

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams at 18.30 on 28th September 2023.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter – Editor (NP), Simon Stuart (SS), Mark Foster (MF), Chris Knapman (CK). Mike Charkow (MCh), Ruthe Davies (RD) and Ronnie Barker (RB).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Matt Cooper (MC) and Calum Braithwaite (CB)

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the last committee meeting, held on the 28th June 2023 have been circulated around the committee and approved. These are posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS welcomed and thanked those attending.

3.2 Secretary

No further comments.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Tree Climbing Competition Debrief

AM thanked all those who helped run the successful event on the 26th August in Camperdown Park, Dundee.

The event was very popular with both competitors and spectators. Planning to run another one next year is to proceed.

CS noted that a date and location for next year's event should be identified as soon as possible to ensure there was enough time for organization and promotion.

Dundee City Council had been supportive on the day. MF noted that invoices for the facilities provided would be sent to HQ.

Action - MF

4.2 Mar Lodge Excursion, 27th October 2023

With the event arranged, confirmed and promoted, SD reported that 18 had so far signed up.

4.3 AGM Update

CS noted that the AGM would be held on Saturday the 3rd of February 2024 at the Horsemill, Crathes Castle, Banchory.

He added that catering for the day had been confirmed.

He thanked CK and SD for arranging the 2 speakers, Dr Peter Thomas and Petra Vergunst.

SD reported that the venue for a social gathering on Friday the 2nd February would be the Banchory Lodge Hotel, meeting at 1830 and dining at 1930. Those wishing to dine or for accommodation were required to book directly with the hotel.

CS had emailed the draft agenda and booking form to SD for review before it would be sent to HQ to circulate a promotional flyer.

Action - SD, CS

4.4 Ken Martin Award

CS added that the award had received a record number of votes this year and the 2023 Ken Martin Award which would be presented to Steve Milne, for his work with the Scottish Tree Officers Group.

RD would contact Steve to inform him.

CS would commission the award and plaque to be made.

Action – RD, CS

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Lifetime Achievement Award

CS and the committee congratulated CK on receiving the Arboricultural Association Award at the recent Conference.

CK expressed pleasure in receiving this prestigious award and noted the presentation of the award had been recorded and was available to view on eBlast.

Tom Hall Award and Arb. Mag.

NP noted the Tom Hall Award would be presented for the best Scottish Article in the Arb. Mag.

Voting would be by the wider membership and an article to inform readers of the Tom Hall Award and requesting votes would be included in the winter edition of the Mag.

The award would again be a book token, to be presented at the AGM.

He added, 5 articles covering a broad range of subjects would appear in this latest edition.

Action - All to vote

Branching-out

MCh noted that he and SS would be attending the Branching-out event to be hosted by HQ on the 29th and 30th of October.

During the event the AA Branch Manual was to be reviewed and MCh requested committee members read the document, providing any comments prior to the event.

He added HQ had enquired if any promotional materials were required by the branch and this was discussed by the committee. It was agreed that flags, banners and leaflets would be collected if practical to carry on public transport.

CS thanked MCh and SS for offering to attend the event on behalf of the committee.

Action - All to review branch manual

Officers Posts

SD indicated that he intended on standing down as Secretary at the AGM after 4 years in the post. He asked if any Committee members would be interested in taking on the role. RD expressed an interest in the position.

CS noted the vice-chair role would also be vacated. MCh expressed an interest in the position.

SS confirmed he would assume the role of Chair at the AGM.

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

CS proposed the next committee meeting would be held on-line via 'Teams', on the 25th January at 1830.

Committee Members were reminded to check their availability.

Struan Dalglish
AASB Secretary.