

## Medway and County Kent Beekeepers' Association

### Minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 February 2017 at 2pm at Wainscott Memorial Hall

Members attending – see attached list

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman, John Chapman, welcomed everybody to the meeting.  
He noted that our President Richard Andrews had taken the chair for what would be the last time as he had announced that he would be standing down at this meeting. He thanked Richard (Dickie) for his service to the Association and to beekeeping over many years.  
After the meeting there would be refreshments and a report to update everyone on the situation at the Association apiary.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Mark Ballard, Juan Carlos Chia, Jen Ferry, Bob Smith, Roma BeasleyMartin, John Potter, Tony Edwards, John Stunell, Kay Wreford, Mark Whyler, and Peter Griffiths.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2016:** were taken as read and signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Acceptance of the minutes:** was proposed by Paul Lawrence, seconded by Elaine Laight. The proposal was carried by majority.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes held on 20 February 2016:**
  - There were no matters arising which were not covered by the agenda
6. **Annual Report:** The annual report had been sent out to members before the meeting covering Education and examinations, the Annual Delegates Meeting, Apiary Report, the Website, and proposed constitution for approval by the meeting.  
Terry Clare expressed concern that the new fence had cost a great deal of money and he felt that it could have been done 'in house'. The new fence was a great improvement on the old one which had blown down in a winter storm.  
Terry also enquired about the insurance status at the apiary, John Hendrie was not aware of any insurance and agreed to look into it for 10 colonies.  
On the Education report Terry Clare apologised for omitting the seven students who were studying modules.  
On the website Paul Lawrence confirmed that there would be at least one other person with access to the website now that it was up and running.
7. **The Constitution:** The constitution had been revised and the comments from the meeting last year had been included. Questions were posed about changing the word Federation to Association, mention should be made of Vice Presidents and there should be clarification on eligibility of types of membership. Clarification was made by John Hendrie that the rights of all members with regard to voting was the responsibility of the meeting. There is no legal requirement to follow the BBKA procedures, it is for the membership to make the decision.  
Associate Membership of MBKA does not carry insurance so it is expected that those

members will either not have bees or will be a full member of another association. Full members will have insurance including bee disease insurance.

A request had been made for Junior membership and it was suggested that agreement should be made in principle with the understanding that the committee would make it fit.

Derek May **proposed** that we accept the constitution as it is and agree that amendments be brought to the next AGM for inclusion.

**Seconder** Diane Wakeling

**Carried unanimously**

8. **Treasurers Report:** John Hendrie presented the audited accounts for the year ending December 2016 to the meeting. Donations were up by about £180 having received a donation of £100 from Ken Beevor and other smaller donations. John had received a request for a partner member this is where a member requires insurance for a partner to handle bees. BBKA charge £12.50. We charged £14 and kept £1.50. The annual dinner showed a surplus of £48. Grants from the English Festival show grants for two years at £60 pa. The swarm control arrangement with Medway Council has come to an end so we will not receive the usual £600. Set up of the website cost £415 and there will be maintenance costs throughout the year.

**Derek May** noted that GAA membership had not been paid. This had not been requested and Sheila was chasing this.

**Mike Tomkins** proposed that the finance report was accepted

**Terry Clare** seconded the proposal

**The report was accepted unanimously by the meeting**

9. **Membership and Subscriptions:** John Hendrie reported that the BBKA had made a surplus on the year of £55k and had no reason to increase the capitation fee so there would be no increase to pass on. It is unlikely that BDI will increase so he proposed the membership subscription would remain at £30 for full membership and £10 for associate membership

**Proposer:** John Hendrie **Seconder:** Terry Clare

**Carried unanimously**

There were 30 members who had not paid subscriptions so far. This year, for the first time, notification had been sent out electronically and may not have been picked up. Reminders were being sent.

10. **Election of the President:** following the retirement of Richard Andrews, Richard (Pip) Blaxland was nominated for the post of President for the next three years.

**Proposer:** John Chapman

**Seconder:** Derek May

**Carried unanimously**

On assuming the Presidency Richard Blaxland took the chair and thanked the outgoing President for his support over the last 70 years or so. He hoped to see Richard at future meetings and events and at our Annual Dinner.

11. **Election of Committee:**

**Proposition:** that the officers and committee be re-elected for a further year

**Proposer:** Terry Clare **Seconder:** Mike Tomkins **Carried unanimously.**

John Chapman expressed the thanks of the association to Ray Cass for his work on the apiary site in cutting the grass and keeping it neat.

**12. Approval of Officers' Honoraria for 2017: .**

**Proposition:** that the Secretary and Treasurer each be awarded an honorarium of £150 website manager be awarded an honorarium of £225 (including postage for regular newsletters) and that the Independent examiner be given £25.00

**Proposer:** Terry Clare    **Seconder:** Rob Frost

**Carried by a show of hands.**

**13. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Mrs Maggie Halls had been invited and had agreed to serve for a further year as the Independent Examiner of our accounts. Thanks were expressed for her good work in this area.

**Proposer :** Derek May

**Seconder :** Paul Lawrence

**Carried by a show of hands**

**14. Any other business:** There had been no other business notified to the Secretary.

**15. Chairman's Closing:** The Chairman thanked the members for attending and joining in the discussion. Especial thanks were given to those members who had supported the Association with attendance to public events which meet with our objectives of raising public awareness about bees.

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to John Hendrie for his sterling work as Treasurer, and for shepherding our funds with such success. Thanks to all the members of the committee who have given so generously of their time throughout the year. Particular thanks to Paul Lawrence for wrestling the website into shape over the past year. Thanks also to Sheila Stunell for her tireless efforts as Secretary and for organising the refreshments for this meeting.

**16. Date of next meeting:** Saturday 17 February 2017

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDWAY AND COUNTY KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

**Apologies for absence 18 February 2017**

Mark Ballard

Juan Carlos Chia

Jen Ferry

Bob Smith

Roma BeaselyMartin

John Potter

Kay Wreford

Tony Edwards

John Stunell

Mark Whyler

Peter Griffiths