

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Hawes Inn, Queensferry on 20th September 2016

Present: Will Hinchliffe (WH), Robert Paterson (RP), Eric Hamilton (EH), Donald Rodger (DR), Ken Harvey (KH), Fiona Melville (FM).

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Jeremy Davies (JD), Adam Riedi (AR) and Mike Charkow (MC).

2. Minutes from the last committee meeting

Minutes approved, and are up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. Officers' reports

3.1 Chair

DR had nothing significant to say

3.2 Secretary

The Scottish Branch currently has 85 individual members and 14 corporate members. There is one new Approved Contractor and one application for Approved Contractor status waiting to be assessed.

Following on from an item at the last meeting regarding promoting closer contact with the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, a meeting has been arranged for 22nd September with Sir Patrick Hunter Blair, RSFS President, and George Moore, RSFS Administrator to discuss the matter. KH will report on the outcome in due course.

3.3 Treasurer

RP reported that the Branch's Bank Balance stands at £3009.39. This is after expenses that have already been paid for the Tree Associated Fungi and Veteran Tree Management Seminar on 3rd October, including £168 for the Speakers' accommodation and £1000.00 to Sodexo for the venue and catering. HQ are handling the booking but may not pass all the proceeds back to Scottish Branch. AASB need to pay expenses for the AGM at the end of January but may not have the funds back from HQ in time. RP to follow this up with HQ.

The bat scoping course generated an income of £2,940.00 with expenses of £2,565.80, giving a profit of £374.20.

An invoice for the admission costs for members who helped out at the Dundee Flower Show has to be paid. RP will pay this when EH knows the amount.

4. Seminar on Tree Associated Fungi and Veteran Tree Management on 3rd October.

The Branch is organising the event and needs to make sure everything is in place and the arrangements are in hand. RP needs to know how many delegates will be attending to know the income. KH is to send out a reminder to AASB members and the wider contacts list to try to stimulate numbers. FM will write up an article on the event for the ARB Magazine.

Action: KH to send reminder to members. FM to write article for the 'In Scotland' section of the ARB Magazine.

5. Use of AASB mailing list to advertise non-AASB/AA events.

DR said he was relaxed about the matter generally. Following a discussion, it was agreed that it would be left to the Secretary's discretion, but if there was any doubt about a particular situation, he would seek the views of the Committee.

6. Calendar of proposed events (requested by EH).

There are no events planned other than the 2016 AGM. The proposed Lochwood Oaks visit has been postponed, but could still go ahead as a Spring Excursion early in 2017. All agreed it would be good to get a calendar of events up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

Action: KH to follow up with HQ asking to get a calendar up on the website.

7. Arrangements for Scottish Branch 2016 Annual General Meeting.

The AGM will take place on the last Saturday of January (28th) at the Dundee Botanic Gardens. The venue has been booked. With regard to speakers, DR felt that we were too pushed for time at the last few AGMs with speakers running over their allotted times, with the result that the actual AGM itself was being rushed through. We should therefore consider either having only one speaker, or having two but with defined time to speak. A possible programme would be to have the speaker(s) in the morning, and following lunch, have the AGM with Keith Sacre just saying a few words. Speakers suggested are Sally Eaton of RBGE, and Kevin Frediani.

Action: DR to draft out a schedule of possible agenda/format, and contact Kevin Frediani to ask if he is willing to speak. WH to ask Sally Eaton if she is willing to speak.

8. Nominations for the Ken Martin Memorial Award and Dr. Tom Hall Literary Prize.

AASB members should be asked for nominations for the Ken Martin Award, given for outstanding contribution to arboriculture in Scotland, along with the reasons why.

The Committee will consider recipients of the Dr. Tom Hall Award, for the best article in the 'In Scotland' section of the ARB Magazine, after the final edition of the year is published.

Action: KH to send email to members seeking nominations for the Ken Martin Award.

9. Scottish Branch representative on Scottish School of Forestry Committee Meetings to replace Ron Clowes, who has retired.

AASB will thank Ron for all his efforts and work on behalf of the Branch and wish him well for his retirement.

All agreed that the Branch should have a representative on the SSF Committee. Ron had mentioned that Oliver McFarlane has been asked, but did not know if he would be prepared to take on the position. WH expressed an interest in volunteering, but would need to seek RBGE approval first. If he did take it on, AASB would cover his travelling costs out of Branch funds.

Action: DR to thank Ron and wish him well for the future. WH to seek approval from RBGE and check with Oliver McFarlane if he wants to take it on.

10. Arb magazine articles.

MC was not present so we do not know if any articles have been received. Once we know the deadline for the next edition, AASB members are to be asked for articles.

Action: KH to send out email to members informing of the deadline and requesting articles.

11. Any other competent business.

FM has contacted Chris Simpson regarding an advanced VTA one day workshop as discussed at the last meeting. He has very kindly offered to deliver this for free next year, but FM thinks we should cover his expenses at least. FM suggested we should arrange a meeting with him to explore further as to what we feel would be of benefit to members etc.

12. Date & venue of next meeting.

Tuesday 8th November at The Hawes Inn.