



Minutes of Committee meeting 5th Dec 2022, The George at Backwell at 19:30

Present: Heather Pitch, David Capon, Eric Sortwell, Jodi Moger, Rob Williams, Annabel Lewis, Jen Stallwood.

- 1. Apologies** were received from Paddy Brading, Garry Packer, Tony Slater
- 2. Approval of minutes of 5th Sept 2022:** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 3. Matters arising:** None.
- 4. The Hive Proposals:** Heather reported that we had received an approach from the North Somerset Enterprise Agency, who wanted to support our work in some way. A range of possibilities were discussed including sponsoring a hive and linking with a school in some way. Annabel and Heather were due to meet them in January to explore some of these possibilities.
- 5. Funding from Avon:** Heather also reported that Mark Hunter had asked if the Branch had any specific requirements that Avon might help to fund. There was a consensus that some new extractors would be our priority (see next item).
- 6. Extractor Hire:** Sheila James had reported at the AGM that she had some concerns about the extractor hire scheme, in that some people were not returning the extractors on time and that two of the extractors were showing signs of wear (Rob Williams had carried out repairs on these). There was agreement that we should invest in some new extractors and that we should review the charging structure. David suggested Thornes heavy duty plastic tangential extractors at £560 each, we purchase 3 or 4 with some funding from Avon, and we sell our existing extractors at our summer Bee Boot Sale. Rob was in favour of an electric extractor. There was some discussion on this. It was agreed we should increase the rental charge to £10 for 5 days and look at the possibility of a penalty surcharge if not returned on time. It was also suggested that if we had four extractors, we could leave two with Sheila, and see if we could find someone in the southern part of our region to hold the other two. Rob, Heather and Eric would meet up with Sheila to discuss further.

- 7. Treasurer's report:** Tony had sent his apologies, but reported that our balance was approximately £11.5k, £1k up on the same time last year.
- 8. Membership secretary update:** Heather reported that membership currently stood at 247, 163 registered members with bees. We are the largest branch in Avon.
- 9. Secretary's report** David had nothing specific to report.
- 10. Education Co-ordinator's report:** Paddy had sent her apologies. It appears there are some people who had not yet paid the balance for the Introductory Course. It was agreed they should be given a deadline and if the balance had not been received by then, their place should be offered to the person at the top of the waiting list.
- 11. Apiary Manager's report:** Eric had had a good response for volunteers to help at the apiary next season with a total of 21 people to call on. He circulated a list of mentors and mentees at the meeting. New hives had been purchased for the apiary: 3 Commercial, 4 National and 6 Deep National (14 x 12).
- 12. Programme Manager/ Webmaster's report:** Rob reported mixed feedback to the Christmas meal. One person had given a negative review and would not wish to go to the George again, others were more positive, but it was agreed it was quite cold and the quality of the food varied with what you had ordered. It was suggested that people pick up feedback from other events and organisations they might have had a Christmas meal with. David suggested that we could perhaps look at a midweek date, which might give us a better deal than on a Saturday. The panel for the Brains trust had been finalised, it was agreed to advertise this event to Avon. Heather had had an offer of a talk from Ken Basterfield, but Rob reported he had already signed up Dan Basterfield!
- 13. ABKA Rep's report:** Eric reported that feedback from the Bath and West organisers accepted that it had been badly organised, and they apologised for the confusion and mix up that resulted. Stephen Brain had drafted a response to the BBKA ADM resolutions on behalf of Avon (these are listed in the current BBKA magazine).
- 14. Members without portfolio:** Nothing to report
- 15. Chair's Report:** Heather thanked the meeting for their support and was looking forward to her stint as chair. She raised the summer barbecue/event that Eric had considered planned and wondered what form it might take. Eric questioned what budget could be made available, however it was pointed out that any social event must be self-funding, and as a charity we were not allowed to use our funds for such an event. It was suggested it could be combined with some form of training event at the apiary, a small

group of Eric, Jodi, Annabel and Heather would meet to discuss this further.

16. Any other business: None

Date of next meeting: Dates for 2023 were agreed as:

Mon 13th Feb

Mon 24th Apr

Mon 12th Jun

Mon 4th Sept

Mon 2nd Oct

Sat 18th Nov (AGM)

Mon 4th Dec

Meeting closed 8.54 pm

D Capon