

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 27th May 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

Apologies were received from Mark Foster (MF).

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the last committee meeting held on the 25th February 2020 were approved and are posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS thanked everyone involved for logging in. Thanks to WH for setting up the meeting for the first time using 'Teams' due to the Corona Pandemic.

CS noted he had been contacted by members enquiring about working practices during the Pandemic. It was agreed that the AASB would not directly provide guidance on the matter and those enquiring would be advised to check the AA and Scottish Government positions.

3.2 Secretary

SD offered to set up an AASB 'Teams' Group for future Committee Meetings, at least until Pandemic restrictions are eased.

4. ITEMS

It was agreed by all that, due to the Pandemic all planned events to be run by the AASB would be postponed and planning for future events put on hold until Pandemic restrictions to ensure safety can be sufficiently eased.

Guidance provided by the AA and Scottish Government would be followed. A timescale for when events would recommence who be reviewed at the next committee meeting on the 23rd September 2020.

It is hoped that re-scheduling on many of the events will be possible at the appropriate time.

The following events have been affected.

- 4.1 **Benmore and Kilmun, April – SS.** To be re-scheduled.
- 4.2 **2 rope compliance, June – AM.** To be re-scheduled. Venue to be confirmed.
- 4.3 **Hazard tree Inspection Course, August – CS.** To be re-scheduled.
- 4.4 **Veteran Tree Event, September – NP.** To be re-scheduled. Venue to be confirmed.
- 4.5 **Yews of Clyde Valley, October – WH.** To be re-scheduled.
- 4.6 **Crabs of Cree Woods, November – WH.** To be re-scheduled.
- 4.8 **Grow Careers Event 18th of November – WH.** Event run by Chartered Institute of Horticulture. Awaiting confirmation if this is to go ahead. WH requested volunteers on the day and all committee members present have agreed to help-out.

Action - All

- 4.9 **HQ Proposal to Replace Conference with September Roadshow. Scottish Conference proposed at RBGE – SD** reported that following the cancellation of the Annual Conference it has been proposed by AA Head Office to hold Roadshow Events throughout the UK over 7 days in September, Pandemic notwithstanding. 2 local speakers require to be organized

Action - All

A virtual Branching-out meeting, is proposed by Head Office for the mid-end of June.
CS noted the AASB should attend.

Action - CS / SD.

- 4.10 **AGM 2020 – CS** reported that the venue at Culzean Castle is confirmed for January 2021. CS and WH suggested potential speakers for the event. Brian Coppens on Lichens and Julie Stoneman of the Atlantic Woodland Alliance have been / would be approached to provide presentations relevant to Woodland on the west coast of Scotland.

Action - CS / WH.

4.11 **ARB Mag**

NP expressed satisfaction and the number and quality of articles in the Scottish Section of the Arb. Mag. The deadline for submission for the next publication is the 24th June. CS encouraged those present to consider contributing.

Action - All

5. **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

No further points were raised for discussion.

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

Wednesday the 23rd of September 2020 was agreed as the next committee meeting date.

The meeting would be held virtually, using 'Teams'.

Struan Dalgleish
AASB Secretary