

North Somerset Beekeepers



Minutes of Committee meeting held on 7th Sept 2020 at 19:30 via Zoom

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

1.0 Minutes of meeting held on 15th June were approved

2.0 Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the previous meeting

3.0 Treasurer: The current balance stands at around £4,700; this is the lowest it has been for several years, but we have now completed all major purchases associated with the new Langford Apiary. Most recent purchase was a storage shed for the show equipment approx. £1,200. We have recovered approximately £1,000 in gift aid.

4.0 Membership secretary: Current membership stands at 201, we have gained 3 new members since the last meeting on 15th June. There are 37 non BBKA members, including 31 from the Introductory course. It was agreed to continue the Branch membership without charge for those who wished to continue the course when it resumes. We have a number of people interested in starting, but we are stalling on these until we have a clearer picture of how we can progress with training

5.0 Secretary: The shed for storing show equipment has been erected at Eric's apiary site. David has had an enquiry about selling bees through the club, it was agreed this is not recommended at the moment and David will produce some guidelines.

6.0 Apiary Manager: We have 10 colonies on the apiary, and all have benefited from a respite from constant inspection by trainees. 22 people have visited the apiary, mostly beginners, following invitations sent out earlier. Meg Seymour had health checked and all colonies were sound. She advised that ideally we should run the apiary as a closed apiary and raise all new stock on site, it was felt that we were not in a position to do this yet. Eric thanked all who had helped with inspecting and grass cutting etc.

7.0 Programme Manager/ Webmaster: The website has had some technical issues which meant it was not always possible to update it.

It was agreed that the AGM would take place via Zoom on the agreed date and time (2.00pm Sat 14th Nov). Rob was in contact with Ken Basterfield to deliver the talk.

Planned visits had been postponed for a year, although Buckfast Abbey was not accepting any bookings at the moment. There was some discussion about Zoom talks over the winter. Annabel suggested that these could be delivered at an Avon level with Zoom, and that Rob Francis was keen to develop this; Fran Frappel had been pursuing some promising leads to deliver talks. It was agreed that this was the way to proceed this year. Rob Williams also suggested we could look at Stewart Spinks You Tube videos with a possibility of subscribing to his channel.

8.0 Communication Officer: There had been a disappointing response from the North Somerset Times, despite Janet supplying them with press releases.

The membership questionnaire was looked at in some detail; there had been a disappointing number of responses, but it was agreed we should look at any specific issues raised by it.

9.0 ABKA Rep: It was suggested that the BBKA subs may go up for 2021-22, but not for this November. Avon has agreed to give us a bigger proportion of the gift aid return.

10.0 Members without Portfolio: Nothing raised

11.0 Chair: Update on committee membership; Lucy Joy has decided to take a break from bees, and therefore has resigned as a member without portfolio on the committee. Terms of office ending at the November AGM are Jenny Wakenshaw (without portfolio) and David Welham (Avon rep). Eric indicated that he would be willing to act as Avon rep as he is on the Avon committee. We need to consider possible members to encourage to join the committee for the future.

12.0 AOB: Rob Williams spoke about the possibility of developing closer links with Bristol University, with a view to developing joint research projects, although the committee were unclear how this would work in practice.

Officer reports for the AGM need to be prepared for the next meeting, David requested that they be with him by the end of September.

13.0 Date of next meeting 5th Oct, via Zoom

