

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch 2018 AGM held at The Scottish School of Forestry, Inverness on 26th January 2019.

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Eamonn Wall, Ron Clowes, Andrew Jenkins, Will Hinchliffe, Eric Hamilton, Jeremy Davies and Stuart Leith.

2. Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes:

Donald Rodger said that the Minutes were up on the Scottish Branch page of the Association's website and that copies were available if anyone wanted to see them. There were no comments, and the minutes were accepted.

3. Matters arising from the 2017 AGM Minutes

None.

4. Officer's reports:

4.1 Chair:

Donald Rodger thanked everyone for coming and said he was grateful for members' support for the event. Many attendees had travelled a long way to be there.

He said that we are a small Branch but we have continued to punch above our weight. A number of events were organised in the last year which were all well attended. He said we do different types of events, visits and courses which hopefully are of interest to the members. He also noted that Arboricultural Association membership in Scotland is increasing.

Donald went on to say that this has been his last year on the Scottish Branch Committee and as Chair, and that he has served on the Committee for longer than he cared to remember but was now stepping down. He felt that the Committee have been very good to work with over the years. He wished to make special mention of Fiona Melville, who was stepping down as Vice Chair, and Ken Harvey, who was stepping down as Branch Secretary; both have done much work for the Branch. He especially wished to thank Robert Paterson, who is continuing as Branch Treasurer, for all his work in controlling the Branch's finances.

4.2. Secretary:

Ken Harvey gave an update on the Association's current membership numbers for the Scottish Branch. There were now 102 individual members (up 10 on last year) and 12 corporate members (up 4 on last year). In addition there were 6 firms of Approved Contractors (up 1 on last year) and one Registered Consultant (no change). The Individual Membership comprises 4 Fellows, 1 retired Fellow, 21 Professional members, 9 Technician members, 40 Associate members, 15 Foundation members (formerly Ordinary Grade), and 12 Students. The Corporate Members include 9 Local Authorities, 2 firms of contractors, and The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE).

4.3. Treasurer:

Robert Paterson explained the the Branch accounts have been prepared to include all events in Scotland, including Branch events and those organised by HQ. He ran through the various events run by the Association in Scotland in the last year. There was the AGM held at Dumfries House, the Approved Contractors' Workshop in March, the BS3998 "Tree Work - Recommendations" course, the Risk Assessment for Commercial Arboriculture, the ISA-backed TRAQ course, and attendance at the Royal Highland Show in June. There was also the Hazard Tree Inspection course (for which he thanked Fiona Melville and Chris Simpson for their work organising the event), and the outing to Haddo House, organised by Struan Dalgleish.

Robert said that the Branch had income for the past year of £9,910 with expenditure of £9,968.84. The £58.84 deficit will all be accounted for in the correct manner in due course. He noted that in future Scottish Branch membership fees will be allocated to the Branch. Stewart Wardrop, the Association's CEO who was present, confirmed this new approach.

Robert thanked Donald Rodger, Fiona Melville and Ken Harvey for all their work for the Branch over the years.

5. Appointment of Committee

Donald Rodger read out the names of the current committee members, and announced that along with himself, Fiona Melville and Ken Harvey, Stuart Leith was also stepping down. The remaining Committee members were Robert Paterson, Struan Dalgleish, Will Hinchliffe, Nick Porter, Alan McDowall and Jeremy Davies - all of whom were happy to continue for another year. Donald recommended re-election of the existing 6 members and there was a unanimous show of hands in support. They were all duly elected to stand for another year.

Donald then said that it was satisfying that there was interest from other members in joining the committee and that Chris Simpson, Simon Stuart, Jacqueline Waring and Keith Vernon had all expressed interest. All four were duly elected to serve on the Committee by a unanimous show of hands.

6. Election of Officers

Donald then turned to the election of Branch Officers for the coming year.

6.1 Chair

Chris Simpson was proposed by Matt Cooper, and seconded by Alan McDowall. He was therefore duly elected as Chair for the next year.

6.2 Vice Chair

Alan McDowall and Jacqueline Waring were both proposed for Vice Chair. Both left the room while a vote was held on who should go forward. This went in favour of Alan, who was therefore duly elected as Vice Chair for the next year.

6.3 Secretary

Will Hinchliffe (who was not present at the meeting) had previously indicated his willingness to take up the Secretary post, which he had previously held, if nobody else was interested. As there was nobody else keen to take it on, Will was duly elected as Secretary for the next year.

6.4 Treasurer

Robert Paterson was happy to continue in the position and was re-elected as Treasurer for the next year.

7. Any other competent business.

There was no other competent business.

Donald Rodger thanked everyone for coming. He then formally handed over to Chris Simpson as new Chair.

Chris thanked Donald for all his work over the years and the meeting was closed.

Ken Harvey
AA Scottish Branch Secretary