

Medway Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 22 May 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 24 April 2018:** An adjustment was required to the website item the minutes would be presented at a later date for signature
2. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2018:**
 - Item 3 In relation to the new account at Santander Sheila has the paperwork and has the matter in hand.
3. **Finance and Membership:** John Hendrie reported that the membership was now at 79 and associate membership 37. Total income to date is £5806.20. Total expenditure to date is £4487.54 leaving a healthy current situation.
GDPR: John suggested that with the new data protection legislation coming in later in May, we might like to go along the route that Kent have taken in opening a Mail Chimp Account. Paul Lawrence expressed the view that this would create more work in constantly updating yet another forum. He felt that the process of sending emails through Bcc worked well and was secure. The majority agreed with this.
We have a legitimate interest in keeping our members informed and therefore if they have provided their email address, under the new legislation, we can assume consent
4. **Correspondence:** Sheila Stunell had received no correspondence
5. **Website:** A new email address has been set up this is admin@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk This was primarily for the new bank account but Paul felt that enquiries were not being responded to as he had picked up one or two and he is number three on the list. It was agreed that the admin@ would be the address for contact on the website and this would be monitored by Sheila Stunell and forwarded appropriately.
Jen Ferry asked that we record our thanks to Sonia Belsey for her work on Facebook and Instagram. She had made daily posts of interesting information about bees for World Bee Day on 20 May.
It was agreed that we should have a privacy policy which could be kept on the website. John Hendrie suggested that BBKA or KBA would have a copy we could use. Paul agreed to look at these and develop our own. It was suggested that a folder might be created on the website with such policies as we require. Health and Safety and Safeguarding should be included in this folder.
The Apiary rota will also go on the website.
6. **Education:** Bob Smith reported that we had completed three of the six sessions with the fourth happening tonight. Jen and Mark are part of the tutor team, Tony is managing mentoring and Sheila is managing admin. Of the 24 participants, quite a small number will be keeping bees this season. Finding sites could be an issue.
For the winter studies it has been decided to work towards module 2. This would start in October on the usual fortnightly pattern. Discussion

took place on where the 2019 beginners course would fit in. It could be held on the alternate weeks of the winter studies or start for six weeks from March as the winter studies finished. Bob would get agreement and arrange with John Chapman that the hall is booked.

Basic Assessment: This is a contingent of eight. The theory sessions are complete and Jen is organising the three practical sessions. Tony Edwards has made his apiary available for the tests on 9 and 23 June. We will need to use the gazebo and have table and chairs.

On another note Bob reported that Sue Payne who comes from Gravesend and has attended modules with us, passed her module 2 in March with distinction. Congratulations Sue.

7. **Apiary site:** The fencing repair is done. There is one loose panel but it has been secured. There are four hives on site; 2 14x12, 1 National, 1 WBC with 14x12. There had been a missed inspection and one hive is now Q- a frame of eggs and brood have been added. There is now a nuc on a stand with a hive next to it ready to move.

Potential apiary sites: There are strong reservations about the site at Halling and Riverside. Halling is fairly isolated with no facilities and it was agreed that Bob would contact Andrew MacNess to refuse the offer. Vandalism is an issue at Riverside and it had been thought at the beginning that this was not the site originally suggested. The Old Boatyard site might be more attractive. Mark and Paul agreed to speak to Maurice about this possibility. The Wincanton site might be of use to us as a quarantine site for swarms. Sheila would renew contact.

8. **Swarm Collection:** The swarm phone is operational though proving to be expensive. We need to look into cheaper ways to operate this, possibly having a SIM only facility. Sheila agreed to look into this.
Asian Hornet Action Group: This is a process by which we can alert beekeepers and landowners to the threat of Asian hornet and possible sightings. NBU have a new information sheet and John Hendrie agreed to get copies of the leaflet from Stoneleigh. It was agreed that we should make those on the swarm collection list aware and possibly provide posters for landowners.

9. **Future events**

Summer programme:

- 2 June – Open Apiary
- Chapel Down visit 22 July
Goatham's Packhouse is a possibility in September/October
- Annual dinner will become MBKA Supper and Prizegiving and be held on 13 October

10. **Any other business:** Jen is gathering a second order for sweat/T shirts. Consideration should be given now for events for World Bee Day in May 2019

Suggestions were made that committee meetings should be fixed on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Local changes can be made if necessary but having a fixed date will enable diaries to be booked in advance.

11. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27 July at 2pm to 4pm** at 7 South Avenue

Signed: _____ Date: _____