

North Somerset Beekeepers



Draft Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting held on 14th November 2020 at 2.00 pm via Zoom

Present: Garry Packer, Tony Slater, Sandra Slater, David Capon, Rob Williams, Annabel Lewis, Eric Sortwell, Rob Francis, Andy Scarisbrick, Mike Batchelor, Heather Pitch, Stephen Brain, Belinda Kumpel, Tom Leimdorfer, Richard Ellis, Martin Gate, Sheila James, Jon Wheway, Michael Rogers, Marie Glover, John Ashbaugh, David Welham, Wendy Welham.

Apologies: Paddy Brading

1. Welcome: Garry welcomed all to the meeting and commented on the unusual nature of holding the AGM via Zoom

2. Minutes of 67th AGM: The minutes of the 67th AGM were approved. Proposed by Annabel Lewis, seconded by Tony Slater, passed unanimously.

3. Accounts for 2019-20: The accounts were presented prior to the meeting by Tony Slater for approval. Approval proposed by David Capon, seconded by Heather Pitch, passed unanimously.

4. Officers' Reports: All other Officer reports were presented to the meeting in advance for approval en masse. Approval proposed by Richard Ellis, seconded by Rob Francis, passed unanimously.

5. Branch Subscriptions for 2020-21: Heather reported that 53% of the membership had already renewed their subscriptions and thanked them for this. There was no increase in subscription for the coming year, but the BBKA are proposing to increase their subscription from £19 to £21 in 2021.

6. Election of New Officers: Eric Sortwell volunteered for the role as Avon BK rep; proposed by Rob Francis, seconded by Stephen Brain, passed unanimously.

The meeting put on record its thanks to David Welham for his service in this role. There were no volunteers for the post of Education Officer, the committee would welcome offers from someone to take on this role, but in the meantime would collectively cover the role.

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7. Honorary Membership: David Capon nominated David Hounsell for honorary membership in recognition of his long service and contribution to the branch, seconded by Janet McCulloch, passed unanimously.

Garry Packer nominated David Capon for his contribution to the branch, proposed by Heather Pitch, seconded by Eric Sortwell, passed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business:

a) Tom Leimdorfer expressed his thanks to the committee for their efforts in keeping the branch going through difficult times and keeping the membership informed of developments.

b) Michael Batchelor questioned whether the branch had plans to hold winter talks via Zoom; Rob Francis explained that this was happening, but as it was possible to access a bigger audience these were being coordinated through him to be available to all Avon branches, these were advertised in the current Avon newsletter. He drew attention to an upcoming talk from Prof Maria Spivak in conjunction with Somerset BKA.

c) BBKA exams: Tony Slater reminded the meeting that the BBKA module exams were planned for April and encouraged people to form study groups to help preparation for this (we already have some in place). Stephen Brain reinforced the wisdom of starting to study now for April exams.

David Capon reminded the meeting that we now have our own Zoom account which could be used by anyone wishing to set up a group.

Date of next meeting: The 69th AGM was scheduled for **Saturday November 13th, 2021** (It was hoped that this would be a real, rather than virtual, meeting!)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.40pm.

D Capon

Hon Sec.