

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 9th June 2021.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowell – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter - Editor (NP), Simon Stuart (SS), Andy Whalley (AW), Matt Cooper (MC), Will Hinchliffe (WH), Nola O'Donnell (NO).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Apologies for absence were received.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the last committee meeting held on the 10th March 2021 were approved and are posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS thanked everyone for logging in. He thanked MC and Sarah Jackson from Head Office for hosting a successful on-line Knot Tying Event.

3.2 Secretary

SD reported an enquiry from a member asking when events would re-start, following the relaxing of pandemic restriction.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Knot Tying Workshop

The event was well received with those attending from overseas locations outnumbering the Scottish.

A wide range of knots were demonstrated, and a recording of the event is to be included on the Arb Show Webpages.

CS provided an article for the Arb Mag.

4.2 COP26

The UN Climate Change Conference COP26 is to be held between the 1st and 12th November in Glasgow and it is agreed by the committee that the Scottish Branch should engage in this high-profile event.

AW previously suggested an Article be provided for the Arb Mag. He has since made enquiries with organizations involved with projects associated with COP26, namely Scottish Forestry, Forest Research, Clyde Climate Forest and Edinburgh Million Trees Project. Both contacted expressed an interest in providing material for the Mag or potentially a presentation to the membership however timescale would generally be later in the year.

Notable points raised in the committee's discussion included:

1. Relevant article relating to COP26 for the Arb Mag.
2. Presentation relating to increasing canopy cover in Scotland to the membership.
3. AA support of Tree Planting Incentives.
4. Involvement with National Tree week or Arbor Day.
5. Tree species selection for Scottish Gardens
6. A national press article relating to tree planting in Scotland.
7. Identifying funding schemes available for tree planting in Scotland.

Action AW, MC and WH – Sub-committee to progress the above.

4.3 Opening-Up of Field events

CS opened discussions relating to the re-starting of group excursions and events following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

It was proposed the following previously postponed events could be re-scheduled. The prevailing government guidance relating to pandemic restrictions would be followed.

1. Benmore Trip – **Action SS**
2. Yews of the Clyde Valley – **Action WH**
3. Climbing Demonstration – **Action AM and MC**

4.4 Christmas Party

CS proposed the Branch recommence the Christmas Party which had been held in previous years.

It was generally agreed such a social event would be welcome, pandemic restriction permitting.

SD suggested the AGM and winter seminar, held in late January could be a convenient opportunity for a social event near Christmas.

Recent, less formal Christmas get-togethers had been held and could continue, pandemic permitting.

Action SD and CS – Christmas / Winter Social Event.

4.5 ARB Mag

NP thanks WH and AW for articles published in the most recent edition of the Mag.

Four (4) articles had been submitted for the next (Autumn) edition.

CS thanks NP for the range and quality of articles appearing in the 'In Scotland' Section of the publication and welcomed future articles.

Action All - Future articles.

5. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

AGM 2021

CS raised the AGM and the following was discussed:

1. Should the AGM be webinar based or a physical event.– this would probably depend on the situation with Covid restrictions nearer the time.
2. Should the event include a seminar or just be the AGM. - It was felt by MC that without the addition of a presentation or visit it might be poorly attended.
3. If a venue was to be required could this be arranged at short notice. – **Action AW** was to review the potential for south Lanarkshire Council to provide a suitable venue.
4. Potential speakers - Alliance for Atlantic Rainforest / Plantlife. **Action SS / WH**
5. Invitation to Head Office Staff – **Action CS**.

Ash Dieback

AW noted the upcoming output from Professor Gerry Saddler, Chief Plant Health Officer for Scotland relating to ash dieback and Working Group meetings and how the membership be kept informed on developments.

It was agreed that Head Office could include information on an eBlast newsletter. **Action AW**

Social Media Accounts for Scottish Members

WH noted the Scottish Branch does not have a presence on Social Media to promote up-coming events.

CS suggested it may be possible to appoint a professional social media coordinator for the branch. **Action CS**.

RFS Excursion Dalkeith Park 6th October 2021

SS made the committee aware of the event which should be promoted by the AA. **Action SS**.

TPO Legislation, A review of Scottish and English Policy Differences.

NO suggested a review of TPO legislation could be provided in terms of an article for the Arb Mag. **Action NO**.

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting is to be held on-line at 1830 on the 15th September 2021.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.