

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams at 18.30 on 30th March 2023.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalglish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter – Editor (NP), Matt Cooper (MC), Simon Stuart (SS), Mark Foster (MF), Callum Braithwaite (CB), Ronnie Barker (RB) and Ruthe Davies (RD).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Knapman (CK).

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the last committee meeting, held on the 12th January 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

No comments.

3.2 Secretary

Noted a branch member had been in touch enquiring about the possibility of a group from Scotland travelling to the Arb Show. This was discussed in Section 4.8.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Dunimarle and Culross Visit 14th April

CS thanked Committee Member CK for arranging and organizing the forth coming event. A promotional flyer has been sent to HQ.

4.2 TDAG Event 19th May

CS noted the seminar focusing on Trees, Planning and Development in Scotland would be held at the University of Stirling and promoted by the Association.

The committee have been offered a place to attend and a write up of the event would be provided for the Arb. Mag.

Action – Volunteer to provide write-up for Arb Mag.

4.3 Dawyck Field Trip, 17th June

AM report that the event had been organized and advertising flyer sent to HQ to promote the day.

The event would be charged at £20 each and teas and coffees would be provided.

CS thanked Thomas Gifford, RBGE Dawyck Garden Supervisor for helping with the arrangements and input on the day.

It was noted that dogs, other than assistance dogs, were not allowed in the garden.

4.4 Hazard Tree Inspection Course, 22nd and 23rd August

CS reported he would again deliver this event at the University of Stirling.

AM and SS would assist on the days.

A flyer to promote the event would be sent to HQ.

Action – CS

4.5 Trees and the Law, Edinburgh.

MC provided an update on progress organizing the event, to be delivered by Charles Mynors, promoting his recently updated publication The Law of Trees, Forests and Hedgerows, 3rd Edition.

The event would be supported by the AA and not run as a joint AA / ICF event.

A potential location at the Edinburgh City Chambers on the 6th June has been identified, although alternate venues would be looked into. AM offered to explore options with University of Edinburgh.

Costs for the day would be confirmed and a promotional flyer sent to HQ.

Action – MC, AM

4.6 Tree Climbing Competition / Workshop, 25th to 27th August.

CB noted a potential venue at Falkland Estate looked suitable and proposed the dates 25th to 27th August.

For the competition, judges would be required, and suitably experienced individuals were to be contacted ASAP.

Action – CB, AM, MF, MCh, RB

4.7 Mar Lodge Visit, 27th October 2023

SD reported that Shaila Rao, Conservation Manager with NTS at Mar Lodge had been contacted and would be happy to lead an excursion of the Caledonian Pinewood.

The potential date of Friday 27th October would be confirmed, and an advertising flyer sent to HQ to promote the event.

SS would inform RSFS members of the event, which would be free of charge and require pack lunches.

Action - SD, SS

4.8 Transport to Arb. Conference

SD noted that committee members had, so far, expressed limited interest in attending the Conference in September and, as yet, a minibus would not be required.

It was proposed by the committee that HQ should advertise the possibility of bus transport from Scotland to the wider membership.

In response to a recent enquiry from a Scottish Member about transport to the Arb. Show in May, transport would not be provided to this event.

Action - SD

4.9 AGM 2023, Crathes Castle, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, Saturday 27th January 2024

CS had approached NTS Gardens & Designed Landscape Manager, Chris Wardle and secured Crathes Castle as a venue for the 2023 AGM, to be held on the 27th January 2024.

Two speakers for the day will; need to be identified.

Action – SD (venue) / All (Speakers)

4.10 Arb Mag. Articles

NP reported that 5 Scottish articles were included in the newly re-formatted Arb. Mag.

He thanked MF for his input.

So far 2 articles had been received for the up-coming summer edition.

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

CS proposed the next committee meeting would be held on-line via 'Teams', on the 28th June 2023 at 18.30.

Committee Members were reminded to check their availability.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.