

Medway Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 18 September 2018

at 7 South Avenue 2pm

<p>Present: John Chapman, Jen Ferry, Paul Lawrence, Elaine Laight, Mark Ballard, Tony Edwards Apologies: John Hendrie, Sheila Stunell, Bob Smith.</p> <p>1. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2018: Were signed as a true record of the meeting</p> <p>2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2018:</p> <p>3. National Grid. Sheila & Jen visited national Grid at the invitation of Dave Green the Pest Control Contractor. We met with a team of 8 managers & staff who were all keen to be involved with having hives on the site An outline of commitment, training & costs were given and the team were optimistic and enthusiastic. There preference is for a two day in house course mid week, for up to 12 people. Costs to be agreed but they have a training room available on site. Next steps were for them to pursue with senior management, undertake a Risk Assessment and secure funding and for us to engage Bob for a follow-up visit to discuss training & sites in more detail.</p> <p>Paul raised the issue that we must have capacity to support this course and the mentorship of this group.</p> <p>Bob had raised in an email the question of running a second Introductory course in 2019 as 24 places are booked. Again the issue of our ability to support was discussed. The committee felt that a further Introductory course should not be run if NG goes ahead – due to limited capacity to support new beekeepers. The issue of when to match Mentors to new beekeepers was raised as one member had come to us from London BKA requesting a mentor a year before having bees. It was acknowledged that it did not work well trying to match mentors to beginners at the end of their program. Lack of sites for beginners was also raised. It was felt that this whole topic is so large that the majority of the next committee meeting should be given over to it.</p> <p>4. Finance and Membership: John Hendrie was not present but had informed us that we will continue to use Barclays until the end of the year. It was reported that the finances were good and the income sheet was discussed. <u>Annual Supper</u> . Numbers not high. Cost of room £15/hour, cost of China hire £100. To proceed for this year.</p> <p><u>New Membership form</u>. Need to put new form on website – anyone</p>	<p>Actions</p> <p>Sheila to await contact from NG and arrange FU visit with Bob.</p> <p>Jen to confirm with Bob if he can make the next committee meeting where we will discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of the apiary• Training/courses• Equipment /hives• Mentors• Continuing development for all <p>Jen to check availability of committee room</p> <p>Paul to get new form onto web with new</p>
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<p>joining from 1st Oct gets this year free.</p> <p><u>Beecraft Subscription</u>. No decision was made on this but it was discussed that we should encourage new members to take it to increase their knowledge.</p> <p>5. Correspondence Paul had had correspondence from Neil Byhurst re getting events in Village Voices. Sonia does get items into some of the local publications. Discussed that we need a Publicity Officer on the committee as Paul is now doing this too.</p> <p>6. Discussion on how to deal with corporate agency enquiries The Association has recently had approaches from several different organisations and at present who ever picks this up deals with it. We lack a corporate view and duplicate effort as resources developed for each response/talk are not available to each other. It was agree that we could develop a resource box to share material and start to develop a corporate voice.</p> <p>7. Website/Publicity Certificates for Prize giving were circulated. Poster for Home a Hive and contact sheet done for Ploughing Match – but this needs a named person to take it forward. Members Area on Website discussed. Will cost £150 and be parallel to existing site. It can be started with the new membership list in the New Year.</p> <p>8. Apiary Report – mark Ballard 9 people attended the Autumn Tidy up. Thanks to Sheila for refreshments. Pond was repaired and the shed has since had vents fitted. Shed not beeproof and storing full frames is causing robbing. Rota for winter being written – 2 people/month to look at apiary. Method of recording visits has caused problems and needs reviewing as apiary & emailed notes are cumbersome.</p> <p>9. Future Events: <u>Autumn Fair</u> this would take place on 20 October Jen dealing with this, help requested for refreshments. Sonia to run tombola. A request will go into the Newsletter for plants to sell.</p> <p><u>Annual Supper:</u> Planning in hand Jen, Sheila & Bob (quiz). Individual emails have gone out to all members, but numbers low. All past candidates from this years courses invited to attend by Bob.</p> <p><u>Ploughing Match:</u></p>	<p>bank details.</p> <p>JC to make decision with JH.</p> <p>Paul to coordinate this.</p> <p>Jen to set up a separated meeting to discus this with Jen, Tony, Paul & Elaine. Members not present welcome to join in.</p> <p>All-what do we want in the ‘Members Area’?</p> <p>Paul to follow up with web designer.</p> <p>Jen to purchase plastic boxes to store full frames in.</p> <p>Tony to provide fondant. Mark to administer Oxalic acid.</p> <p>Elaine, Mark & Bob to discuss.</p> <p>Jen to contact those manning tables. Mark & Tony to see if their wives can help. Jen to get piece to Paul for NL</p> <p>All requested to take</p>
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<p>Pitch has been booked.</p> <p><u>Goatham's Packhouse Visit</u>: A change of staff at Gothams has put this on hold at the moment.</p> <p>10. AOB <u>Newsletter</u> to go out 27th October <u>New apiary sites</u> Mark – Buckhole Park – they are looking for a different site for us as first was too noisy but the Scouts not hopeful. Bob – Mockbegger Cricket field – awaiting feedback fro John Myatt <u>Committee Size – John</u> raised that we need more people on the committee. We need to understand what jobs are done. Need someone to organise meetings. Jen stepping down at AGM <u>Supper</u> – Kay will possibly be away in Cornwall.</p> <p><u>Future Meetings</u> - December 15th – Showing Honey & Christmas tea.</p> <p>11. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 20th November <i>at 2pm to 4pm</i> at 28 Wallace Road</p> <p>12. Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>	<p>items for sale. John will take gazebos etc.</p> <p>Tony will pursue.</p> <p>John to look at what jobs are done/needed.</p>
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