

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 13th May 2022.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Andy Whalley (AW), Matt Cooper (MC), Simon Stuart (SS), and Mike Charkow (MCh).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Porter - Editor (NP), Mark Foster (MF), Chris Knapman (CK), and Callum Braithwaite (CB).

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the last committee meeting, held on the 9th February 2022 have been circulated around the committee and approved. These are posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS thanked everyone for logging in. He noted that the planned 'face to face' meeting had been re-arranged as an on-line meeting due to the number of apologies received from Committee Members.

He thanked Will Hinchcliffe for organizing a successful and well attended Tree Protection Seminar of the 24th February at Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. The branches first event of the year.

3.2 Secretary

SD had nothing further to add.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Planned Events

1. **Balloch and Cashel Excursion.** To be held on 25th June 2022. Details to be finalized and booking form to be submitted to HQ.

Action - SS / CS

2. **Hazard Tree Inspection Course.** Training course run by CS on 19th and 20th July at Stirling Court Hotel. Planning and organization had been finalized and booking form submitted to HQ.

Action - CS

3. **Bats and Conservation Arboriculture.** To be held at Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton.
Proposed date 26th November 2022.

MC reported the event was mostly planned and organized. Awaiting confirmation from one speaker.

Expenses for travel and accommodation would be provided for those travel from South of England to help deliver the event.

Total costs estimated at £1318 including expenses and provision of soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee.

Cost of event to participants to be confirmed.

Booking form to be submitted to HQ.

Action – MC

4. **David Humphries Fungi Event**

MF reported by email that planning and organization of the event is in hand but requires to be finalized.

A venue and date (sometime in September / October) to be confirmed.

Action – MF

5. **Champion Trees**

MF reported by email that an article will be in the next issue of the Arb Mag. He thanked NP for his help with this.

The possibility of appearing on BBC Radio Scotland 'Out of Doors' Show was to be followed-up.

The potential of organizing further tree measurement activities to update TROBI records in other part of the country was to be explored.

Committee Members interested in organizing this in their local area should contact him.

Action – MF / All

6. **Climbers Get Together**

AM proposed North Inch Park, Perth as a suitable venue was progressing matters with park managers.

Costings and a suitable date were to be confirmed.

Once plans were finalized a booking form will require to be submitted to HQ

Action – AM

7. Heritage Tree Event

Event to be run by CK on the 18th of May at Birnam Art Centre, Dunkeld.

All planning and arrangements were finalized.

Over 30 attendees had booked.

CS thanked CK for organization and requested a volunteer to provide a write up for the Arb Mag.

Action – SD (write-up)

4.2 Branch Credit Card

CS had enquired with HQ about the provision of a Branch Credit Card to cover expenses.

Positive feedback had been received from HQ but final details and confirmation was awaited.

Action – CS

4.3 Ken Martin Award

CS requested the Committee Members think about suitable recipients of the award.

Nomination to be submitted to SD as Secretary.

Action – All

4.4 Arb Mag

Articles to be submitted to NP (Editor).

In correspondence with CS, HQ has noted that articles submitted to the 'In Scotland' Section may end up elsewhere in the Mag as determined appropriate.

Action – All

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. AW reported that the TDAG's Tree, Planning and Development and National Planning Framework Documents were available for review, prior to publication.

He noted that it would be appropriate for a Scottish element to be included in these documents due to difference in Planning and Legal policy.

A TDAG Seminar on Trees and Planning would follow, perhaps in May 2023.

Action - AW

2. CS suggested a Scottish contingent could travel *en masse* to the AA Conference, to be held at Loughborough, Leicestershire between the 4th and 7th of September 2022.

He proposed a minibus could be organized to provide transport and would raise the matter with HQ.

This could be promoted among members in Scotland to increase the Scottish attendance at the event.

Action – CS

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The committee voted with a show of hand that the next meeting be held on-line via 'Teams'.

CS proposed the date and time of the 1st September 2022 at 1830.

Committee Members were asked to check their availability as alternate dates were also possible.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.