

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Hawes Inn, Queensferry on 21st June 2016

Present: Will Hinchliffe (WH), Robert Paterson (RP), Eric Hamilton (EH), Donald Rodger (DR), Ken Harvey (KH), Mike Charkow (MC), Fiona Melville (FM).

1. Apologies for absence:

Jeremy Davies (JD), Adam Riedi (AR).

2. Minutes from the last committee meeting

Minutes approved, and are up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. Officers' reports

3.1 Chair

DR had nothing significant to say

3.2 Secretary

KH said that following on from an item at the last meeting regarding promoting closer contact with the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, he had contacted Maj. Alastair Harding, RSFS Director, to open dialogue. Initially all that is proposed is that we extend invitations to outings/meetings and let their members know of any events Scottish Branch are organising which may be of interest. Hopefully RSFS would reciprocate. Maj. Harding was very receptive to the idea, but would have to consult with the President of the RSFS, Sir Patrick Hunter Blair, and the Board to seek their views. He will contact KH in due course.

3.3 Treasurer

RP reported that the Branch's Bank Balance stands at £3887.39. One Branch invoice for the Bat Scoping Course on 27th May remains unpaid, although a cheque may have been sent to HQ by mistake. We have still to be invoiced by RBGE for use of the venue, but the course generated £2940 of income with an expenditure to date of £2565.80.

DR and RP are now signatories to the Branch's Account. RP thanked EH for all his help in sorting out the financial matters with the Bank.

4. Bat scoping seminar feedback

MC reported that the course had been fully booked within a week. There had been very good feedback from attendees, with a number expressing interest in a Part 2 course. DR asked MC if we should repeat the course again at a venue in northern Scotland (e.g. Aberdeen or Inverness). However, MC did not think there was enough interest, especially as attendees for the 27th May event had come from all over Scotland and also as ICF have just recently run a similar event near Forres (20th June). DR thanked MC for all his work in organising a successful event.

5. Bat Course Part 2

RP said there had been interest from several inquirers, but MC thought it was unlikely that there would be sufficient interest to make it viable.

6. Seminar on Wood Decay Fungi with Dr Helen Read and Professor Lynn Boddy - 3rd October at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (update from AR)

Although AR was unable to attend the meeting, he emailed an update:

The RBGE venue is booked as is the catering. An initial small promotional item appeared in the last edition of the ARB Magazine. The speakers have confirmed their terms and their financial requirements are minimal. AR is constructing a draft flyer to be sent to all before the end of June at the latest, and the event can then be marketed. MC will email AR to get something before 4th July to go in the ARB Magazine.

7. ATF Autumn Event (update from AR)

Although AR was unable to attend the meeting, he emailed an update:

AR and DR met at Mavis Bank House and agreed that it would be a good venue. DR has agreed to lead the walk as he is familiar with the site. AR is preparing a draft flyer to be sent to DR before the end of the month, following which AASB will assist with marketing the event. Actual date still to be confirmed, but likely to be late September.

8. Forks Roadshow with Duncan Slater (13th September at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh)

This is an event being organised by HQ, but the Branch will give any assistance required.

Action: WH will ask if everything has been organised at RBGE.

9. Excursion to Lochwood Oaks, Annandale, Dumfriesshire

This event was originally proposed as a Spring excursion, but both AR and MC (who are organising it) have apologised that due to other commitments they have been too busy to finalise matters. However, all agree it is worthwhile, but as we have several events taking place over the summer, it may now not happen until Autumn.

Action: MC to report back.

10. Webinars

Topic raised by Iain Hannah, who asked that consideration be given to using the internet to broadcast seminars so that people who could not attend the venue could still benefit:

The subject was discussed at length but all agreed that this was really a matter for HQ, as the Branch does not have the necessary resources. We will pass the request on to the relevant HQ staff members for further consideration.

11. Calendar of Proposed Events

EH had asked that we put together a calendar of events planned for the rest of the year;

Events planned so far are:-

Dundee Flower Show	2nd - 4th September
Forks Roadshow	13th September
ATF Event at Mavisbank	17th September
Wood and Decay Fungi Seminar	3rd October
Autumn excursion to Lochwood Oaks	late October (TBC)
AASB 2016 AGM	28th January 2017

12. ARB Magazine articles

MC is to prepare an article on the Bats Course.

Action: MC to ask AR to prepare promotional articles for the ATF events.

13. Any other competent business

- EH suggested that the Branch hold a tree planting event to raise the AA's profile in Scotland - maybe at the Scottish Parliament. DR said there needs to be a good reason, such as a notable event or date.

- FM suggested that an advanced one-day Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) course could be organised. She is to see if appropriate trainers are interested.

14. Date & venue of next meeting

Tuesday 20th September at The Hawes Inn.