

# **ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH**

**Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

**Present:** Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowell – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Simon Stuart (SS), Andy Whalley (AW), Matt Cooper (MC), Will Hinchliffe (WH) and Mark Foster (MF).

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Porter - Editor (NP) and Nola O'Donnell (NO)

## **2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the last committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 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 and noted there were a significant number of items on the agenda and the committee needed to prepare for busy final quarter of the year.

### **3.2 Secretary**

SD had nothing further to add.

## **4. ITEMS**

### **4.1 Advanced chainsaw maintenance workshop - CS**

CS proposed it would be a good idea to hold the training workshop which was agreed by the committee. A suitable person to deliver the workshop would need to be identified with the possibility of holding the event next year.

**Action - CS**

### **4.2 Tree Names Explained Magazine Series- CS**

CS had contacted RBGE and Dundee University Botanic Garden enquiring about possibility of providing an article / series of articles on the subject. Staff at Dundee University expressed an interest in providing the material.

**Action – CS**

#### 4.3 COP26 / National Tree Week

It was noted that the proposed article relating to the Clyde Climate Forest had appeared in an ICF Publication. The author would be contacted regarding providing an article / presentation to the AA.

##### Action - AW

The proposed article relating to Tree Planting in Scotland was to be held back as HQ were in the process of producing an UK wide article on Tree Planting.

National Tree Week is to be held from the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov to the 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. WH proposed the branch could be promoted through press releases during this week. This could include publication of tree selection list for Scotland.

##### Action - WH and MC

#### 4.4 Opening-Up of Field events

1. **Benmore and Kilmun Trip** has been organized by SS. The event is to take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 and a flyer has been released by Scottish Branch and advertised by HQ through EBlast. Peter Baxter is to lead the tour of Benmore and SS guide a walk around Kilmun.

CS expressed thanks to SS for organizing, Benmore for hosting and HQ for advertising. He asked the committee members to use their own email contacts and Social Media accounts to further promote the event.

2. **Yews of the Clyde Valley** was proposed by WH for the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021. CS offered to contact HQ regarding promotion and advertising.

##### Action - WH and CS

3. **Climbing Demonstration** date proposed for the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 at Polkemmet Country Park. Confirmation of insurance cover required would need to be obtained from HQ.

CS expressed thanks to AM and MC for organizing the event and to Jane Begg of West Lothian Council for her assistance with the venue

##### Action - AM and MC

#### 4.5 Christmas Party / Social Event

SD proposed a social event be included prior to the 2021 AGM. See below.

##### Action – SD

#### **4.6 AGM 2021**

CS raised the option of using Chatelherault Country Park as a suitable venue for the Winter event / AGM, to be held on the Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

SD proposed that Culzean Castle was also an option as the previous Winter Event / AGM to be held there was cancelled. CS offered to check availability at Culzean.

Potential speakers would be approached including AA CEO John Parker and a representative from Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest.

SD was to enquire about a suitable venue for a Social Event / Burn Supper and accommodation on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

CS added the Tom Hall and Ken Martin Awards would be presented at the event and suitable recipients were to be identified.

**Action CS and SD.**

#### **4.7 ARB Mag**

CS again thanks NP for the range and quality of articles appearing in the 'In Scotland' Section of the Arb Mag.

A full complement of article would appear in the next (Winter) edition.

**Action - NP**

### **5. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

#### **Ash Dieback / Tree Dismantling Event**

SD reported that David Adams of Ayrshire Tree Surgeons has contacted the branch with regards to supporting the diseased ash dismantling demonstration they were hosting. A member of the committee would try and attend the event to be held between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 however as a commercial promotion the branch felt no obligation.

#### **Greenfix Event**

Soil stabilization and erosion control specialist, Greenfix have organized a promotional event on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. A member of the committee would try and attend on behalf of the branch, however as a commercial promotion the branch again felt no obligation.

### **6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next committee meeting is to be held on-line at 1830 on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Struan Dagleish  
AASB Secretary.