

# North Somerset Beekeepers



## Minutes of Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 19:30 via Zoom

**Present: AL, DC, JMcC, GP, HP, DW, TS, RW, JM, ES, LJ,  
FF(Asian Hornet)**

- 1.0 Minutes of meeting held on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> were approved**
- 2.0 Treasurer's report:** Tony presented a graph of the branch finances, it showed that the balance had fallen to its lowest level for several years, and stood at c£5000. Most of the recent expenditure included a substantial amount on setting up the new apiary, and the purchase of two new laptops. It was agreed that there should not need to be substantial further capital expenditure. There was also some concern that a much reduced Introduction course next winter would reduce the projected income considerably. The feeling was that the balance was comfortable, but we would need to be careful with expenditure in the coming year.
- 3.0 Membership secretary update:** Heather reported that membership currently stood at 199 members, 141 registered, 38 Associate from the Introductory course. We have gained 5 new members with bees since lockdown started, despite advising against this. These members are being supported via a WhatsApp group. Next year's membership fees are to remain unchanged.
- 4.0 Secretary's report:** David reported that there had been little action since lockdown; unsurprisingly all the shows that we normally attend have been cancelled for 2020.
- 5.0 Apiary Manager's report:** Eric reported that all was well with the apiary, a small team of Eric, Annabel, Jodi and Fran had been inspecting the branch colonies of which there were 10-12. Another team of Richard Ellis, John Molesworth and Michael Bachelor had been working with Eric with grass cutting and maintaining the fabric of the apiary. The committee expressed thanks to all involved.
- 6.0 Programme Manager/ Web-Master's report:** Rob reported that this years' programme of talks has been cancelled. It was agreed that we should start to plan a programme for next year on the assumption that we could hold some sort of meeting programme, and that some of the

items planned for this year could be held over until next year. There was also some discussion as to whether we could deliver some talks via Zoom or similar app. The bulk purchase scheme on the website had been cancelled for this year.

**7.0 Communication Officer's report:** Janet reported that she was working on the next newsletter, and was hoping to publish shortly. She also raised whether to offer press releases to the local media. It was felt that something about the Asian Hornet might be of value, but we needed to be careful about briefing them, as there had been a lot of misinformation in the press, with pictures of European Hornets, and warnings of giant hornet attacks.

**8.0 AHAT Report:** Fran has been in close contact with the Somerset AHAT team, who are ahead of us at this point. She reported that the early nest stage was coming to an end, and therefore the monitoring stations set up had come to an end. There had been one unconfirmed sighting reported in the Abbots Leigh area, but it was felt to have probably been a false alarm. Reported sightings in The Channel Islands this year were down on last year. Fran was concerned about the amount of by catch in traps being used so was investigating alternative methods.

**9.0 Chair's Report:** Annabel waited until the end to pick up loose ends, most things had been covered in other officers' reports. She reported that we had had some new beekeepers join with colonies despite our advice not to, others had been deterred until such time as we can properly support them.

**10.0 Any other business:** Heather wondered whether, in the absence of the group purchase scheme there was any way in which beekeepers could form their own local group to put orders together. It was suggested that Facebook could be used for this. Annabel also said she would contact Jamie Llewellyn to see if he would be able to offer equipment for sale to branch members.

David C mentioned that he had had an alert from the NBU of EFB within 3k of Langford.

There was discussion about the state of the show material currently stored at Solarsense, DC had investigated hiring a storage unit, but it was felt long term this might prove expensive. It was suggested a second small shed at the apiary might be a better way forward. ES to investigate.

Tony raised the point that as Government restrictions had been relaxed, and small groups of up to six could meet in outdoor spaces, would it be possible for people to visit the new apiary to see what progress had been made. Tony would follow up with BBKA.

**11.0 Date of next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, probably via Zoom**