

North Somerset Beekeepers



(Draft) Minutes of Committee meeting held on 12th April 2021 at 19:30 via Zoom

Present: A Lewis, D Capon, J McCulloch, H Pitch, D Welham, T Slater, R Williams, J Moger, E Sortwell,

Apologies: G Packer

1.0 Minutes of meeting held on 8th Feb were approved

2.0 Matters arising: Heather asked if Annabel had spoken to Janet McCulloch about understudying the role of membership secretary. Annabel said she had, but that Janet wished to step back from all committee matters for the time being. A general discussion about covering committee roles and the need to recruit new blood onto the committee followed. It was agreed that this was difficult in the absence of face-to-face meetings, but we should be thinking of potential committee members and emailing the membership to sound out potential. It was suggested we form a subcommittee to look at this

3.0 Treasurer: Tony presented the current finances to the committee which showed a current balance of around £4000. The designated funds account, which was set up to fund our new apiary had really served its purpose, and no longer needed to be regarded as ring fenced. The most significant expense since the last meeting was £260 for topsoil to level the apiary site.

4.0 Membership secretary: Current membership is 185; we have 26 local members (these were previously known as associate members, and are members of the branch only and not the BBKA). 19 members of the 2019 Introductory Course were continuing. There are over 20 people who are provisionally signed up for the 2022 Introductory Course, there was some discussion about the possibility of taster days, although the difficulty of beesuits could be an issue. We wondered whether some sort of cage could be used, David would contact Chris Morton to ask what was used at the Bristol Honey Festival.

5.0 Secretary: Nothing new to report

6.0 Apiary Manager: Eric had set out the club hives one per stand, with a spare hive for splits on each stand. Four tons of topsoil had been delivered and spread by a team of volunteers, thanks were expressed to

them. At the moment the dry weather means the soil has not settled very well and the grass was not growing.

7.0 Programme Manager/ Web-Master: Rob has updated the website as requested; there was some discussion about the remainder of the 2021 programme. Although it was agreed that the Zoom sessions had been very successful, it was felt that some face to face meetings would be beneficial when permitted. There was discussion about what we might be able to put on at the apiary, but no firm decision was made on this.

8.0 ABKA Rep: There were no specific points to report back from Avon. It was suggested that we approach Avon for funding for new show display boards, as these could be used by other branches, thus fulfilling Avon's criteria. David to get estimates for these.

10.0 Members without Portfolio: Nothing to report

11.0 Chair: Annabel reported that we had finished the theory part of the Introductory course, and thanked Heather for overseeing the admin of this. The report of foul brood in Brockley lane was in fact Brockley Rd in Keynsham, and not the Brockley lane where we used to have the apiary. Annabel reported that Meg had indicated that she expected there to be more EFB in the area.

12.0 AOB: Tony raised the issue of allrisks insurance for the apiary; the BBKA had stopped offering this and Tony was pursuing other options which were going to be more expensive. It was agreed that insurance was essential. Tony subsequently confirmed that the BBKA insurance covered all third party liability at the apiary.

Heather raised the issue of the need to encourage members to increase their skill levels, and study the BBKA modules, her analysis of the current membership showed a very low level of this. *I can't remember if we agreed any action on this!*

13.0 Date of next meeting 14th June, possibly via Zoom, although we may be able to meet in the flesh by then!