

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Hawes Inn, Queensferry on 28th February 2017

Present: Donald Rodger (DR), Ken Harvey (KH), Fiona Melville (FM), Struan Dalgleish (SD), Stuart Leith (SL), Jeremy Davies (JD) and Alan McDowall (AM).

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Will Hinchliffe (WH), Robert Paterson (RP) and Mike Charkow (MC).

2. Minutes from the last committee meeting.

Minutes of the AGM in Dundee approved, and should be up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. Officers' reports.

3.1 Chair.

DR welcomed the new committee members, Struan Dalgleish, Stuart Leith and Alan McDowall. Eric Hamilton has stepped down from the committee after many years' sterling service. DR has spoken with Stewart Wardrop, AA CEO, who is preparing a certificate in recognition of his services to the AA, plus a cheque for £100. DR will hopefully see Eric within the next week to present these and will get a photo for the magazine.

DR said the AGM on 28th January in Dundee went well, with a good venue, good hosts, good member turnout and HQ representation by Stewart Wardrop and Keith Sacre which was much appreciated.

3.2 Secretary.

KH had nothing new to report since the AGM.

3.3 Treasurer.

RP was not present at the meeting, but had emailed a financial update;

After paying the AGM catering bill for £567.00 we have a bank balance of £392.00. Total costs for the AGM were £831.12 which is over £100.00 less than previous year. RP had not heard anything back from the CEO regarding funds transfer (**Note: this matter has been resolved since the meeting - KH**)

4. Proposed Events for 2017

4.1 First Aid and Aerial Rescue Course

JD said he has been looking into organising a First Aid course for arborists with a focus on aerial rescue. He has contacts who work with the Air Ambulance and produce specialist equipment and organise demonstrations.

Action: JD to look into this further and see if the contacts would be interested in doing such an event with AASB.

4.2 Climbing and Rigging Workshop

AM suggested a climbing and rigging workshop in association with Matt Cooper, who could supply the necessary equipment. AM could arrange a suitable venue and has been in discussion with Scottish Wildlife Trust about using their Cumbernauld Reserve.

Action: AM to look into this further on behalf of the Branch. AM and SL to ask their contacts among working arborists what elements they would like to see covered.

4.3 Bat Awareness Course

SL suggested a Bat Awareness Course, like the one organised by MC last year in Edinburgh on behalf of the Branch in association with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT). At that time, it was intended that the course, which had been fully subscribed, should be repeated at different venues around the country as there was clearly a demand. It was agreed to revive the idea.

Action: MC to be asked to consider repeating the event at different location(s) to the same successful formula.

5. Spring Excursion to Castle Kennedy near Stranraer.

The event has been arranged for 8th April in association with Tom Christian at NTCS. A flyer has been circulated to AA members and also to RSFS. DR has a number of members of both organisations expressing their intention to attend, so hopefully the numbers should be sufficient to make the event worthwhile.

Action: KH to re-circulate the flyer and remind AA members nearer the time.

6. Proposed 'Hazard Tree Inspection - A Practitioner's Guide' workshop with Chris Simpson.

FM has spoken with Chris Simpson about organising a workshop event (see minutes of 8th November 2016 meeting). A number of points have arisen:

FM said we could run this as a pilot. SL noted that it could cause a conflict if Chris was trying to run similar events as commercial enterprises when AASB were also running them. This would need to be considered. All agreed this was a matter for Chris, and that we would respect his views on the subject.

FM asked who would insure the event? Would this be HQ, or would Chris cover this element. If so, costs would be involved which either AASB or Chris would need to cover

SL asked what attendees would get out of the course? Would they get a certificate of attendance? What about CPD units?

SL asked that as it would be a two-day event, what would it cost and could we offer a discount for attendance at both days? It was suggested that one day could cost £100, but attendance at both days could be offered at £150. DR suggested £95 for one day and £150 for the two. We need to clarify with Chris if it is to be optional to attend both days, or does he consider attendance at both days is required. Chris's suggested dates of 26th and 27th September were discussed and considered acceptable. The use of Stirling University campus as the venue is the preferred option. All agreed we should proceed with the event as proposed and run it as an AASB event.

Action: FM to contact Chris to firm up details and seek his views on the above matters.

7 Branching Out meeting on 6th March.

FM and KH will be attending on behalf of the Branch. DR (who attended last year) ran through what the event is about. FM went through the questionnaire sent by HQ in advance.

Action: FM to circulate the questionnaire to committee members for their input.

8 ARB Magazine articles.

DR asked for members to consider any items, articles, photos etc., which could be submitted via MC for inclusion.

9 Any other competent business.

The subject of Scottish Branch being either opted in or opted out will be discussed at the next meeting, after the Branching Out event has taken place.

10. Date & venue of next meeting.

Tuesday 25th April at The Hawes Inn.