

# North Somerset Beekeepers



## Minutes of committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### 1.0 Welcome

- Tony Slater
- Eric Sortwell
- Heather Pitch
- John Banks
- Annabel Lewis
- Janet McCulloch
- Jenny Wakenshaw

**Apologies were received from Garry Packer, Paddy Brading, Rob Williams and David Welham**

**2.0 Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.**

### 3.0 Matters arising

#### 4.0 Chair's report

4.1 Action: Update on possibility of developing nucs for member. TS and ES

ES reported that one split from the apiary was sold to a new member. All new members now have colonies obtained from various sources. For next year JW may be able to supply some nucs to members.

TS considered that obtaining nucs from various sources would be more achievable than via the queen rearing group.

There was discussion as to whether there was a future for a queen rearing group.

**Action: Ask at the next queen rearing group: TS**

- **Is there interest in continuing the queen rearing group?**
- **Of those interested, is there a volunteer to lead it?**

4.2 End of terms of office in 2019

- Garry Packer - Has five years term of office, which expired in 2021
- Annabel Lewis - Prepared to do a further three years - committee accepted her offer
- Janet McCulloch - David Capon has expressed interest in secretary.
- Adrian Wells - AL to discuss with AW

### 5.0 Treasurer's report

5.1 Action: Send Sandra Slater's North Somerset show update. May need an extra marquee. JM. Completed

TS tabled his report - £14,631.10 in the bank. The visit to Blackberry Honey Farm was subsidised as there were fewer attendees than expected.

### 6.0 Membership secretary update

6.1 Action: Consider an appropriate deputy for HP. All. No action as yet

We currently have 171 active members, with 13 new members or upgraded recently.

## **7.0 Secretary's report**

7.1 Action: Forward welcome pack to all for comment JM Completed

7.2 Send email address on ABKA Secretary to HP to comment on Constitution. JM Completed

7.3 Action: Advertise branded garments on the website. JM and JB.

There had been no requests for items. ES reported that items may be ordered if a small range of products was held at the apiary.

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

7.4 Action: Update on cloud provider, e.g. Google Drive. JM.

JM asked if members of the committee want access to folders. There wasn't great support for this, but it was felt it would be helpful to know what documents were being uploaded so a decision could be taken on a case by case basis.

**Action: Inform committee of uploaded documents. JM**

7.5 Action: Order badges from the cheaper provider. JM.

This action is still outstanding. It was agreed that 300 badges would be ordered and made available at AGM and apiary.

## **8.0 Apiary Manager's report**

8.1 Action: Follow up potential apiary development with Langford team. AL

NSBK has submitted a proposal to the university, which was sent to the university legal team. Yesterday they confirmed they can proceed with an onsite apiary, largely in line with our proposal - insurance, public liability, fencing, shed - the only concern is access to the apiary as they require advance notice to the school and security. A small group will need security passes but we need to have wider access on Sundays.

Solicitors are drawing up a contract, which will be shared with the committee. We will ask a member with a legal background to review it too.

We are keen to start work as soon as possible; the process will be managed by a small group.

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

8.2 Action: Explore potential for a quarantine apiary. AL See 11.1

8.3 Action: Talk to new beekeepers to find out their needs for colonies. ES Completed

ES reported that the apiary sessions are going well, with lot of attendees on Sundays.

## **9.0 Programme Manager's report - RW not present**

The Bee safari was moved to Sunday and the timetable revised to make travelling between sites more efficient.

## **10.0 Education Co-ordinator's report**

10.1 Action: Ask Avon Treasurer or Secretary for funding for projector and screen. TS. Completed

10.2 Action: Ask members is any interested in supporting PB and doing some school visits. JM

Mike Batchelor has volunteered.

PB left message that cards are being printed and more pamphlets will be printed. Not sure where the introductory course will be held which is holding up printing.

**Action: Follow up with Andy Scarisbrick where we are with the intro course form - AL**

## **11.0 Swarm Liaison report**

11.1 Action: Ask David Hounsell if his land could be used as a quarantine apiary. JM

ES has visited DH's site. The piece of land will be for sale. In the meantime, it can be used if needed.

## **12.0 ABKA Rep's report - DW not present**

12.1 Action: Publicise the availability of Trappit in the newsletter. JM. Completed and some members have taken a supply.

## **13.0 Web-Master's report - RW not present**

13.1 Action: Send Steve Robinson's email address to RW. JM. Completed.

13.2 Action: Contact Steve Robinson. RW

13.3 Action: Contact other webmasters re sharing website resources and set up a meeting. RW

13.4 Action: mention in newsletter the need to access website via link or domain name cannot be googled. JM. Completed.

ES reported that some pages and documents on the website are out of date.

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

JB reported that we have essential items £2700 worth of orders, which is down on last year. Orders will be closed today.

## **14.0 Shows 2019**

14.1 Action: Accept David Hounsell's offer of the observation hive on behalf of the committee. JM ES reported that he has collected the hive and it is at the apiary.

There was a question as to whether AW leading on the Winscombe show this year.

**Action: Cask AW if he is leading on the Winscombe Show. AL**

## **15.0 Members without portfolio**

15.1 Action: Repeat information re wax collection in the newsletter. JM

JW reported that no wax had been received to date. She feels that members are unaware of the value of rendered wax. JW has rendered wax from the bailey

frame change and she will be bring the wax to the apiary to show members, in order to encourage them to recycle. JM suggested that a photo and short article could be included in the newsletter.

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

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

## **16.0 Any other business**

16.1 Action: Invite interested members of the public to attend the apiary. If continue to attend the apiary they should join as non-BBKA member. JM. In hand

16.2 Action: See if there are any interested members to take on taster session (theory and practical) with apiary move. Fee £30 JM

JM reported that David Branch and Phil Clemente had expressed interest though hadn't confirmed details. However it was agreed that the apiary visits by interested parties are working well and this will be a viable alternative.

16.3 Action: Ask Andy Scarisbrick if anyone has signed up for the January course and invite to attend a taster session. JM Not yet completed

16.4 Action: New leaflets to be printed in readiness for the shows. PB and AS

It was reported that this is in hand but rather late as the Portishead Show is on a couple of weeks.

16.5 Action: Set aside some honey from the club apiary for future donations to speakers. ES

ES reported that there is quite a bit of honey. He suggested an extraction session is held, focussing on new beekeepers. The honey could be labelled as club honey and some donated to SolarSense. Jamie Llewelyn could be approached to see if his facilities could be used.

**Action: Approach JL regarding using his facilities for a honey extracting session. ES**

16.6 Action: Give some honey to HP who will pass it on to Mark Gompels. DW Completed

16.7 Action: Contact printer to obtain costs and arrange printing. PB Completed

16.8 Sponsorship of members to attend BBKA Queen Rearing course

**Action: Email to all members - first come first served, fees only JM**

16.9 JB reported that the Ambrosia needs to be decanted and fondant cut up and taken to Steve Boardman and will need help over one evening.

**Action: Consider numbers needed and invite volunteers. JB**

16.10 AL reported that Lucy Joy would be interested in joining the committee as a member without portfolio.

## **17.0 Dates of next meetings**

- Monday September 9
- Monday October 7 - Pre-AGM meeting
- Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Please note this additional date**