

North Somerset Beekeepers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on 9th September 2019 at the George Inn, Backwell

1.0 Welcome and apologies were received from Garry Packer, Paddy Brading

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting accepted with minor changes

3.0 Matters arising

4.0 Chair's report

4.1 Action: Ask about the future of the next queen rearing group at the next meeting: Is there interest in continuing the queen rearing group? Of those interested, is there a volunteer to lead it? TS

Not yet completed

4.2 Update on successors for retiring officers - AL

No action as yet. Some interest in Secretary and education role. AL to update via email.

Jodi Moger has also expressed interest in joining as member without portfolio. JM volunteered to act as Communication Officer and Deputy for the Membership Secretary.

5.0 Treasurer's report

Payments are coming in mainly for essential purchase scheme; we need a final account from JB. Income of £678.39 from gift aid receipts is double last year. Two mystery deposits from Nailsea, probably from JB. We are going to set up a designated account for large expenditure, e.g. new apiary, as requested by Avon and the Charity Commission.

6.0 Membership secretary update

6.1 Action: Consider an appropriate deputy for HP. All.

JM agreed to act as Deputy.

We currently have 174 active members, 20 have upgraded since 8th July. eR2 has the facility for members to renew membership online. HP will do a dummy run first. Encouraging BACS for payment. For those that can't do it online, HP has drafted the renewal form.

The Membership Renewal Form was approved by the committee.

7.0 Secretary's report

7.1 Action: Order a T-shirts, sweatshirts and caps in a limited range of sizes to be held at the apiary. JM.

Lucy Joy is managing the garments at the apiary. JM asked if we should continue to offer a limited range at the apiary. It was agreed that we should keep a small stock and possibly NSBK badges that can be sown onto beesuits and garments.

Action: Ask Monsoon if there can be individual purchase and how long discounted prices will continue. Also if they can provide badges. JM

- 7.2 Action: Inform committee of uploaded documents. JM. Ongoing.
- 7.3 Action: Order 300 badges from the cheapest provider. JM. In hand

8.0 Apiary Manager's report

- 8.1 Action: Update on apiary development with Langford team. AL and ES (attached papers x2)

We are waiting for the contract to be signed. There was a productive meeting and positive response to building a shed. ES presented his paper. The shed will have a pitched metal roof with guttering. We're keeping the old shed at SolarSense for the show equipment.

Langford will provide 6 visitor passes for use out of hours 24/7. We need to agree how these are managed, though everyone will need to report to security. JW suggested we might need space to demonstrate specific techniques, e.g. queen rearing. There are some disused buildings that could be used for various purposes. It is not clear if we would be able to incinerate on site.

Total costs less than £5000. DW suggested we let Avon know we are planning to spend this amount. The committee approved ES to action his proposals.

Action: Share cost of fencing with the committee. ES

Action: Purchase hedges from Chew Valley. ES

Action: Purchase shed from Avril's Fencing. ES

Action: Check if we can incinerate onsite. ES/AL

Action: Inform Anne Rowberry, Brian Stedman and Graham Barsby of the expenditure. AL

Action: Invite AR to visit the site, possibly at an opening event.

An apiary maintenance session was held earlier in the year. ES suggested this is added to the introductory course. A successful honey extraction session was held in Kenn. Some 8oz jars have been bottled as gifts.

Action: Inform AS of intention to add half day apiary maintenance session to the course.

ES reported that many people on the rota didn't turn up and a few regulars have been depended upon. We need more discipline next year.

Action: Prepare rota for next year. ES

- 8.2 Action: AL requested that if members of the committee become aware of rumours around any of our projects, this is raised with the relevant lead on the committee as soon as possible to dispel or investigate the rumours. All

9.0 Programme Manager's report

RW suggested that we should review this year's programme; attendance has dropped off. Were the topics relevant and of interest? It was suggested a group meets to consider this.

RW is developing next year's programme, possibly: a trip to Buckfast Abbey which will include a lesson in the afternoon; coordinate attending conferences; ask JL to demonstrate extraction equipment and production line; importance of

drones; Ken Basterfield (possibly at AGM). Professor Ratnicks is coming to the AGM on management of varroa.

Action: Develop a questionnaire on this year's programme to be sent to all members. Then convene a sub-group of varied members to consider activities for next year. RW

10.0 Education Co-ordinator's report Paddy Brading not in attendance

10.1 Action: Follow up with Andy Scarisbrick on updating the intro course form - AL Completed.

11.0 Swarm Liaison report - Adrian not in attendance

Action: Discuss future arrangements with AW - AL

12.0 ABKA Rep's report - See attached report from South West Beekeepers Forum

Predominantly Asian Hornet discussed.

13.0 Web-Master's report

13.1 Action: Contact Steve Robinson. RW. Completed

13.2 Action: Contact other webmasters re sharing website resources and set up a meeting. RW. Has tried unsuccessfully.

13.3 Action: Email JB if out of date documents etc on the website are identified. All

13.4 Future of website: Closer collaboration with Avon or move towards full autonomy

No other branches seem to be interested in having a single website. AR had suggested that Keynsham and WSM may be interested as they are small branches and don't have active websites currently.

Action: Progress with our own website. RW

14.0 Shows 2019

14.1 Action: Ask AW if he is leading on the Winscombe Show. AL. Completed.

15.0 Members without portfolio

15.1 Action: Show rendered wax to members at the branch apiary and send photo to JM. JW. Completed

15.2 Action: Include an article and photo in the newsletter. JM/JW. Completed.

15.3 Workshop on uses of wax - Sue Braunton - possibly wax wraps and competition blocks. JW/RW

Action: Contact SB to ask if she will be happy to deliver a session. JW

Action: Contact David Capon to ask if he is willing to deliver the session on competition wax. RW

15.4 JW suggested some female members might benefit from some help to increase their knowledge and confidence.

Action: Meet to discuss the issue and agree a way forward. JW, AL, HP

16.0 Any other business

- 16.1 Action: Ask Andy Scarisbrick if anyone has signed up for the January course and invite to attend a taster session. JM Not yet completed, but a little late in the year now.
- 16.2 Action: Approach Jamie Llewelyn regarding using his facilities for a honey extracting session. ES. Completed
- 16.3 Action: Email to all members about sponsorship to attend a Queen Rearing Course – first come first served, fees only JM. One member attended a course but didn't want reimbursement.
- 16.4 Action: Consider numbers needed to prepare ambrosia and fondant and invite volunteers. JB. Completed.

16.5 Asian Hornet week 9th September - JM

Action: Raise awareness at apiary. ES.

16.6 Encouraging BBKA modules

RW suggested we should encourage members to study for BBKA modules.

Action: Include an article on this in the newsletter. RW/JM

16.7 Extractors - ES

ES considered that they are not all in a good condition. RW had made some improvements to a plastic extractor. The metal extractor seemed to be in good condition. It was suggested we need to buy another in stainless steel. Perhaps they need a service at the end each year.

Action: Speak to Sheila James. Replace the white plastic extractor with a stainless steel one. AL

Action: Ask Sheila about use and payment. AL

Action: Service extracts annually. RW

17.0 Dates of next meetings

- Monday October 7 – Pre-AGM meeting.
- Monday December 2nd