

MINUTES of COMMITTEE MEETING HELD on 17th May 2011
At Withy Acres Churchill

1. Present WBW, DW, Phil C, AG, SW, JW, Peter C, BS
2. Apologies ID
3. Minutes of last Meeting: approved, and duly signed.

4. Matters Arising

The Hon Sec has to still send out an email to the membership requesting any knowledge of applying for grants.

A request has been made on-line to the Co-Op for a grant of £500 for a computer and projector.

The branch gift aid form is sent to all new members.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the web site is progressing well and will be updated on a monthly basis.

6. Hon Treasurer's Report

Sally reported that we currently have 148 members but still have people applying to join. BC&D has shown the biggest increase in membership in ABKA.

We have received in excess of £4000 but after paying out capitation etc we will have approximately £2787 in the account.

Sally stressed the need for members to put in claims even if they do not intend to take the money, as this helps with future costings and formalising the accounts.

It was reported that this year's basic/novices' course made a loss and future costings must be examined, to ensure we at least break even.

Action All

With regard to the coming 2012 Beginners' Course it was decided to pay expenses at £4 per session rather than a blanket £40

Action DW

6. Hon Sec's Report

The Sec reported on communications received from BBKA re Swarm Liaison and on the new BBKA web site. Jon's name has been put forward as branch liaison officer.

The BBKA had also asked for information regarding training apiaries that could be used for "training the trainers" After speaking to ABKA it was concluded that Bath's new apiary might be appropriate.

The Hon Sec reported that the two microscopes donated to the branch by Gill Simms were sold at Clevedon auction for £15 each. We will now purchase a cup for the Portishead Show.

Action WBW

7. Apiary Manager's Report

Phil reported that he has 8 nucs at Cleeve and 6 or 7 at Kenn. He is also building another 5 nucs that will belong to SB/Phil C.

It was agreed that all members keeping bees at Langford must have their names and contact details kept in the hive on an index card and recorded by the apiary manager.

Action Phil C/AG

8. Swarm Liaison Officer's Report

Jon reported that in April he had two honey bee call outs and had passed calls to Somerset and Bath. In May he had seven honey bee call outs plus three passed to Taunton and one to Bristol, also four bumble bees one solitary bee and one mason bee reports.

Jon will be on holiday at the end of May/first week of June and it was decided that we would ask SB if he would accept the "bee line" for this period.

Action JW

9. Programme Manager's Report

We have held two meetings so far and both were well attended.

The next meeting is at the Peat Centre on Saturday 21st May

The Chair asked that next year's plan be considered now. It was noted that certain dates are unavailable due to various shows held annually.

We must find a replacement for the proposed meeting in October at Graham Haverson's house. Amanda & John Banks or Gail & Gerry Scott-Wilson were suggested.

Action Peter C

Phil is to obtain a menu and cost for the Christmas Meal so that it can be put in the news letter and on the web site.

Action Phil C

Bob raised the question of the North Somerset Show and agreed to find out the cost of attending.

Action BS

10. Education

In the absence of ID there was no report. After discussion regarding the length of the Beginners' Course and the content of each session, it was agreed to hold a discussion with ID

Action DW

11. Avon Delegate's Report

There will be an exec meeting on Wednesday 18th May. Phil was actioned to ask for a grant from ABKA towards a lap top and projector to enable us to run the Beginners' Course. It was noted that so far this year we have paid ABKA £600 capitation

Action Phil C

12. AOB

Discussion took place re the purchase of a microscope and it was decided that an extractor might be more useful to the branch. It was agreed to wait to see what demand we had this year for use of the extractor before proceeding with any purchase. However, £500 would be set aside for this from branch funds.

Action SW

DW & WBW now have business cards giving contact details for the branch. Following the last-minute move of our last meeting from Wrington to Langford discussion took place regarding the current apiary sites. It was decided that we would contact Wheatfields in Churchill to see what they can offer us. **Action DW**

Bristol Water was considered as another possibility Jon & Sally will follow up.

Action SW/JW

Phil said he has hive tools ex George Simms which he will sell for £3 each. Phil will also remind Marie that she owes £15 for the smoker ex G.S. These amounts will be added to the George Simms Cup. **Action Phil C/AG**

It was confirmed that the Avon AGM will be on the 17th March 2012. The Chair has booked Shipham Village Hall. Discussion took place about the catering for the AGM and it was agreed that this should be given to an external caterer for provision of sandwiches, etc., as the ABKA gives money to the branch for expenses. It was decided that branch members should also be asked to contribute some cakes.

Bob suggested a possible speaker from Bristol University Bee Research & will follow this up.

Action BS

It was agreed to try and co-opt more members onto the committee.

Action DW

Jon agreed to send to all committee members his expenses sheet as a PDF file.

Action JW

Date of next meeting 12/7/11, the venue will be Peter Carter's House Banwell.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.50.