

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams at 19.30 on 12th January 2023.

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), Andy Whalley (AW) Mike Charkow (MCh) and Callum Braithwaite (CB).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence. CS had provided notification that he may join late.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the last committee meeting, held on the 9th September 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

In the absence of CS, AM thanked everyone for logging in.

3.2 Secretary

SD had nothing further to add.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Winter Seminar and AGM Arrangements

CS joined the meeting and informed the committee that the arrangement for the AGM to be held at Chatelherault, Hamilton on the 28th January 2023 had been finalized.

4.2 Tree Climbing Competition Workshop Debrief

MC, AM and CB reported that the event at North Inch Park, Perth had gone well. Attendance had been reasonable.

Thanks, were extended to the organizers, including Perth Council who had provided the venue and helped organize the day. The event could be expanded in 2023. See below.

4.3 Tree Climbing Competition 2023

MC, AM and CB agreed that the event could be include a competition and held over 2 days.

A date in spring or summer and a location with suitable trees and camping would be investigated.

MF was to join the organizing sub-committee.

Action – MC, AM, CB, MF.

4.4 Trees and Bats Debrief

MC reported that the event, held on 5th November at Chatelherault Country Park, had gone well.

He extended thanks to Jim Mulholland, David White and Mike Bradly who provided their expertise on the day.

AW and the Country Park Rangers was thanked for arranging the venue.

4.5 Lichen / bryophyte event

Speakers and a location for the proposed event were to be organized.

Enquiries were to be made with Plantlife and the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest for a suitable speaker and a potential date in Autumn.

Action – NP, SD

4.6 Trees and the Law - Joint ICF / AA Event

MC informed the committee of a proposed event to coincide with the launch of Charles Mynors 3rd Edition of his book, The Law of Trees, Forests and Hedges.

Possible venues in Edinburgh were discussed.

CS joined MC to help with organization.

Action – MC, CS

4.7 Draft National Planning Framework 4

AW reported that the document would soon be published and the Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) were to run an event on the 19th May 2023 at Stirling University.

It was discussed if the event could be promoted by the AA.

4.8 In Scotland Pages of the Arb Mag.

The branch had recently been informed that the magazine was to be reformatted and the long standing In Scotland Section would be removed.

The Committee were disappointed to hear this and when the concerns had been reported to HQ re-assurance was provided that Scottish articles would still be included within the new 'From the Branches' Section.

4.9 Tom Hall Literature Award

The Committees voting for the award was complete and Kevin Fredianai announced as the winner for his series of articles of the taxonomy and naming of tree species. Kevin had been notified and would receive the award at the Winter Seminar and AGM.

It was agreed that ideally future years voting should be opened to the wider Scottish membership (not just committee members).

Members would need to be informed of the voting process.

Action - NP

4.10 Committee and Officers Post 2023

AW confirmed he would step down from the committee and was thanked by the Chair for his contribution over the past 2 years.

AM confirmed he would step down as Vice Chair and be replaced by SS.

CS and SD confirmed they would carry on for one more year as Chair and Secretary, respectively. CS would take on the role of Secretary in 2024. SD would remain on the committee.

Branch member, Ronnie Barker, had notified of his intention to join the committee at the AGM.

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

CK raised the possibility of an event looking at Tree Avenues, potentially in the spring at Culross Abbey.

Action - CK

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

CS proposed the next committee meeting date and time of the 30th March 2023 at 1830.

The meeting would be held on-line via 'Teams'. Committee Members were reminded to check their availability.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.