

**Blagdon, Clevedon and District Branch
Of the Avon Beekeepers Association**

**Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting held on
22nd November 2014**

Prior to the AGM the papers were sent to members via email and posted to the two members who have no internet access.

1. Welcome by David Welham, Chairman

2. Apologies were received from Sandu Baker-Hellings, Michael Batchelor, Juliet Coe, Keith Delaplaine, Shaun Doughton, Richard Ellis, John Holland, David Hounsell, Malcolm King, Steve Robinson, Keith Santo, Gail and Gerry Scott-Wilson, Bob South, Reg and Shirley Stevens, Wendy Welham, Alison White, Alison Wilson

3. Matters arising from Minutes of the 61st AGM

The last AGM minutes were accepted, there were no matters arising.

4. Officers' reports

4.1 President's report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

4.2 Chairman's report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

4.3 Secretary's report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

4.4 Treasurer's report and accounts for 2013/4

Attendees have a copy of the report. A correction was noted for the records that Jan Davies is an honorary member of the ABKA, not BBKA as stated. The accounts have been independently audited and were accepted: Proposer: David Capon, Seconded: Adrian Wells.

4.5 Apiary Manager's report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

4.6 Swarm Liaison report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

4.7 Programme Managers report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

4.8 Education Officer's report

Attendees have a copy of the report. Rob Francis raised the issue of the branch library; borrowing was very limited, many books are now out of date, they are not very accessible and take up considerable space. Three options for the future of the library were suggested:

1. Retain a small selection of books available to members and sell the rest
2. Disband the library and allow members to select books giving a suitable donation to the branch for the books they take
3. Keep the library as it is and find a permanent home where members can easily access them.

The committee recommended action two but discussion was opened to the floor. A number of points were raised, including that the library is part of Avon's library and ABKA should be consulted, some were donated in wills of deceased members and some other branches may be interested in taking the books.

Actions:

- **Inform other branches of the proposal to disband the library. A list of books is available in a spreadsheet.**
- **The branch should make a statement that donations of books are not required in future.**
- **The branch newsletter should be used to stimulate discussion.**

Jane Ogden offered space to house the library should it be decided to retain it.

4.9 Webmaster's report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

4.10 ABKA Delegate's Report

Attendees have a copy of the report. There was nothing to add.

5. Branch subscription for 2014/2015

It was pointed out that there is only a need to vote on changes to the branch component of the subscription. As there is no change, there was no need for a vote.

6. Election of new officers

Avon delegate: David Welham was nominated

Proposed: Ian Cooper, Seconded: carried

There were no officers completing their term of office this year, so no election was held. However it was agreed that additional new committee members without portfolio are needed.

Action: Seek volunteers through the branch newsletter

Independent Auditor: Tony Poole was nominated

Proposed: David Welham, Seconded Adrian Wells: carried

David Capon raised a question regarding length of office for the Treasurer. Normally officers serve for a maximum of two three year terms of office, but as the Treasurer's office requires special skills DC asked if there may be a case for increasing the length of office for the Treasurer.

It was suggested that succession planning is needed for committee members and developing opportunities to train successors is important.

Action: Discuss succession planning, especially for Treasurer, at the next branch committee meeting.

7.0 Presentation of Certificates

8.0 Any Other Business

8.1 Branch Christmas meal - Philip Clemente

Members are invited to join the Christmas dinner at Clevedon Golf Club

8.2 Bath & West Show - Philip Clemente

Volunteers are sought to attend the Avon stand for half or whole days

Action: Contact PC if interested

8.3 Other shows - Janet McCulloch

Volunteers are sought to attend all the shows the branch supports. JM is organising a small planning group to share ideas for improving our stand and the branch show resources.

Action: Contact JM if interested

It was also emphasised that members wishing to sell honey products at shows will be required to enter products for judging.

8.4 Essential purchasing scheme - John Banks

Members were reminded to submit orders for oxalic acid within the next week.

8.5 Happy birthday - Jan Davies

JD and all members wished David Welham (70 today) and Rob Francis a happy birthday.

9.0 Date of the 63rd AGM November 21st 2015