

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Hawes Inn, Queensferry on 11th April 2016

Present: Will Hinchliffe (WH), Robert Paterson (RP), Eric Hamilton (EH), Donald Rodger (DR), Ken Harvey (KH), Adam Riedi (AR).

1. Apologies for absence:

Fiona Melville (FM), Jeremy Davies (JD), Mike Charkow (MC)

2. Minutes from the last committee meeting

Minutes accepted, and are up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. Officers' reports

3.1 Chair

DR had nothing significant to say

3.2 Secretary

KH noted Simon Cox at HQ has supplied web-stats for Scottish Branch page of AA website - copy distributed. The page is useful to use as a resource for members and others to find advertised information, but not a good substitute for direct emailing to membership in the first instance. We will continue to email directly and use the web-page to hold material for reference.

3.3 Treasurer

RP has sent out 20 invoices (£2,960) for the Bat Scoping Course on 27th May. We need to consider 'opting in' if we want HQ to organise events in the future- EH said we had 'opted out' so we can do it ourselves, but we need to charge VAT (RP now has HQ's VAT number to put on invoices). Branch needs to send financial details to HQ quarterly of invoices and expenses etc.. All the branch's outstanding invoices are paid up to date but we still have to be invoiced by (and pay) Callendar House in Falkirk for the AGM.

4. Using Facebook and Google Drive for Committee communications (MC)

MC was not present. Facebook is not used by anyone present at the meeting, nor is Google Drive. However, HQ are keen to promote social media use. It was therefore agreed we will continue to use email for regular committee communications but look into using Google Drive for event organisation in the future.

5. Promoting closer ties with RSFS including joint excursions (KH & FM)

Both FM and KH have suggested promoting closer ties with the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, in light of their open invitation to AA members to join them on their visit to Prestonhall Estate last year (invitation came via Tom Christian). All agreed it would be good to extend open invitations to their members to join events and outings organised by AASB - and hopefully they will reciprocate.

Action: KH to email RSFS Director to open dialogue.

6. Seminar on wood decay fungi with Dr Helen Read and Professor Lynn Boddy (update from AR)

AR is asking WH about booking a venue for 50+ attendees for an event in autumn. WH said

RBGE have franchised out venue booking but still can get reductions. 3rd October 2016 is the target date. Speakers have said they only require expenses (no fees) to take part.

Action: AR to work it up and will email further information as it comes together.

7. Spring excursion to Lochwood Oaks, Annandale, Dumfriesshire

AR and MC to look at organising an event for the end of May, probably on a Saturday. DR suggested early June instead so as to not conflict with the Bats Scoping Course. EH suggested the Saturday before the Bats course. Lochwood is a 17th Century parkland used as a test site for dendrochronology and is an SSSI. All agreed it would be worth a visit and it would be good to contact the AA's Northern Branch and Cumbria ATF to see if any of their members wish to come along.

Action: AR and MC to report back.

8. Bat scoping seminar (update from MC)

MC was not present but DR thanked him in his absence for all the work he has put in on this. As it has booked up quickly, we should look at running more of these later in the year or early next year. DR thanked RP for getting the invoices out.

9. Branching Out meeting at HQ (DR & EH)

DR explained what the event was about. He thought it had been good to meet members of other branches and see the difference in branch sizes - some have only a couple of members while others have large numbers. There was too much detail to go through, but it is all in the notes sent out for anyone who is interested.

10. Arb magazine articles

WH suggested Tom Christian could do an article on Nepal. WH will ask Clifton Bain about putting some of his walks in. As MC was not present, it is unknown if there are any other items. The deadline is Friday 15th April.

11. Any other competent business

11.1 RP asked about the possible climbing event discussed previously. AR has drafted something to be circulated to MC and WH.

Action: AR, WH and MC to get something organised, but it may be later in the year.

11.2 WH is looking at an Autumn Arbor Day at Larachmhor Gardens at Arisaig. He has contacted the trustees who are agreeable in principle.

Action: WH to take further.

11.3 2016 AGM - DR suggested Dundee Botanical Garden as a venue for the meeting. AASB have been there before but not for a long time. Kevin Frediani could be approached to be a speaker. Date suggested is the last Saturday in January 2017, but we will decide later.

Action: EH to check out venue availability and costs.

12. Date & venue of next meeting

Tuesday 21st June at The Hawes Inn.