

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 1st September 2022.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter – Editor (NP), Matt Cooper (MC), Simon Stuart (SS), Mark Foster (MF), Chris Knapman (CK), and Callum Braithwaite (CB).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Whalley (AW) and Mike Charkow (MCh),

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the last committee meeting, held on the 13th May 2022 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 thanked everyone for logging in.

3.2 Secretary

SD informed the committee of a member enquiring about an event in Scotland they had missed and felt it had not been sufficiently promoted. The event had been advertised through the eblast and was on the web site and the member was reminded to check these sources for future events.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Balloch and Cashel Excursion 25th June 2022 Debrief

SS had organized the mornings visit to Balloch Country Park with the Ranger Service and lead the afternoons tour of Cashel Woodland. He reported the event had been successful and well attended.

CS thanked SS and the Country Park Rangers for their input.

SS provided write-up of the event which appeared in the Autumn Edition of the Arb Mag.

4.2 Cancelled Pollock Park Fungi Event

NF reported his disappointment at the unavoidable cancellation of the event due to the main speaker withdrawing at a late stage.

Despite attempts to re-arrange another speaker for the day it had not been possible due to the limited time frame.

Payment of cancellation fees were not required.

4.3 AGM

CS confirmed the 2022 AGM is to be held on Saturday 28th January 2023.

The proposed venue at Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire and visit to the Cadzow Oaks to be confirmed.

Action - AW and CS

Speakers proposed for the day, Ted Green and Jill Butler of the Ancient Tree Forum and / or David Knott, Curator of Living Collections at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh to be confirm availability.

Action – CS and MF

4.4 Lichen / bryophyte event

NP informed the committee of the potential to run a 'lower plants' event. The event would aim to be held in 2023 and an update on progress provided at the next meeting.

Action - NP and SD

4.5 Tree Climbing Competition Workshop

MC, AM and CB updated the committee on the arrangements for the proposed event in Perth to be held on the 8th October.

The venue at North Inch Park has been secured with Perth Council.

A further pre event planning visit the site would be undertaken.

Promotional flyer was to be prepared and advertised by HQ asap.

CS requested the committee also informed their own contacts of the event.

Action – MC, AM, CB

4.6 Bats and Trees

MC reported speakers for the 5th November 2022 event were confirmed.

The event would be held at Cadzow Oaks, Hamilton and charged at £65 for members and £75 for non-members to cover venue and catering costs.

CS requested the committee also informed their own contacts of the event.

Action – MC

4.7 Ken Martin Award

CS reported, Landscape Historian, Christopher Dingwall was voted by members to be the recipient of the 2022 award.

CS would make contact to inform him and instruct the award to be made. It is hoped he can attend the AGM to receive the award.

Action – CS

4.8 Branch Bank Card

CS reported no further updates on the request made to HQ that the branch be provided with a bank card to meet the cost of events.

4.9 Scottish Branch Coach Hire for Conference Travel

CS raised the proposal to organize a coach to allow members from Scotland to travel as a group to next years conference.

A request was made with HQ and would be followed up.

Action - CS

4.10 Arb Mag

NP confirmed several articles had so far been received for the Winter Edition of the Arb Mag.

The deadline for submissions is the 26th September 2022.

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

CS reported earlier in the meeting that the Hazard Tree Inspection Course he'd run in July at had gone well and raised some funds for branch activity.

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

CS proposed the next committee meeting date and time of the 12th January 2023 at 1930.

The meeting would be held on-line via 'Teams'.

Committee Members were reminded to check their availability.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.