

North Somerset Beekeepers



Minutes of Committee meeting held on 10th February 2020 at 19:30 at the George Inn, Backwell

- 1.0 Present A Lewis, H Pitch, R Williams, J Moger, E Sortwell, J Wakenshaw, J McCulloch, D Capon, T Slater, L Joy, David Welham
- 2.0 Apologies from G Packer and J Banks
- 3.0 Minutes of previous meeting were agreed with one minor amendment (AW to organise swarm WhatsApp, not AL).
- 3.1 Matters arising.

Sheila James extractor purchased, RW suggested buy a second as the new one seemed very good value for money. It was agreed to see how it goes this year and then assess. Service of other existing extractors completed
- 4.0 Chair's report: British Bee Vets conference is to be held at Langford; they have contacted Megan Seymour to run this sometime in June 2020.
- 4.1 Further to Prof Ratneiks talk at the AGM a dialogue has been set up between us and Langford with the objective of raising hygienic bees at the apiary. David Barrett and Rob W to pursue this. Meg is to deliver the disease section on improvers course, booked in for 24th March, open to branch members. ES suggested stock of pocket disease books, agreed this is a good idea. AL to purchase.
- 5.0 Treasurer's report: TS circulated updated balance sheet, current balance is £12, 695. We have had an increased spend this year, mainly as capital outlay on new apiary.
- 6.0 Membership secretary report: 19 memberships were lapsed on Feb 1st after HP had attempted to contact all who had not renewed. We currently have 160 members, excluding 36 associate members on the introductory course. 133 are registered as beekeepers.
- 7.0 Secretary's report: 2 Laptops purchased, one for the Secretary and one for the introductory course and other presentations. Office 365 and McAfee antivirus have been installed on both. This will require ongoing subscription. Office gives one drive storage

7.1 DC circulated updated Job Descriptions; these were agreed by the meeting. DC questioned his access level on eR2 and HP will request that he has operator rights.

8.0 Apiary Manager's report:

8.1 Update on apiary development with Langford team, Jodi has agreed to take on assistant manager role. Fencing complete. We have an incinerator on site and there appear to be no apparent restrictions on using it.

8.2 Apiary opening 15th May Prof Richard Hammond head of vet school to open. Invite Anne Rowberry from Avon. Suggested that we lay on refreshments, display etc. AL suggests we start to plan the opening event, Action ES, to coordinate AL and JM to be involved. JM to invite press. ES has organised team for physical maintenance, grass cutting etc.

9.0 Programme Manager's report: Program organised for year, no feedback on program.

9.1 Membership Survey JM produced draft questionnaire, Purpose to assess ongoing training needs. There was a general discussion of this, some felt it may be too long and there was some discussion of how to circulate it. The general feeling was that it was best done online, and that initially it would be sent to the committee to do. There was some discussion as to whether it should be anonymous, which it could be, but if people were offering to act as advisors or mentors they would need to identify themselves.

Education co-ordinator post is still vacant and there has been no volunteer to take up this role. GP agreed to do school's coordination on an interim basis. We need to be alert to N Soms school day, but Rob Francis is the usual contact for this. Module groups are largely self-organised.

12.0 ABKA Rep's report DW was not at last meeting. Anne Rowberry is now chair of BBKA. DW to send item to DC to forward to committee.

13.0 Web-Master's report RW reported, generally positive feedback on the website, but continue to send in ideas. Committee minutes to be on website.

14.0 Shows 2020. DC to continue to update leaflets. Concern about long term storage of boxes at current Solarsense shed now we are not regularly using that site. Investigate possible storage solutions, ES to follow up a possible contact.

14.1 DC to update the flyer for the Introductory course ready for the North Somerset Show.

14.2 Sandra Slater (through Tony) reported on the North Somerset show. She has some volunteers already. We have an additional tent this year, more space so we need a bigger display. Asian hornet, pollination etc. (See 16.2)?

- 14.3 It was agreed to include candles in the Winscombe Michaelmas fair unless the schedule had already been prepared, but DC didn't think it had.
- 15.0 Members without portfolio: Female beekeepers development, AL reported that it was felt that wider general support and ongoing development of all beekeepers in the club was needed. This was ongoing, suggested a spread of people on a forum etc. AL, JW, HP, JM
- 16.0 Any other business.
- 16.1 Apiary suggestions of raising our own nucs and closed apiary, not a response from Meg yet. Ongoing AI to circulate any updates.
- 16.2 AHAT update AL/DC/FF/JM attended a day's training at Bridgwater organised by Somerset; it was felt to be very informative. Fran Frappell has offered to act as our AHAT co-ordinator, supported by AL, DC and J Moger. We need to inform the general public what to look for, circulate business cards etc. Action plan being produced, we need show materials to inform public.
- 16.3 ES Queen rearing group, ES to take forward with a section in the apiary, setting up a small team of 6 to work on queen rearing. Martin Stickland to be approached, Jenny, Barbara Smart have expressed interest in helping in this.
- 16.4 JW: Raised the issue of peoples preferred forename when emails are received through the eR2 system. The name is picked by the First name entered on the system, HP can amend where a different name (or shortened version is preferred). JM to include in next newsletter,
- 16.5 DW: Send condolences to Martin Gate, AL to arrange
- 17.0 Date of next meeting 6th April.