

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT "WITHY ACRES"
ON THE 1ST FEB 2012

PRESENT: WBW, DW, RE, Peter C, BS, AG, Phil C.

1.0 APOLOGIES: I.D

2.0 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

With the exception that item 4.4 should read PC has colonies at the Walled Garden the minutes were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chair.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

Item 4.1 there are now 26 on the beginners' course.

4.0 OFFICERS REPORTS

4.1 CHAIR: Regarding the ABKA AGM a sub committee has been formed and all is in hand regarding food, etc. The pre-meeting lunch will be at The Plough, Wrington and an email has been sent out to all branch secretaries regarding food orders.

The branch will supply projector, screen, computer, etc.

4.2 TREASURER: We currently have £7917.18 in the account but approximately £3500 will be debited for capitation.

The Treasurer will explore the options regarding a separate account designated for the purchase of teaching hut & linked purchases Action RE

It was agreed that all Gift Aid monies would be paid into this account. Action R.E

The Treasurer will provide a suitable receipt for the projector purchased with the Co-op grant & this will be sent to the CWS Action RE/WBW

4.3 SECRETARY: The Secretary agreed to email all committee members with an up to-date membership list Action DW

There are now 133 members who have renewed their membership. Those not renewing tended to be partners and associates. A 'last chance to renew' email has been sent.

4.4 APIARY MGR: At the Langford Apiary all the student hives will be removed by the end of February. We have lost one club colony at the apiary. Club hives at the Walled Garden will be moved to Langford. Action AG

The Apiary Manager reported that Gerry Bissett has agreed to become assistant apiary manager. It was agreed to co-opt Gerry onto the committee.

Action DW/WBW

The Secretary agreed to email the membership asking for more assistance at the apiary. (Apiaries) If none is offered the Chair will telephone suitable members to enlist help where needed. Action DW (WBW)

Two commercial hives and one deep national have been purchased this year. An inventory of branch equipment will be carried out by AG/GB by the end of March.

This would be followed by the clearing of the Langford apiary by a working party

Action AG/GB

A discussion then took place regarding the use that the Walled Garden apiary could be put to, but no decisive agreement was reached.

4.5 PROGRAMME MGR: The programme manager reported that the last meeting was well attended and Meg Seymour's talk was well received. Meg stepped in at the last minute due to the illness of our expected speaker Johannes Paul. The sub-committee meets regularly and is getting on with next year's programme. Johannes will be approached to speak during 2013. Action Peter C

The Secretary agreed to email the membership regarding the forthcoming visit to Tyntesfield. Action DW

4.6 EDUCATION MGR: In the absence of ID there was no report.

4.7 ABKA REPRESENTATIVE: See Attached

5.0 AOB:

5.1 Avon Wildlife Site: Phil C talked about a proposed new apiary site near the church in Walton-in-Gordano that may be made available for the branch's use. The pros & cons were debated and it was agreed that a visit should be made to the site by Phil C/AG/DW & Tom Salter. It was noted that WC facilities might be available at the nearby church. AG said he would not be able to manage both sites and it was agreed that another Apiary Mgr would be sought to take responsibility. If it was found to be a viable new apiary, Phil C would contact AW and then any agreement would be formalised in writing. Action Phil C

5.2 Additional Committee Members: It was suggested that the Committee co-opt some extra members. The Secretary would come to the end of his 3 years tenure in November; a shadow for the current Programme Manager was another suggestion; there would also need to be a separate Membership Secretary. It was agreed that somebody from the Nailsea/Portishead area should be approached, maybe Bob Kirkwood. Action WBW

5.3 Badges: Several members had pointed out that their badges were broken on receipt. The Secretary has been replacing these but it was agreed a more formal and widespread replacement should be put in place. Action DW

5.4 Portishead Show: As David Hounsell feels he has come to the natural end of his time as co-ordinator, 2012 will be his last. It was agreed that DH has done a splendid job over the last few years. The committee would try to enlist a shadow for this year with a view to succeeding DH in the future. The Chair would contact a couple of members whom it was thought might take over. Action WBW

5.5 Mentors/Swarm Collection: Mentors should continue to be appointed on a geographical basis. Last year several mentors found themselves crossing the whole of the branch area to see their mentees, and it was agreed this was not a suitable arrangement. The Secretary would send an email asking for (a) volunteer mentors and (b) volunteers for the list of swarm collection. AG asked for a request for Sunday morning helpers to be sent as well. Action DW

5.6 Birthday Celebrations: ID has Professor Keith Delaplane from Georgia, USA staying at his house in the summer & he has offered to give us a lecture. Although it was originally planned for the Birthday BBQ It was pointed out that the BBQ was a

family affair and that the children present would not be interested in a talk. It was agreed that the BBQ should remain as a birthday celebration and a separate lecture, perhaps to include hiring a hall, would be more appropriate. Called 'The Birthday Lecture', it could be opened to Avon as a whole. Catering was discussed and AG knows of someone perhaps prepared to make a cake in the form of a bee. Action AG

The Chair would check the dates of Prof. Delaplane's stay. Action WBW

5.7 Budget: RE pointed out that it was necessary to have an inventory of assets before this could be started. AG & GB would liaise when the inventory was completed.

Date of next meeting: 3rd April at the home of Richard Ellis, 4 Sawyers Close, Wraxall BS48 1LY

Meeting closed at 21.28 hrs.