

Minutes of the Sixth AGM Meeting of the Irish Branch of the Arboricultural Association.

Venue: Visitor Centre, Phoenix Park.

Date: Held on Thursday the 25th November 2022

Time: 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

Minutes By: Mr. Felim Sheridan – Branch Secretary

Present:

Roy Goodwin (Outgoing Chairperson),
Felim Sheridan (Outgoing Branch Secretary),
Joe McConville (Outgoing Branch Treasurer),
Ken Ryan
Eileen Woodbyrne
Anne Merkle
Charles McCorkell
Ian Allcock
Paul Holly
Garrett Murphy
Rob Gibbs
Michael Yallop
Mark Jonhson
Cormac Downey
John Parker (Arboricultural Association HQ)

Apology:

None recorded

1.0 Business of the day.

- 1.1 Outgoing Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming everybody.
- 1.2 An attendance sheet was circulated around the room to be signed by all present.
- 1.3 The last AGM was held in 2008, so it was agreed not to discuss or approve the minutes from this meeting due to lapsed time.

2.0 Chairpersons Report

- 2.1 The outgoing chairman brought us up to date on the branch since the last meeting. These included the following:

Membership of the branch has continued to rise steadily on the island of Ireland.

As of March 2022, there were 64 individual members and three corporate members.

The following are a list of some of the more recent events:

- I Tree
- Tree Forks
- Veteran Trees
- Jeremy Barrell – Dublin and Belfast events

Other activities that the branch has been involved in behind the scenes included the following:

- The Arboricultural Apprenticeship Scheme
- Tree Council of Ireland - Roadside Trees Booklet
- Working with Irish Water regarding tree planting and trees in regards to their water infrastructure.

3.0 Treasurers Report

- 3.1 The outgoing treasurer gave an update of our financial situation. We currently hold €11,513.57.00 within our account and €599.98 in cash.
- 3.2 There is some money from events being held by HQ as we are not in a position to raise proper invoices for some organizations due to us not being a registered charity in Ireland, so some invoices for events need to be raised by HQ.
- 3.3 Other source of income is from the sale of books.
- 3.4 Our regular outgoing expenses include bank fees and the Arboricultural Associations membership to the Tree Council of Ireland.

4.0 Election of Officers

- 4.1 Stepping down from their current positions are the following:

Mr. Roy Goodwin stepping down as Chairperson
Mr. Felim Sheridan stepping down as Secretary
Mr. Joe McConville stepping down as Treasurer

- 4.2 Nominees included the following: Mr. Charles McCorkell for chairperson.
Mr. Joe McConville for Secretary
Ms. Anne Merkle for Treasurer.

Nominees for the executive board included the following:

Mr. Roy Goodwin
Mr. Felim Sheridan
Mr. Rob Gibbs
Ms. Eileen Woodbyrne
Mr. Ken Ryan

4.3 Nominations

Chairperson - Mr. Charles McCorkell was proposed for Chairperson, this was seconded and approved.

Secretary - Mr. Joe McConville was proposed for secretary, this was seconded and approved.

Treasurer - Ms. Anne Merkle was proposed for Treasurer, this was seconded and approved.

Mr. Roy Goodwin, Mr. Felim Sheridan, Mr. Rob Gibbs, Ms. Eileen Woodbyrne and Mr. Ken Ryan were proposed to join the executive committee and these nominations were seconded and approved.

5.0 Other Issues/Business

- 5.1 Mr. Mark Johnson requested a copy of the accounts and stated these should be circulated to all before the AGM.
- 5.2 Ms. Eileen Woodbyrne thanked Mr. Felim Sheridan, Mr. Roy Goodwin and Mr. Joe McConville for their service to the Irish Branch of the Arboricultural Association Irish Branch from its set up in 1999.
- 5.3 Mr. Tom Kane raised the issue around promoting and awareness of the arboricultural industry here in Ireland.
- 5.4 Mr. Cormac Downey spoke about the Arb Apprenticeship Scheme which was set up.
- 5.5 Mr. Rob Gibbs asked if the Arboricultural Association would consider setting up courses and assessors here in Ireland to promote and assess the Arb Approved Contractor Scheme.

- 5.6 Mr. Mark Johnson said that we should be lobbying all local authorities and government departments to appoint tree officers.
- 5.7 Mr. John Parker spoke about the issues for AA HQ giving out membership details to the individual branches due to data protection. He said that this will be looked at in more detail to see if a solution can be found to allow the individual branches to contact or reach out to the members in their branch area without having to go through HQ.

6.0 Closing

- 6.1 The floor was opened to the incoming new chairman of Irish Branch of the Arboricultural Association who introduced himself to the group giving a brief outline of his qualifications and work.
- 6.2 All welcomed the new chair who then closed out the AGM meeting by thanking all for attending.