

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 9th February 2022.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter - Editor (NP), Andy Whalley (AW), Matt Cooper (MC), Mark Foster (MF), Mike Charkow (MCh), Chris Knapman (CK), and Callum Braithwaite (CB).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Simon Stuart (SS).

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the 2021 AGM, held on the 29th January 2022 have been circulated around the committee and approved. These are to be posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS thanked everyone for logging in and welcomed the new committee members MCh, CK, and CB, appointed at the AGM.

3.2 Secretary

SD had nothing further to add.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Tree Protection Excursion RBGE

CS noted that 20 participants had so far signed up to the event to be held at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh on Thursday the 24th February 2022.

4.2 Balloch Visit

SD reported that SS was still investigating the potential for a visit to Balloch Castle Country Park.

Contact was to be made with West Dunbartonshire Council.

Action – SS

4.3 Hazard Tree Inspection Course

CS informed that the 2-day course would be held on the 19th and 20th of July 2022.

The event and venue were to be confirmed with HQ.

Action – CS

4.4 Bats and Conservation Arboriculture

MC proposed a Bats in Trees event in Scotland could be organized.

The event would take a practical slant and include techniques for creating bat habitat.

A date in October would be most suitable to coincide with bat activity.

Suitably trained experts to lead the day were to be confirmed by MC.

A potential venue would be investigated by AW.

Action – MC / AW

The potential to run a separate, broader Conservation Arboriculture Event was raised by CK and was to be investigated.

Action – CK

4.5 David Humphries

MF has a positive line of enquiry regarding a presentation from London Tree Officer, David Humphries on Trees and Fungi, who's book on the subject has been recently published.

A venue in Pollock Park, Glasgow was to be confirmed.

A date, on a week day in September was to be proposed.

Costs associated with the day were to be investigated and confirmed with HQ.

Action – MF

4.6 Champion Trees

Following the identification of Champion Yew trees, MF had met with David Alderman of the Tree Register and held discussion relating to the re-measuring of known Champion trees in Scotland.

It was proposed that an area where several Champion Trees are present be visited as an AASB Event.

The potential availability for a Bursary to help with costs, and an article for the Arb. Mag. were to be investigated.

A sub-committee including MF, MCh, CB and MC were duly appointed.

Action – MF, MCh, CB, MC

4.7 Climbers Get Together

AM had previously proposed running a climber's event to follow up from last year's successful demonstration day.

He suggested the event would be informal (rather than a tree climbing competition) and could provide practice, training and gauge the level of interest for those interested in competing.

A venue, date and confirmation of insurance with HQ were to be confirmed.

MC and CB offered to help with organization.

Action – AM, CB, MC

4.8 Heritage Trees

CK offered to provide a presentation to the Branch relating to Heritage Trees in Scotland.

A suitable date and venue were to be investigated.

Action - CK

4.9 Arb. Mag.

NP was pleased to report that 7 articles were to appear in the Spring Edition of the Arb. Mag. In Scotland Section.

He noted the deadline of the 24th March 2022 for articles to appear in the Summer Edition and made a call for contributions.

He raised the issue of the Tom Hall Literary Award and the recently experienced complications associated with the selection process at HQ.

It was decided by the Committee that future winners would be selected by the Editor and/or Committee.

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Iain Morrison – NP noted that last year's winner of the Tom Hall Literary Award, Iain Morrison, who had been unable to attend the 2021 AGM had offered to provide a presentation relating to his article. Availability of the speaker, date and venue to be confirmed. It was suggested the 2022 AGM may be a suitable platform.

Action - NP

Bank Account and Credit Card – CS was to contact HQ regarding the provision of a Credit Card to pay for branch expenses, in the absence of a branch bank account.

Action - CS

Climbing Event – MC was to contact various kit suppliers to see if sponsorship of a climbing event could be arranged. This could either be for the event proposed in 4.7 or a stand along 'climbing kit' event.

Action – MC

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

CS proposed the next committee meeting be held at the Pirnhall Inn, Stirling at 1830 on the 13th May 2022.

The meeting would be the first 'physical' meeting for some time and while 'on-line' meetings would still be held it was agreed that an annual committee get together in person would be of benefit.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.