

Arboricultural Association

Scottish Branch

Meeting minutes

Thursday 11 April 2024, 18.30pm, Microsoft Teams

Highlighting indicates **actions**

Present: Simon Stuart (chair), Nick Porter (editor), Ruthe Davies (secretary), Matt Cooper, Mark Foster, Chris Knapman, Ronnie Barker, Callum Braithwaite

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mike Charkow (vice chair), Struan Dalgleish and Alan McDowall.

2. Minutes from meeting 25 January

Minutes confirmed correct and complete.

3. Officers' reports

Chair: SS noted that the AGM went well and was well attended. Additionally he is working on the Arboricultural Association response to the Nature Scot consultation on biodiversity net gain and invites comments.

Secretary: Nothing to add.

Editor: **NF** proposed an obituary on the late Donald Robinson and will look for someone who knew him to author this piece. **SS** suggested a piece on plant passports. CK reported that for the AA's 60th anniversary year they will have a magazine theme of "arboricultural associations" in which readers are invited to contribute pieces about individual trees they have a special relationship with. **CK** is also writing an article about tree failure. **NF** noted that the next article deadline is 3 June.

4. Items

Pitcarmick/Faskally field trip: Running on 27 April. RD reported that 12 places have been booked so far on the field trip and marketing is ongoing.

Aerial rescue workshop: **MF** reported that the subcommittee are looking for a venue for this event. It is likely now to be held after the climbing competition.

Scottish tree climbing competition: Running in early June. The **subcommittee** are working on this, HQ are aware and marketing will start soon. **CB** is working on getting prizes/gifts donated by sponsors.

Arboricultural Association conference: **SS** is hoping to organise a bus and will contact John Parker to discuss this.

VETcert: MC reports good progress on organising VETcert training in Scotland in 2025. It will consist of three events finishing with an exam towards the end of the year. Pass rates are currently very low (<50%) which needs addressed by course organisers. Subcommittee (CK and MC) are working on this.

Trees and telecoms: CK enquired about the rights of telecoms companies to prune trees in Scotland. MC reported that this is UK-wide legislation (the Telecommunications Act, as amended by the more recent Telecommunications Security Act) and they have the right only to undertake what is necessary to enact their statutory duty.

5. Any other competent business

Sorbus roadshow: SS is working on organising an event with Sorbus at Dundee Botanic Gardens on 21 May.

Hazard workshop: Chris Simpson has offered to do the post-PTI hazard workshop on 23-24 July. SS to organise this and notify HQ.

Autumn field trip: SS raised the need for an autumn field trip event. CK suggested Gargunock or Braco Castle and will look into this.

TRAQ: MC is in discussions with HQ about accommodating a TRAQ course in Scotland.

6. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be 3 July at 18.30 via Microsoft Teams.