letham Glen and Hill of Beath (Johanna Willi has been involved in biodiversity projects at these sites).
 - Meet a Newt Event 2018 – discussions around the type of event e.g. evening event followed by a morning event. Debbie Cranmer suggested a minimum age for the evening event (10 or 11) and have a morning event for all ages.

Equipment

- No suggestions of equipment that FARG need.

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 17th May 2017

Debbie Cranmer

Bob Weston

Ian Lewis

Jodie Cranmer

Dallas Seawright

Dave Bell

Alexa Tweddle