

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Pirnhall Inn, Bannockburn on 28th May 2019

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

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Jacqueline Waring (JW) and Keith Vernon (KV).

2. Minutes from the last committee meeting.

Minutes of the 26th February 2019 Committee Meeting were approved and will be posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. Officers' reports.

3.1 Chair.

CS thanked everyone for coming and said he'd been happy with the last meeting. He thanked SD for taking over the secretary role.

3.2 Secretary.

WH handing over to SD. Emma at Head Office is to be informed of the changed personnel.

Action: SD to contact Emma

3.3 Treasurer.

RP had contacted Head Office regarding the bank account. Head Office will now hold all money and will require to be contacted for all matters relating to expenditure.

CS as chair offered to pay for items and would reclaim through expenses. This was to reduce risk of delays in payment.

Balance of branch funds have been transferred to HQ.

4. Debriefs.

4.1 Branching Out

Attended by JW and SS. SS described the event as worthwhile and good networking opportunity. The possibility of branch collaboration had been discussed.

A presentation about Social Networking had been provided and the use of platforms including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram encouraged to promote Arboriculture.

It was generally agreed this would be useful to the branch. WH volunteered to Tweet on behalf of the branch.

The new centralized banking structure had been discussed.

A draft branch manual has been made available and circulate by CS. Comments relating to the content can be submitted prior to the July deadline.

Action: WH to report on Twitter progress at next meeting.

Action: All to review manual. Feedback to be provided to Emma or Stewart.

4.2 Hi Tech Demo

The Hi-Tech demonstration provided by Sorbus International had gone well. 30 attendees were booked.

Thanks to Phil Wade, Mark Vestey of Sorbus and Glasgow City Council for providing the venue.

A write-up is to be provided for the Arb Journal.

Action: NP write up for Arb Journal.

5 Program 2019

The program for the up-coming year was discussed.

5.1 Jeremy Barrell seminar – 21st June, RBGE. Organization of the event is reportedly well in-hand and 23 bookings have been made so far. It was reminded that a free space may be available for a committee member.

5.2 Mount Stuart Field Trip – 13th June, Bute. Several bookings had been made and the event will go ahead as planned. A reminder should be sent around the membership.

Action: SD to speak to Emma about emailing reminder.

5.3 Tree Climbing Competition and Demonstrations – Dundee Food & Flower Festival – 6th to 8th September and Royal Highland Show 20th to 23rd June. AM been in contact with HQ regarding the insurance required to putting on such events. Further details required by the insurance company (Lycett's) has been requested and will be provided by the branch.

AASB banners will require to be picked up from Fiona Melville.

Discussion focused on the potential RHS event and an update is required relating to Climbing Competition in Dundee.

Action: AM respond to Lycett's queries.

Action: AM to update on climbing comp. at Dundee Food & Flower Festival.

Action: CS to contact Fiona about the banners.

5.4 Hazard Tree Inspection Course – CS confirmed the course could be held on the 24th and 25th September 2019. A venue at Stirling University would be available however alternate location were also being looked at.

Action: CS to finalize arrangements

5.5 Evening lectures – The provision of evening lectures was discussed, and it was agreed these would be a good use of branch resources to promote arboriculture in Scotland.

NP, RP, CS and SS commented with potential venues, these included Tulliallan, Cashel and others.

The marketing and promotion of such an event was discussed.

CS and WH offered to deliver presentations on the evenings.

NP suggested Peter Lowe, Outreach Advisor with the Woodland Trust would be happy to speak about his work with Ancient Woodland Restoration.

Potential venues in central Scotland and how to promote the events are to be looked with the aim of organizing an initial event.

Action: NP, RP, CS and SS to look at suitability of potential venues and dates.

Action: CS and WH to consider potential topics for presentation.

Action: NP to progress arranging a presentation from Peter Lowe.

Action: SD to contact Emma regarding promotion of events in Scotland.

5.6 Autumn Social Event – WH has enquired about the possibility of running an event looking at archived material at RBGE. It was agreed by the committee this could be a good event.

An informal tour of the garden could also be provided.

The 26th of October 2019 was discussed as a suitable date.

It was suggested that lunch would not be provided however tea, coffee and biscuits would be made available.

Action: WH to confirm suitability of date and availability of archivist and venue.

5.7 AGM Venue – The potential for using Hopetoun House as a venue for the next AGM on the 25th January 2020 will be progressed.

Suitable speakers were discussed including Keith Sacre, Chris White and Duncan Slater.

Action: AM to confirm availability and costing for Hopetoun House.

Action: AM / CS to contact Chris white / Duncan Slater regarding their availability for the day.

6. Ken Martin Award Nominations.

Nominations have been received and Robert Paterson has been voted to be the 2019 recipient of the Award.

Action: CS to contact Dundee Wood Turners regarding the provision of the award.

7. Any other competent business.

CS reminded the committee of the need for articles for the Arb Journal. In recent editions the Scotland Section had been limited and content is required.

Action: All articles / write ups for the Arb Journal.

8. Date & venue of next meeting.

Tuesday 8th October 2019; 6pm for 7pm meeting start time was agreed. Pirnhall Inn was agreed as the venue.

Struan Dalglish
AASB Secretary