

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 23rd September 2020.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall - Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Will Hinchliffe (WH), Nick Porter (NP), Simon Stuart (SS),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received. Keith Vernon (KV) did not attend.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the last committee meeting held on the 27th May 2020 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. Thanks to SD for setting up the meeting for the branches 'Teams' AASB Group due to the Corona Pandemic.

He emphasized the Branches determination to remain active as far as practicably possible during the pandemic and in accordance with Government advice.

3.2 Secretary

SD supported the comments made by CS and had nothing further to add.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Postponed Events

The postponed events were reviewed and the potential for running these at a later date was discussed.

It was agreed that once possible the organization of these events would be re-initiated.

4.2 HQ Proposal to Replace Conference with September Roadshow

SD reported that the proposals for a Roadshow of seminars to be co-organized by Head Office and Local Branches has been cancelled due to the Pandemic.

No further action on this is required by the Branch.

4.3 Branch 'Virtual Seminars'

It was agreed that to remain active as branch at this time online events would be the best option.

CS raised the point that there were a lot of such events already available through the AA and ICF platforms. He asked the committee for their thoughts.

WH suggested Dendrochronologist, Corallie Mills could be approached to provide a presentation relating to her study of wood used in the construction of old Scottish building and how Dendrochronological techniques to can be used to identify where the timber would have originated.

It was agreed by the committee that this would make an appropriate topic for presentation.

See 4.5 below.

4.4 Grow Careers Event

WH reported that the grow Careers Event had inevitably been cancelled due to Pandemic restrictions.

The Event was now to be held Online and WH had agreed to provide a brief talk and answer questions relating to employment in the arboricultural sector.

Action - WH

4.5 AGM 2020

CS reported that the venue at Culzean was still booked but conceded that it was unlikely to be able to go ahead.

He raised the possibility of hosting an Online AGM.

The possibility of securing the services of Corallie Mills (see 4.3) for this was discussed and agreed that she should be approached.

Action - WH.

4.6 ARB Mag

NP thanked CS for his 'Blazing Saddles' article and Julian Morris for this contribution titled 'The Edge of Darkness' and again expressed satisfaction the quality of articles in the Scottish Section of the Arb. Mag.

The next edition would be the Spring Issue and potential material from Alan Crawford, The Green Action Trust, Nature Scotland, Borders Woodland Trust, John Morrison (Dutch Elm Disease) and the Atlantic Wood Alliance were to be investigated.

Action – NP / WH

5. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

No further points were raised for discussion.

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday the 16th December 2020 at 1800 was agreed as the next committee meeting date and time.
The meeting would be held virtually, using 'Teams'.

Struan Dalglish
AASB Secretary