

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 17th November 2021.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowell – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter - Editor (NP), Simon Stuart (SS), Andy Whalley (AW), Matt Cooper (MC), Will Hinchliffe (WH), and Mark Foster (MF).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the last committee meeting held on the 15th September 2021 were approved and are posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS thanked everyone for logging in and for the organization and smooth running of several events in what had been a busy final quarter of the year.

3.2 Secretary

SD had nothing further to add.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Benmore Debrief

SS reported on a highly successful day held on 16th October. Guided tours of Benmore Forest and Kilmun Arboretum lead by Peter Baxter and SS. A small but enthusiastic turn out. Informative and most enjoyable.

SS was thanked by CS.

4.2 Twin Ropes Debrief

AM and MC summarized a very successful and well attended event and thanked David Whyte for his assistance.

Demonstration of Twin Rope Access techniques were provided. Thanks to West Lothian Council for providing the site.

The Chair thanked everyone involved.

Action – AM and MC

4.3 Yew Trees of Clyde Valley Debrief

WH reported on an excellent and informative day attended by 12 and thanked Maxime Ross for leading the tour.

He hoped Maxime may be able to provide an article for the Arb Mag.

Action – WH

4.4 AGM Venue and Program

CS provided an update on the arrangements for the AGM.

The event is to be held at Chatelherault in Hamilton on the 29th of January 2021. He thanks AW for his assistance with booking the venue which could hold a maximum of 50 individuals.

The final arrangements for speakers and the program for the day were well in hand.

Tree planting is planned, and materials require to be organized.

Action - CS and AM

4.5 Social Event

SD had contacted the nearby Avonbridge Hotel to enquire about holding an informal gathering on evening of Friday 28th before the AGM. The event would be in the bar and restaurant of the hotel. Preferential rates for overnight accommodation were agreed for those attending the AGM.

This is to be promoted on the event flyer.

Action – SD

4.6 Committee Membership 2022

CS asked the committee if anyone intended to stand down at the up-coming AGM.

WH said he would leave after over 10 years as a committee member.

CS confirmed that when new members wished to join the committee it was preferred if they make this known to the committee prior to the AGM.

4.7 2022 Spring and Summer Events

Tree Protection at RBGE

WH - Proposed a visit to the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh where novel tree protection solutions are being applied during construction works. Potential spring event.

The inclusion of the Scottish Tree Officers Group (STOG) at the event was discussed and agreed.

Action - WH

David Humphreys

MF – David Humphreys, the Tree manager at Hampstead Heath has a book coming out. Potential summer event.

Action - MF

Hazard Tree Inspection

CS – This would be a course delivered by CS on behalf of the AA.

Dates of the 19th and 20th July 2022 were proposed. A venue was to be confirmed.

Action - CS

Climbing Event

AM and MC –. Following on from the Twin Ropes Debrief AM suggested that a similar event could be planned for next year with the aim of providing an annual tree climbing 'Get Together'. MC suggested perhaps a 'Gadget Day' and raised the potential of sponsorship for the day.

The possibility of holding an informal climbing competition / demonstration of competition events was discussed and is to be explored.

CS offered to contact HQ regarding insurance cover.

Action – AM, MC and CS

Aberdeenshire and Loch Lomond

SS suggested Crathes and Durriss in Aberdeenshire or Balloch Castle and Cashel Forest near Loch Lomond as suitable venues for future visit.

Action - SS

4.7 ARB Mag

NP reported seven (7) articles would appear in the In-Scotland Section of the Winter Edition of the Arb Mag and thanked all those who had provided material.

CS thanked NP for the high quantity and standard of the articles.

Action - NP

5. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Nature Scotland Planning Policy 4

AW noted that Nature Scotland Planning Policy 4 document was out for consultation and that members should be made aware of this.

A magazine article and / or link to the document in an eBlast was proposed.

Action – AW

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

CS proposed the next committee meeting is to be held on-line at 1830 on the 9th February 2022.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.