

North Somerset Bee Keepers



Minutes of committee meeting held on
10th September 2018 in the Dungeon, The George Inn, Backwell

1.0 Present

- Annabel Lewis
- David Capon
- Rob Frances
- Rob Williams
- Stan Wroe
- Jenny Wakenshaw
- Janet McCulloch
- Heather Pitch
- Richard Ellis
- Adrian Wells

Apologies were received from Garry Packer, John Banks, Paddy Brading. Later from David Welham

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting accepted after amendment of minor typing errors

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 Action: Arrange for payment of profits to David Barrett. AL/RE

AL contacted David and he will speak to his Finance people. RE reported income of £375 and expenditure £45, therefore £330 will be paid to DB. DB's aim is to develop a teaching apiary for veterinary students in a new space possibly involving our branch.

3.2 Action: An article and photos to be submitted to North Somerset Times and Mendip Times. AL

Completed. The article was published in the Mendip Times.

HP also shared an article from the Mendip Times which included a contact email address for beginners.

HP also shared an article from the Mendip Times.

4.0 Chair's report

Action: Inform Shirley Stevens of the committee's intention to award her Honorary Member. GP

No update from GP so JM will follow this up again with GP

4.1 Communications Officer

No responses from newsletter calls for interest. Could discuss at AGM. It was suggested that Eric Sortwell may be interested.

Action: Speak to ES. AL

5.0 Treasurer's report

Action: Signatories to set up own access. RE, SW

This is in progress

SW

Action: Chase up £10 uncashed cheque with a North Somerset member.

The cheque has still not been cashed and is only legally valid for 6 months. If not cashed soon it will be assumed to be a donation to the branch.

RE emphasised that the finance papers submitted to the committee by email are for the committee's eyes only at this stage, due to the detailed sensitive nature of members payments

We have £14,178 in the bank; some items will be coming in e.g. advance payments for training and purchase scheme.

Gift aid refund has been received from Avon £391.27. Much reduced to previous years as many members had not updated gift aid forms. We need to encourage more members to sign up.

RE is attending a meeting tomorrow night with other ABKA treasurers and will raise this.

About £1200 is still outstanding from the purchase scheme. RE will follow up with JB and he will chase them up.

6.0 Membership secretary update

No updates from BBKA on GDPR and the proposed facility to join up directly online.

7.0 Secretary's report

Action: Include items on committee members in future newsletters as agreed. JM

Completed

Action: Seek clarification of the long service awards process from Avon and BBKA. JM

In progress

Action: Re nominate Reg and Clive. AL/JM

Action: Discuss minimum communication needs and process. SW/JM.

Not yet completed

Action: Consider setting up a group to agree contents of a potential welcome pack. SW/JM.

Not yet completed

Action: Update text of constitution with current date. JM.

Not yet completed

7.1 AGM - pre-meeting.

It was agreed that the committee will hold a pre-AGM meeting on 9th October. Draft reports to be submitted to JM by 5th October.

Action: Book the Dungeon for 9th October. AL

Action: Submit draft AGM reports to JM by 5th October. All officers

8.0 Apiary Manager's report - Report from David Capon

Action: Ask Solar Sense if they would be interested in selling a small package of land. DC

Action: If Solar Sense agree to selling a piece of land, establish a small working group to consider pros and cons of purchase. DC

The action to ask Solarsense about buying a piece of land was from a couple of meetings ago and DC observed that: due to the mess they are making in our old site, which we would have to pass through; and the proximity of the development land for sale, he considered buying this piece of land would be a bad move and therefore one we should not consider.

Possible action points are to consider opening negotiations with Low Carbon Gordano, with a view to moving to the far side of the solar panels, or to look for another piece of land, which we spent a great deal of time doing 7 or 8 years ago.

The apiary is progressing fairly well, there is a small conscientious group of new beekeepers. However, generally the Solar Sense site is a shambles because of the developments and changes Solar Sense are making. They are selling off part of the land for 2 luxury houses, demolishing kennels and putting rubbish in the old apiary site.

It is an opportunity to explore our future options, e.g. buying some land from Solar Sense or buying a different piece of land, alternatively negotiate with Low Carbon Gordano to site hives near solar panels. An article in latest BBKA News suggests solar panels have no effect on bees.

If exploring purchase of new land, discuss with Rob Cleeve. It may be possible to rent a piece of land from a farmer or someone with an orchard. This will be a longer term project possibly taken forward by the new Apiary Manager.

Action: Share article on effects of solar panels on bees with committee members. HP.

Action: Discuss possibility of purchasing new land with Rob Cleeve and the membership. Apiary Manager.

9.0 Programme Manager's report

Action: Finalise the programme for 2019. RW.

RW outlined some potential highlights for next week's programme. There will be a visit to the Basterfields in June. Bee Safari with Meg possibly in May - awaiting Meg's response. Cooking with honey, including tasting products. Guidance on dealing with wax - JW volunteered to lead on this. Bees and teas, small groups visiting other members apiaries: this suggestion was posted on Facebook request for interest. Reactions to stings. Francis Ratnick has been invited to talk on his research on best ways to manage varroa - possibly for next AGM. Possibly Ivor Davis - to choose own subject (AGM possibility). Honey used in medicine - JW to send name to RW. Stephen Brain will deliver a session "kickstarting your bees in February or early March.

Action: Put information on bees and teas in the newsletter - RW

Action: Liaise with RW re dealing with wax. JW.

Action: Send RW name of someone who can speak on medicinal uses of honey.
JW

Action: Finalise the 2019 programme. RW

10.0 Education Co-ordinator's report

Action: Report back on Bristol bee and equipment auction. RF.

RF had discussed this with Penny Thorne who organises the Bristol auction. Several options were identified including: online auctions, face to face auctions or join the Gloucester auction. It was suggested it might be worth asking the membership.

Action: Article on auction options in the next newsletter. RF

Action: Establish a working group to revise the courses and consider reviewing course content, materials and costs. RF, PB.

Questionnaires have been sent out with some responses including suggestions for improvement.

Action: Discuss any further changes in development with Anne Rowberry.

Action: RF, AL to take forward.

Not much response on module one but will try to drum up more interest. It would be useful to promote module one at the end of the basic course.

A group studying module six (bee behaviour) is being established.

11.0 Swarm Liaison report

Action: Copy enquiries into AW personal WhatsApp account. JM.
Completed.

Nothing to report, very few swarms reported.

BBKA changed their swarm collection system this year but it is not clear if it made much difference.

The branch needs to review the website to make it clear to the public how to get help on swarms.

Action: Consider required changes to website on swarm collection. JB, AL, JM

12.0 ABKA Rep's report - DW not present

13.0 Web-Master's report

RW had contacted UWE regarding a student group. If we are selected as a project, the students will want to interview members of the committee.

14.0 Shows 2018

Action: Send formal thanks to all show coordinators. GP Not present.

Action: Follow up with GP. JM

Action: Also thank volunteers PB, JB and JW. GP

Action: Email members a reminder to volunteer for Portishead Show. JM.
Completed.

Action: Thanks to Tony Slater for drumming up entries for Portishead Show. GP
DC reported that the Portishead Show Committee need to make entries from outside Portishead easier.

AW reported that the Winscombe show system worked well. The new show jackets were available in two sizes.

Action: Draft an article for Mendip Times, including photos and list of prize winners. HP.

Action: Gift voucher to winners of Portishead show.

15.0 Members without portfolio

Action: Submit article on forthcoming events to JM. JW.

It was agreed this would continue, though it is a much quieter time of year.

16.0 Any other business

Action: Make offer to send members of the queen rearing group to conference. RF.

Offer made and taken up.

JW attended and was asked to give a presentation to the bee improvement group.

Action: Write information on the Winscombe Honey Show to go in newsletter. AW. Completed.

Action: Send JW's information on tabard design with the draft minutes. JM. Completed

Action: Arrange purchase of the tabards. JW. Completed.

16.1 Purchase of new extractors. JM

Extractors are in poor condition. It was reported that the Maisemore sale is on. RE noted that income from extractors is down on previous years.

Action: Discuss demand for extractors and need for replacement with Sheila James. AL

16.2 JW - Requested there is a change of recipe for cakes and biscuits at the shows. The Bristol show cake recipe was reported as being simple to bake.

Action: Send recipe to DC. JW

16.3 Request to have mead class. DC agreed to consider

16.4 AW - Wax entry at Winscombe Michaelmas Fair

16.5 Christmas party is timetabled for 1st December. Not clear if the venue is booked. AL cannot attend this year so will ask GP to tell the joke.

Action: ask JB if the Christmas Party venue has been booked. JM

17.0 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM pre-meeting on 9th October at 19:30 at the dungeon, The George Inn, Backwell.

This will be followed by the AGM to be held on Saturday 17th November 2018 at 14:00 at Churchill War Memorial Hall.