

Medway Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 24 April 2018

at 28 Wallace Road Chatham at 2pm

Present: J Chapman, Mrs S Stunell, Mrs J Ferry, M Ballard, J Hendrie Tony Edwards, Paul Lawrence, Bob Smith

Apologies for absence: Mrs E Laight

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2018:** The minutes were accepted as a true record
2. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2018:**
 - Item 2 – ongoing
 - Item 3 – John Hendrie had spoken to Santander and had made an appointment for him, John Chapman and Sheila Stunell to meet with them.
3. **Finance and Membership:** On membership, John Hendrie reported Darragh Skerritt as a new member (upgraded from Junior Member) and Louise Balderston and Peter Griffiths as returning members. The total was 78 registered members. Associate membership had increased by 10 since the last meeting bringing the total to 33. There had been 23 subscriptions to Bee Craft. 18 people have so far signed up for the introductory course with associate membership and 22 members have signed up to visit the vineyard in July. On finance John Hendrie reported on the state of the finances and said that a full income and expenditure report would be ready for the next meeting.
4. **Correspondence:** Sheila Stunell had received a newsletter from Margaret Wilson which she had passed to Paul Lawrence for publication to members.
5. **GDPR:** Under the new legislation organisations such as ours will need to be able to demonstrate legitimate reasons for holding names and details of members. Information including names and addresses should be password protected if sent out electronically. Emails can be sent as Bcc and then names etc are not available to the other recipients. The new legislation has exemptions in three sections, churches, small clubs and associations.
6. **Website:**
 - New logo now on the website.
 - Sonia Belsey updating Facebook from the website, placing adverts in various publications
 - Top bar competition bars are ready to go, delivery by committee members
 - Events list is now up to date
 - Swarm phone went active on 3 April 2018. Number on website
7. **Education:** We are now gearing up for the Introduction Course which has a full quota of 24 people. Jen will be printing the notes and the books have arrived.

For the Basic Course we have 7 names and five applications. Dates for the examinations are 9 and 23 June. We do not have a venue at present. We need a site with three or four Q+ hives on single brood box with supers. The site must have facilities. Any offers gratefully accepted. Tony Edwards offered his site at Nokes Farm and would just need to clear it with owner.

8. **Apiary site:** There had been a low turn out for the clearing but there was not much to do. The area behind the hives still needs to be cleared. Clearing the front part and leaving nettles to grow at the rear near the fence seems the way to go. The pond is now looking excellent with its new wooden surround. The committee expressed its thanks to Mark for the good work that he had put in.

Possible new apiary sites: There are three possible sites Wincanton at Kingsnorth, Blue Lagoon at Halling and Riverside Country Park.

Wincanton: The people here approached us about the introduction course but have struggled with funding and suggested in passing that we might want to use the site. This needs to be followed up on. We might use it as a quarantine site for swarms.

Blue Lagoon: Jen Ferry had the initial contact for this from Andy Mackness. It has gone rather quiet but Bob Smith will follow up.

Riverside County Park: Again, Jen made the first contact with the Manager, Maurice. It does seem to tick all the boxes but vandalism has been an issue and proximity to the public could be an issue. Mark agreed to follow up.

9. **Future events**

Summer programme:

- 2 June – Open Apiary
- 16 June – John Potter’s apiary
- 7 July – Open Apiary
- 14 July – Summer meeting
- 22 July Chapel Down Vineyard
- 4 August - Open apiary
- 8/9th September Honey show
- 22 September Ploughing Match at Tudor Farm
- 13 October – Trophies and Buffet evening
- 20 October – Autumn Fair at Wainscott
- November – Bumble Bee Conservation - Lauren Kennedy
- December – Second hand sale?
There is a proposed visit to Goatham’s Packhouse possibly September/October

10. **Any other business:** Suggestions for an Asian hornet action groups were made and this would be an agenda item next time.

John Hendrie asked if we wanted supplies of foundation

English Festival was good this year weather was good and encouraged lots of people to attend,

Leaflets: do we want an A4 version or even A3?

11. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22 May at 2pm to 4pm** at 28 Wallace Road Chatham

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____