

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Pirnhall Inn, Bannockburn on 25th February 2020

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall - Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Will Hinchliffe (WH), Nick Porter (NP), Simon Stuart (SS), Mark Foster (MF)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Keith Vernon (KV).

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the 2019 AGM held on the 25th January 2020 at Camperdown Park, Dundee were approved and are posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS thanked everyone involved for their efforts in organizing and running the successful 2019 AGM and lectures. He welcomed MF to the committee.

3.2 Secretary

SD had no comments to add.

3.3 Treasurer

CS pointed out that a Treasurer had not been appointed by the Scottish Branch since Robert Paterson had stepped down at the AGM.

He asked the Committee members to consider filling the role, and in the meantime he (CS) would assume the responsibility.

It was noted that the Treasures task of the now opted-in branch would be less onerous than before as HQ largely controlled the finances.

Action: All to consider filling role of Treasurer

4. ITEMS

4.1 Branching Out

SD is to attend the Branching Out event to be held at the Eastington Park Hotel on the 1st and 2nd of March 2020.

SD reviewed the agenda for the meeting. This included a two question's which would be circulated around the Committee.

1. What would the branch's like to see included in the AA strategic plan 2021 to 2023?
2. How can AA HQ and the branch network widen our engagement with the public sector and key partners?

The questions were emailed to the committee member after the meeting.

Responses will be raised during Branching Out meeting.

Action: SD to prepare an overview of 'who's who in the Scottish Branch; a summary of Branch activity during 2019 and proposed events for 2020.

4.2 Professor Roy Watling

KV requested that Professor Roy Watling should be approached by the branch to providing a presentation relating to wood decay fungi on which he is a renowned authority.

The committee members had no objections to this.

Action: KV to progress.

4.3 AA / ICF Joint Event Summer 2020

The possibility of holding a joint summer event with the Institute of Chartered Foresters was discussed. CS has spoken with Matt Cooper, who sits on the ICF South Scotland Committee. He noted that organization of the event is already well advanced, and it would not be appropriate to make it a joint event at this late stage.

It was noted however that the event will be advertised by AA HQ and members would be able to attend should they wish too.

4.4 Other events for 2020

1. Excursion to Benmore Botanic Gardens and Kilmun Arboretum.

SS is has made good progress with organization.

The date of 25th of April 2020 was proposed and agreed upon.

WH raised the possibility of registering the event on GoCarShare.com

Action: SS to finalize arrangements including program for the day and catering. Send details to HQ to circulate to membership.

Action: WH to liaise with SS regarding GoCarShare.com

2. Summer Event – Two Rope Compliance Seminar

AM has made progress with organizing a day technical seminar.

The potential date of Saturday 13th June was agreed upon.

Palacerigg Country Park, Cumbernauld was proposed as a suitable venue.

The possibility of charging a small amount for attendance was discussed and generally agreed upon.

Action: AM to confirm venue, catering, contributors and costs. Liaise with HQ on technical aspects and insurance requirements.

3. Tree Inspection Course

CS offered to provide a Tree Inspection Course as he has done in previous years.

Potential dates of the 25th and 26th of August were agreed upon.

WH offered to assist with course delivery.

Action: CS to progress organization.

4. September Excursion

NP raised the potential for a Veteran Trees event to be arranged, perhaps in September and in conjunction with the Woodland Trusts Alan Crawford and Tara Fraser, who recently attended the EU funded VET.Cert. training.

CS suggested Cadzow Oaks in Hamilton's Chatelherault Country Park as a possible venue.

Action: NP to contact Alan and Tara.

Action: CS to investigate venue suitability and availability.

5. Autumn Excursion

WH proposed an excursion to be held Saturday 3rd October to visit the Yews of the Clyde Valley. An ex-student at Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE), Maxine Ross, has been studying the topic and may be able to lead a tour on the day.

Action: WH to investigate

6. November Excursion

WH proposed an excursion in the company of Marcus Rusham to visit the Wood of Cree where he has carried out a study into the genetics of the native crab apple population.

The possibility for seed collection on behalf of RBGE was raised.

Action: WH to investigate

7. Grow Careers Event

WH proposed the Branch attend the Institute of Chartered Horticulture event in Edinburgh on the 18th of November.

He suggested the AA could take a table in the Exhibitors Hall.

Action: SD to discuss with HQ at Branching Out.

8. AGM 2020

CS noted that organization of the 2020 AGM is well in hand with the venue of Culzean Castle and date of 30th January confirmed.

CS and WH proposed several potential speakers for the day and it was agreed that two should be confirmed.

Action: CS and WH to confirm speakers.

4.5 ARB. MAG

NP noted the 20th March deadline for submission of article for the Arb. Mag.

SS and WH offered to provide articles.

Action: SS and WH

5. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The untapped potential of the use of digital social media to raise the profile of the Scottish Branch was discussed.

It was generally agreed that Instagram would probably have the widest reach within the local arboricultural community.

Action: MF Instagram.

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday the 27th of May 2020 was agreed as the next committee meeting date.

The most suitable venue was discussed however no agreement was made.

Action: All suggestions for meeting venue.

Struan Dalglish

