

North Somerset Beekeepers



(Draft) Minutes of Committee meeting held on Feb 14th, 2022, at 19:30 via Zoom

Present: Annabel Lewis, David Capon, Heather Pitch, Tony Slater, Rob Williams, Eric Sortwell, John Davies

Apologies: Garry Packer, Paddy Brading, Sue Ames, Jodi Moger (present for latter part of meeting)

1.0 Minutes of meeting held on Dec 6th were approved

2.0 Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

3.0 Treasurer: Tony reported a balance of approximately £13.5k, which was up from last year as there was no income from the Introductory Course last year. Tony warned that Avon and BBKA fees had to be taken from this, but we still had a healthy balance.

Tony reported back on discussions he had had about third-party liability insurance with the BBKA. It was agreed that all members of the current Introductory Course be appraised of this, and that the notice Tony had prepared be clearly on display at the apiary shed. Heather would also cover this in the Introductory Course.

In the longer term it was agreed that from 2023, the fee for the Introductory Course should include full membership, which gives attendees full insurance cover, and also allows them to receive The BBKA News. It was felt we should absorb this extra cost for 2023, but review the course fee for 2024. The meeting thanked Tony for his work in following this up.

4.0 Membership secretary: Heather reported that membership currently stood at a total of 202, of which 134 were full members. 16 full registered members had not renewed their membership despite several reminders. It was agreed that Heather would contact these members to see if we could determine why they had not renewed. Heather also mentioned that Tony Scrase had not renewed full membership as he had given up beekeeping. He had made a donation of £30 to the branch from the proceeds of the sale of his equipment. The committee expressed its thanks to Tony.

Heather had contacted all on the swarm collectors list to see if they wished to continue, she had also contacted Adrian Wells to confirm he

was still willing to co-ordinate the WhatsApp group, but had not yet heard back from him.

Heather had advertised the Winscombe Platinum Jubilee celebrations to members in that area, but had met with very limited response. She therefore proposed that we drop this plan. All agreed.

- 5.0 Secretary:** The Equality and Diversity policy circulated prior to the meeting was approved. David would send this out to all members. It was also agreed to put this on the website, along with the Branch's other policies; although some of these may need updating before they go on.

David also reported that he had done some initial investigation into a printed gazebo, and that we were probably looking at £3-400 plus printing. He also suggested that we should invest in display flags and a new banner, and an acknowledgement of the sponsorship kindly provided by Hans Wilson. It was suggested that David canvass the membership to see if we have any skilled graphic designers, as doing our own artwork would significantly reduce the cost. It was agreed that a group of the show coordinators, led by Sandra Slater, and including Paddy Brading, should meet to discuss this further.

- 6.0 Education Co-ordinator's report:** David had circulated a document from Paddy prior to the meeting outlining her plans for developing the role. The committee were wholeheartedly in support of Paddy's ideas, and agreed that she could start work on these, and spend the relatively small amount of money needed without further referral to the committee.

- 7.0 Apiary Manager's report:** Eric reported that the club hives were surviving so far, and that weekly food checks would be taking place. Several of the new beekeepers had removed their hives and all had been allocated mentors. There was a problem with mole disturbance at the entrance gate, Eric and John were going to sort this.

The plans for the opening were being developed. There was some discussion about who, outside of the branch, we should invite. It was agreed we should invite all members of the other Avon branches; David would liaise with Paul Moorhouse to arrange this. Eric would send out a list of potential invitees for comments and additions.

David would look at plaques with Brunel Engraving when he took the cups for engraving. Eric suggested we give a small memento to Ivor and Jan, a piece of Bristol Blue Glass was thought to be a suitable gift.

After an interesting discussion with the proprietor of West Country Honey Eric had decided not to pursue this further.

Eric asked what plans were in place to provide nucs for the beginners. Annabel said Jamie Llewellyn would provide nucs for £250 and these

could be booked on his website. David and Annabel said they would also probably be raising a few nucs, so we should have an adequate supply.

David reported that we needed to update the risk assessment for applying oxalic acid, as the current one did not include vapourisation. David would do this.

8.0 Programme Manager/ Web-Master: Rob reported that the woodworking course was progressing well, and that the Tithe Barn was a good venue, however parking was a little restricted. He suggested we produce a flyer for the apiary opening, and was liaising with Rob Francis for something to appear in the Avon newsletter. It was suggested that we might advertise the event in the BBKA News.

David commented on the difficulty of travelling between the north and south ends of our area, and that this presented a significant journey for members from one end when the meeting was at the other. It was suggested that Rob explore the possibility of using some more centrally placed halls for meetings.

9.0 ABKA Rep: Avon had not met since our last meeting, so Eric had nothing to report.

10.0 Members without Portfolio: Nothing to report, John said he was watching and learning!

11.0 Chair: Annabel highlighted an upcoming talk from Debbie Holland on planting. Although originally planned as a live meeting this was now a Zoom talk open to all of Avon, and the date had been changed to March 23rd, at 7.30pm.

12.0 AOB: John questioned whether the Coronavirus advice on the website landing page was still relevant. It was agreed to remove this

Heather mentioned that in the BBKA News Ann Rowberry raised the idea of local queen rearing groups. It was agreed there may be some interest in this and Heather would pursue this.

13.0 Date of next meeting, Mon April 11th, probably via Zoom

Meeting closed at 8.54pm.

D Capon