

North Somerset Beekeepers



(Draft) Minutes of Committee meeting held on 8th Feb 2021 at 19:30 via Zoom

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

1.0 **Minutes** of meeting held on 7th Dec 2020 were approved

2.0 **Matters arising** - Eric pointed out that the Avon Rep section was missing from the working practices document. David apologised for the omission and would rectify.

3.0 **Treasurer:** Tony had circulated the latest figures prior to the meeting; it showed our current balance at £8.5k, approximately £4k of this would go to Avon and BBKA as their proportion of received subscriptions. We therefore had a balance of approximately £4.5k as a working capital for the year, we have purchased a new mower and strimmer for £830 and there were no other major items of expenditure planned. Tony was confident we had adequate funds to meet ongoing costs.

4.0 **Membership secretary:** Heather reported a current membership of 180, of which 131 were full registered members. There was one junior member. 25 members had left the club, this consisted of 10 from the Introduction course who had decided not to continue, 7 who had informed Heather that for various reasons they were not continuing, and 8 who had failed to respond to reminders to renew. It was felt that these people should be charged a joining fee if they subsequently wished to re-join. The committee expressed its thanks to Heather for her work in chasing up membership renewals.

5.0 **Secretary:** David reported some progress on the Working Practices document, and thanked people for their contributions. Tony made the point that, in completing his section, he had become aware of the need to have understudies for certain key roles in case anyone was incapacitated at short notice. His and Heather's roles were two where it was felt that there should be someone else with a full working knowledge. (Not sure if we agreed any action on this?)

6.0 **Apiary Manager:** Eric reported that this was a naturally quiet time at the apiary. All colonies had been treated with oxalic acid; there were currently 9 colonies. A new mower and strimmer had been purchased and the current grass cutting team were continuing next season. Both the shed at the apiary and the show storage shed at Wraxall were in

good condition, but would need a fresh coat of preservative in the spring, we also needed to address the issue of the dip in the ground at the apiary as soon as conditions allowed.

7.0 Programme Manager/ Webmaster: Rob reported that very little had been confirmed regarding the programme for 2021 for obvious reasons. He wondered if we could find a better way of giving more notice of upcoming talks, and also raise awareness of Somerset ones (Secretary's comment: I could send out a link to the Somerset webpage advertising these). He also questioned whether it would be to our advantage to use Eventbrite to handle the organisation of Avon's online talks.

He noted that running the website jointly with John Banks had worked well, and was concerned that as sole operator he did not, by default, also become editor. Eric said he would approach a couple of people who he felt had the necessary skills to assist Rob with the website.

8.0 Communication Officer: Janet was not at the meeting. Annabel reported that Janet had contacted her and had decided to step down from the committee. It was felt that at this stage we did not need to look for a direct replacement. There was some discussion about the Branch newsletter, it was generally felt that his was a useful way of communicating, although whether we produced our own, or had a page in the Avon newsletter was something to consider. It was felt that Rob Francis had greatly improved the quality of the Avon newsletter. Annabel would discuss this with Rob F and Janet.

9.0 ABKA Rep: Eric came armed with lengthy minutes from Avon. There are currently about 520 members in Avon, they currently have a balance of about £13k. There followed a general discussion about fund raising and distribution. It was agreed to find out from Avon how we should go about requesting funds from them. It was also agreed to dedicate a meeting, probably July, to the issue of fund raising and how we use funds to fulfil our charitable objectives.

10.0 Members without Portfolio: None present

11.0 Chair: Annabel raised the issue of completing the Introductory course, she had contacted Andy Scarisbrick, but needed to finalise things with him. It was agreed, that if ok with Andy, we would complete the 5 planned theory sessions on consecutive Thursday evenings starting at the beginning of March. Heather agreed to act as Zoom 'host'.

12.0 AOB: David reported that the Portishead show committee was hoping to hold the show at the end of July. He would book our stand.

13.0 Date of next meeting 12th April, probably via Zoom

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

D Capon