

# North Somerset Bee Keepers



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at The George Inn, Backwell

## 1.0 Present

- Annabel Lewis
- Rob Williams
- Rob Francis
- Heather Pitch
- David Capon
- Jenny Wakenshaw
- Janet McCulloch
- Richard Ellis
- Stan Wroe
- David Welham

Apologies were received from Garry Packer, Paddy Brading, John Banks

2.0 **Minutes of previous meeting** were accepted as an accurate record

## 3.0 Matters arising

3.1 Consolidate approved proposals into a branch budget by September meeting. **RE**

Proposals not specifically received but plans for the next year are in hand.

3.2 **Action:** Add link to BBKA booklets to our website. **JB**

Not yet completed

**Action:** Add information on BBKA booklets to the next newsletter **JM**

Completed

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

Not yet completed, though Meg is keen to work with us. Simon Jones has asked if we wish to host another bee diseases day and invite all Avon groups. It may be held in early summer. Three rooms would be needed plus a nearby apiary. DC suggested Langford Vet School. This event may need to alternate with the popular Bee Safari.

**Action:** **Contact David Barrett at the vet school to see if it is feasible to hold the bee diseases day there and to identify preferred dates. AL**

3.4 Arrange a further visit to Ken Basterfield's farm in the future programme. **JB**

## 4.0 Chair's report

# North Somerset Bee Keepers



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

We have three new committee members so additional members are not needed at this time. Eric Sortwell has volunteered for the committee but will be invited to join next year.

- Action:** Invite Eric Sortwell to join the committee next year. **AL**

- 4.2 AL has arranged a working party to help clear a member's apiary and reclaim some hives.

## 5.0 Treasurer's report

- 5.1 **Action:** Update committee on introduction of a website solution for renewing membership. **SW and JB.**

This item is deferred until further advice from the BBKA on our requirements to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations.

- 5.2 **Action:** Add SW as a signatory to the bank account. **RE**

Not yet completed as several forms needed to be completed beforehand.

- 5.3 **Action:** Update committee on the bank mandate for online payments and access by all signatories. **RE**

- 5.4 An auditor is needed to audit last year's accounts

**Action:** If none of our members have auditing skills or know of a suitable auditor, seek a local accountant. **RE**

## 5.5 Finance update

We currently have around £18k in the bank due to subscriptions. We usually lose 20-30 members per year. The introductory course brings in >£2000.

## 5.6 Membership update

SW reported that 85 members have submitted renewal forms and eleven have paid but not submitted a form. Later in month SW will send a reminder to non-payers.

**Action: Include a reminder in the newsletter to renew membership by end March. JM**

## 6.0 Secretary's report

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

We are still awaiting advice on GDPR from BBKA. The regulations need to be implemented by 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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

# North Somerset Bee Keepers



## Completed

- 6.2 **Action:** Put an item in the newsletter inviting people to join BBKA swarm collector group. **JM**

Several branch swarm collectors have volunteered to join the BBKA swarm collectors list. JM hasn't had any response from BBKA and is not sure who to contact. It was suggested that this is the responsibility of the Swarm Liaison Officer.

**Action:** Ask AW to complete this action. **JM**

## 7.0 Apiary Manager's report

### 7.1 Future of the apiary

The branch entered a five-year agreement with Solar Sense in 2012, followed by annual rolling continued use of the site. Recently, proximity of the apiary to Solar Sense staff has caused some concern which seems to have been resolved.

Due to planned site developments it is apparent that we will need to move apiary further away this summer, nearer to land leased to Low Carbon Gordano.

In the short-term we will need to move the bees in the next few weeks to the new site. This will require volunteers to help move the hives. The shed move can be deferred to later and it may be necessary to buy a new shed.

**Action: Meet with Solar Sense manager to discuss arrangements - DC and AL**

## 8.0 Programme Manager's report - not in attendance

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

- 8.2 **Action:** Update committee on Bee Improvement day arrangements. **JB**

- 8.3 **Action:** Advertise the Bee Improvement day in the newsletter. **JM**

Completed

- 8.4 **Action:** Agree a venue for Bee Improvement day. **JB**

Completed

- 8.4.1 **Action:** Advertise to ABKA members in first instance, then other branches. **JB/JM**

Completed

**Action: send a reminder to Avon and Somerset branches - JM**

# North Somerset Bee Keepers



8.4.2 **Action:** Set up online booking. **JB**

Completed

## 8.5 **Publicity in local press**

RE suggested that the local press might be interested in reporting on the Bee Improvement Day and this was agreed.

**Action: Contact North Somerset Times to gauge interest and send in a report - RE**

## 9.0 **Education Co-ordinator's report**

9.1 **Action:** Draft information on forthcoming educational events for next newsletter. **RF**

Completed

9.2 **Action:** Discuss potential schools project with Paddy Brading. **RF**

RF and PB are meeting in next few months. Sidcot School or Weston College were suggested as possible contenders to undertake a project for us.

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

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

Completed. RF has also recently published an education newsletter on behalf of Avon.

The courses are progressing well. The module one group is established. Woodworking course cancelled due to low take-up. It was suggested that this might be run in alternate years. The Microscopy meeting was attended by about 14 people; one person has taken the exam already. The costs are high and it was suggested the branch funds the hire of the hall. This was agreed. Attendees have agreed to lead a training session for branch members next year.

## 10.0 **Swarm Liaison report - Not present**

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

Completed

## 11.0 **ABKA Rep's report**

ABKA is meeting next week and DW will provide an update at the next committee.

## 12.0 **Web-Master's report**

12.1 **Action: Establish a small working group to agree a membership survey action plan. RW**

Small group has been established, but it would be good to have a new beekeeper on the group. Eric Sortwell was suggested.

# North Somerset Bee Keepers



- Action:** Invite ES to join the group. **RW**
- 12.1.2 **Action:** **Item on membership survey action plan for newsletter. RW**  
Not yet completed
- 12.2 **Action:** **Update committee on links with universities, e.g. Weston College, regarding redesign of webpage and scientific monitoring of hives. RW and RE**  
RW has contacted UWE and found a student who was interested in monitoring bees. RE has a contact in Weston College who may be able to identify interested students.  
**Action:** **Let RW know contact details - RE**
- 13.0 **Shows 2018**
- 13.1 **North Somerset Show**  
**Action:** **Contact Michelle Stagg and Sandra Slater to see if a call for volunteers is needed for the North Somerset Show. JM**  
**Action:** **Contact Hans Wilson re continued sponsorship for North Somerset Show. AL**
- 13.2 **Bath and West Show**  
Anne Rowberry coordinates the show and Paddy Brading is handing over North Somerset representation to Andy and Liz Scarisbrick. Updated leaflets will be needed. SW and RE asked to see draft leaflets before they are printed. It was suggested that it invites applicants to outline any skills that may be useful to the branch.  
**Action:** **Share draft leaflet with RE and SW, AS, LS and PB. JM/PB**  
**Action:** **Identify a new printing company, e.g. a branch member or Maxwell House printers in Locking. AS/LS**  
**Action:** **Ask members if they could offer printing or auditing services via the newsletter. JM**  
**Action:** **Arrange printing of flags for shows when printer identified. ??**  
**Action:** **information about the Branch Honey Show to go out this week. JM**
- 14.0 **Members without portfolio**  
HP enquired if delivering the introductory course over two full days had been considered. The response was that it had not. Bristol and Wedmore already do this but we have found that the 10 week course is the preferred model for us. We could improve our signposting of other courses.

# North Somerset Bee Keepers



**Action: Identify other introductory courses in Avon and signpost them on the website. JM**

## **15.0 Any other business**

15.1 **Action:** Mention winner of membership survey prize draw in newsletter. **JM**

Completed.

**15.2** RF suggested that we hold an annual auction items for sale, e.g. over-wintered colonies, equipment. This would need plenty of planning time. Bristol do something similar. This suggestion was supported by the committee and will be planned for Spring 2018.

**Action: Enquire about Bristol arrangements - RF**

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

Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>

Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday July 16<sup>th</sup>

Monday Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Pre-AGM meeting

Monday AGM 17<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas meal arrangements to be agreed at next meeting