

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Hawes Inn, South Queensferry on 28th August 2018

Present: Donald Rodger - Chair (DR), Fiona Melville - Vice Chair (FM), Robert Paterson - Treasurer (RP), Ken Harvey - Secretary (KH), Alan McDowall (AM)

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Stuart Leith (SL), Jeremy Davies (JD) Struan Dalglish (SD), Will Hinchliffe (WH) and Nick Porter (NP).

2. Minutes from the last committee meeting.

Minutes of the 1st May Committee Meeting were approved, and are up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. Officers' reports.

3.1 Chair.

DR didn't have anything in particular to say, but said there were several points he would raise relating to certain agenda items during the meeting.

3.2 Secretary.

KH said there appear to be 17 new members in Scotland according to the listing given in the Autumn edition of the ARB Magazine (2 Professional, 3 Associate, 2 Ordinary, 1 Technician, 6 Student and 3 Corporate). He will ask HQ for their email addresses so they can be added to the mailing list he holds for Scottish members. He noted that it was disappointing that this information wasn't forthcoming as a matter of course.

3.3 Treasurer.

RP said that the Branch's bank balance stood at £250.

4. Scottish Branch at The Royal Highland Show - debrief.

DR and KH, who had both represented the Association (on different days), felt that it had been worthwhile and that it would be worth attending in future years if the Branch is offered the opportunity. DR thanked the Branch members who had helped organise it and those who manned the stand for the four days. He also acknowledged the assistance of HQ, and in particular, Steve Hodsman, for taking the time and making the effort to come up to help out. He also thanked Steve for providing an article on the event for the 'In Scotland' section of the ARB Magazine.

5. Links with the ICF in terms of promotion and sharing training programs in Scotland.

This was raised by SD who was unable to attend. The matter will therefore be carried over to a future meeting.

6 "Hazardous Tree Inspection Course - A Practitioner's Guide"

This repeat of the very successful workshop run by Chris Simpson last year is going ahead on 19th and 20th September at Stirling Court Hotel. FM said there had been a few organisational glitches but these have been sorted out. The course is now booked up. No further action is needed from the Branch.

7 Arrangements for 2018 AGM.

The pros and cons of various potential venues were discussed along with possible speakers and themes. All agreed to further consider suitable venues and liaise by email on arrangements.

8. Scottish School of Forestry: Potential Internal Decay Testing Masterclass Training Event.

FM said this was being looked at for November. Andrew Potter is organising the event, which is aimed primarily at students at The Scottish School of Forestry. She said the Branch would support the event, but no details have been received. She will keep the committee informed of progress if she hears anything from Andrew.

9. Autumn Excursion to Haddo House, Aberdeenshire

DR said the event was well in hand and is being organised by SD for 27th October. Robert Grant, the National Trust for Scotland's Head of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, will be our guide for the day. No catering will be provided and attendees will be asked to bring their own lunch, as is normal with other organisations. Details to be circulated to members in due course.

10. ARBmagazine articles

NP (Branch Editor) was unable to attend, but an article by Matt Cooper has been submitted, edited and should be in the Winter edition. Nothing else has been submitted.

11. Any other competent business.

None.

12. Date & venue of next meeting.

DR said that there was no need for another meeting until the AGM at the end of January, the date and venue for which are to be confirmed.

Ken Harvey
AASB Secretary