

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Pirnhall Inn, Bannockburn on 8th October 2019

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Robert Paterson - Treasurer (RP), Struan Dalgleish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter (NP) and Simon Stuart (SS)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Alan McDowall - Vice Chair (AM), Jacqueline Waring (JW), Keith Vernon (KV) & Will Hinchliffe (WH).

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the 28th May 2019 Committee Meeting were approved and are up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair.

CS had no comments.

3.2 Secretary.

SD had no comments.

3.3 Treasurer.

RP noted that he had received confirmation that the old Scottish Branch Bank Account had been closed and the balance transferred to the Account held at Head Office.

RP is to step down at the next AGM and replacement was discussed. With Head Office now holding the bank account the level of input required from a treasurer may be less.

4. DEBRIEFS

4.1 Branch Manual

The Branch Manual had been reviewed by Committee Members. The contents were accepted. Any operational issues which may arise would be reported to Head Office.

4.2 Summer Seminar 2019

The Summer Seminar presented by Jeremy Barrell was well received with around 20 attending.

The committee thanked Jeremy, and The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh for providing the venue. SD provided a write up for the Arb Magazine.

4.3 Mount Stuart Visit 2019

The Branch visit and tour to Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute was well attended and well received. Thanks to the host and sponsors of the day and to NP for his write up in the Arb Magazine.

4.4 Tree Climbing Competition and Demonstration 2019

The proposed event to be held at Dundee Flower Show did not go ahead, significantly due to issues with getting suitable insurance cover.

It was agreed that organization, perhaps of a demonstration only should be an aim for next year. **Action: All**

4.5 Tree Hazard Inspection Course 2019

The course, to be provide by CS, has been rescheduled for the 10th and 11th of October due to the venue being unavailable.

5. PROGRAM OF EVENTS 2019 / 2020

A provisional program of events was agreed as follows:

5.1 Autumn Event - Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh 26th October 2019

Organization of the Event is well in-hand. The event is free of charge and advertised on the AA web site. **Action: WH to confirm**

5.2 Winter Seminar and AGM 2019 25th January 2020

Organization for the AGM and winter seminar is progressing.

Venue - Camperdown Park is booked and to be charged at £16 / hr.

Speakers – Paul Muir is to present and demonstrate Static Integrated Tree Testing

Action: NP

Duncan Slater to present his latest research on Tree Forks and has been confirmed by CS.

Sponsorship - being looked at. **Action: All**

A flyer for the event is to be provided to Head Office for circulation around the membership by the end of the month. **Action: CS**

5.3 Eric Hamilton Tree Planting and Memorial

24th January 2020, the night before the Winter Seminar / AGM it is proposed to meet in the Birkhill Inn near Camperdown Park to remember Eric.

Birkhill Inn would be able to provide a Burns Supper. Nearby accommodation would be suggested and circulated around the membership. **Action: SD.**

A tree will be planted the following day, during the winter seminar / AGM Eric's wife, Carol has expressed a preference for this to be a cherry. *Prunus avium 'Flore plena'* agreed on by the committee. Keith Scare has offered to provide the tree through Barcham Nurseries. **Action: SD.**

The alternative of having a more local tree supplied by Conifox is to be looked at. **Action: RP.**

Doug Shearer, Forester at Camperdown is to be liaised with regarding a suitable location. **Action: CS.**

A memorial plaque is to be organized, perhaps by staff at Camperdown, although this requires to be confirmed. **Action: CS.**

Details to be included on the Winter seminar / AGM flyer by the end of the month. **Action CS / SD.**

5.4 Evening Lectures

Suitable venues, including the SNH facility at Battleby, are still being looked at. **Action: All.**

5.5 2020 Events

A **Spring Event** has been proposed to take place around 25th April 2020. Potential locations including Dawyck, Benmore or Kilmun. The possibility for a short presentation relating to the work of Monitor Woods, in-conjunction with the FCS and RSFS was raised. **Action: SS.**

The possibility of holding a **Summer Event / Technical Seminar** to involve climbing / rigging / tree works with input from Head Office Technical Officers was discussed. Venues, including Battleby to be looked, Dates around the 10th June 2020. **Action: All.**

2020 AGM. Culzean Castle is available to host. Date and speakers to be confirmed.
Action: Venue - CS / Speakers - All.

6. KEN MARTIN AWARD

A suitable recipient has been chosen. Confirmation of progress with the bowl and engraving is to be sought. **Action: CS.**

7. Date & venue of next meeting.

The next meeting would be the AGM on the 25th of January 2020 at Camperdown Park, Dundee.

Struan Dalglish
AASB Secretary