

North Somerset Bee Keepers



Notes of the Committee Meeting held on 5th September 2017 at The George Inn, Backwell

1.0 Present

Annabel Lewis

Rob Francis

Rob Williams

Richard Ellis

Adrian Wells

John Banks

Janet McCulloch

Apologies received from Garry Packer, David Capon, Stan Wroe, David Welham, Keith Brand,

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting - accepted

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 **Action:** Outline planned activities and required budget and email to the committee before the September meeting. **JB, DC, RF, RE**

See 9.1

3.2 **Action:** Consolidate approved proposals into a branch budget by September meeting. **RE**

3.3 **Action:** Draft an initial newsletter using a template and share with committee. **JM**

This was completed and received positive feedback.

3.4 **Action:** Informally ask members to volunteer for committee posts at branch meetings. **All to continue**

3.5 **Action:** Add link to BBKA booklets to our website. **JB Not yet completed**

Action: Add information to the next newsletter **JM**

3.6 **Action:** Continue to pursue a venue for improvers course. **RF, AL**
St Andrews Church, Backwell was selected.

3.7 **Action:** Email information on the festival of wool exhibition to members. **JM - Completed**

3.8 **Action:** Liaise with Meg and JB regarding the bee safari next year. **AL**

Not yet completed, though Meg is keen to work with us.

3.9 **Action:** Confirm arrangements for bee diseases training at the Bee Unit at Winscombe with Meg and inform JB of details. **AL**

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To be completed though there may be some overlap with other training.

It was suggested that we arrange a further visit to Ken Basterfield's farm in the future programme.

4.0 Chair's report

- 4.1 **Action:** Contact Paddy and Heather inviting them to take on roles. **AL**

AL reported that Paddy Brading has agreed to take on Education Coordinator and to shadow this year. The Beginners' course will be taken over by Andy and Liz Scarisbrick who will shadow Paddy this year. Heather Pitch will join the committee as a member without portfolio. Stan Wroe and Steve Willmott and Eric Sortwell may become part of the apiary team and David will train up the team.

JB would be interested in relinquishing the programme manager's role next year so someone to shadow soon would be welcome.

- 4.2 **Action:** Invite those taking the basic assessment by email after results to consider being involved in the committee. **RF**

To be completed when results are received.

5.0 Treasurer's report

The branch has a healthy bank balance with £10k in bank and little change is expected by end of financial year. There is good turnover. A new accountant has been identified to audit the books.

Some new beekeepers have asked about insurance once they acquire bees. New beekeepers are given associate membership but if they have their own bees they may need insurance cover of the bees are kept off our apiary. However, it was thought that increasing to full membership for just a few months at the same time as they are purchasing bee equipment may be too expensive for them.

- 5.1 **Action:** Discuss a website solution for renewing membership. Discuss at next meeting. **SW and JB.**

RE reported that a web-based system will be introduced but signature will still be required for gift aid.

- 5.2 **Action:** Confirm gift aid renewal frequency with Steve Baseby. **SW**

Completed

- 5.3 The latest accounts were shared and show a healthy balance and expenditure that meets our business goals to comply with Charity Commission requirements.

- 5.4 **Action:** Contact the Chartered Accountant regarding auditing books. **GP**

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See 5.0.

- 5.5 **Action:** Add SW as a signatory to the bank account. **RE**
Not yet completed but it will be by the new financial year

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- 5.6 **Action:** Arrange with the bank mandate for online payments and access by all signatories. **RE**

Two signatories will be needed but work is in progress.

6.0 Secretary's report

- 6.1 **Action:** Ensure there is a system to share member details by AGM **JM, SW, JB**

An electronic mapping system was shared with the committee and discussed. There were concerns about the security of data storage and the need to comply with future legislation.

It was agreed that an abbreviated version of the membership database will be produced and piloted before the AGM.

Action: Develop an abbreviated version of the membership database. **SW**

Action: Include an item on this to the newsletter. **JM**

- 6.2 **Action:** Check with AW whether all swarm collectors are on the BBKA list. **JM.**

AW considered that it is up to individual swarm collectors to put their names forward. Beekeepers volunteer to be local swarm collectors for various reasons and may not wish to be on the BBKA list. There are some problems with the BBKA swarm list, e.g. calls from outside the area. A new system for adding names to the BBKA list is being introduced.

Action: Put an item in the newsletter inviting people to join. **JM**

7.0 Apiary Manager's report

- 7.1 **Action:** Meet Solar Sense to discuss options. **AL and DC**

No further problems have been reported.

- 7.2 **Action:** Increase height of netting with a working party. **DC**

Completed

8.0 Programme Manager's report

The draft programme was shared with the committee for discussion.

- 8.1 Contact a speaker on termites. **JB**

Not yet completed.

- 8.2 **Action:** Contact Roger Patterson find out the cost and agree a date, possibly Shipham or Flax Bourton. **JB**

Roger Patterson has agreed to speak on 27th January 2018.

Action: Advertise the event in the newsletter. **JM**

Action: Agree a venue. **JB**

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Action: Advertise to ABKA members in first instance, then other branches. **JB/JM, Action:** Set up online booking. **JB**

- 8.3 Essential items purchase scheme report (attached)
This was tabled for information.

9.0 Education Co-ordinator's report

- 9.1 **Action:** Inform JB of future queen rearing events. **RF**

RF reported that the queen rearing group is meeting this month and future dates to be agreed. There will be a presentation to members in April 2018

RF tabled a projected spending report (attached)

Self-help groups for modules will be established for the winter

Action: Draft information for next newsletter. **RF**

The issue of what can we do to encourage younger beekeepers was discussed. It wasn't clear if the BBKA can help. RF suggested linking with 2-3 schools and possibly taster projects

Action: Discuss with Paddy Brading. **RF**

Action: Establish a small working group. **RF, PB**

Action: Consider an item for the newsletter. **RF, PB**

10.0 Swarm Liaison report

Not too busy this year. Whats App worked well and Bee Noise. Asking public to send photos of suspected honeybee swarms has helped. Lot of feral colonies had been noted.

Action: Let RF know locations of feral colonies. **AW**

11.0 ABKA Rep's report

12.0 Web-Master's report

- 12.1 **Action** Pilot questionnaire. **RW** (report attached)

The results of the survey were discussed. 33% of the membership had responded.

Action: Establish a small working group to agree an action plan. **RW**

Action: Item for newsletter. **RW**

- 12.2 **Action:** Contact the universities regarding redesign of webpage. **RW and RE**

RW has contacted a colleague and asked to pitch it as a final year project include analysis of our needs and ambitions. Also scientific monitoring of hives.

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13.0 Shows

DC had sent in financial reports for the Tickenham and Portishead Shows. Also reported that a Thank You card had been received addressed to the committee from Ann Loader, Chair of Tickenham Flower Show. It reads:

"Thank you very much for your sponsorship of the honey classes and your cheque for £50. Thank you too for attending on the day. It was a lovely display"

The stand took £42 on the day which meant an overall loss of £8 and, at the Portishead show, the stand made a net profit of £34.10.

A donation of £50 to the Tickenham Show 2018 was approved.

Eric Sortwell is interested in coordinating a stand for the Nailsea Show.

Only one volunteer for the Winscombe Show.

14.0 Members without portfolio

No items were raised.

15.0 Any other business

The winner of the Ambrosia selected from the members who completed the survey was number 22

Action: Mention in newsletter. **JM**

16.0 Dates of future meetings all to be held in the Dungeon, The George Inn, Backwell

Tuesday October 17, had been identified as the pre-AGM but there was some discussion as to whether 10th might be a better date

Action: Identify best date with committee members. **JM**