

Medway Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 20 November 2018

at 28 Wallace Road 2pm

<p>Present: John Chapman, John Hendrie, Mark Ballard, Tony Edwards, Elaine Laight, Paul Lawrence, Jen Ferry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apologies for absence: Sheila Stunell.2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018: Were signed as a true record of the meeting3. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018: John Hendrie informed the committee that after consideration, MBKA would continue to offer subscriptions to Bee Craft to the members through the annual renewal form. Village Voices had indicated that they would attend the Autumn Fair but did not show up. The meeting to discuss corporate responses to enquiries had not taken place due to time pressures.4. Finance and Membership: John Hendrie provided a printed and verbal update on the membership and finances. There are 81 full members, 44 associate members and 24 subscriptions to Bee Craft. 18 out of the 19 people enrolled for the winter study group had paid £20. 23 paid for and attended the visit to Chapel Down Winery. 47 people paid for and attended the Annual Prize Giving and Social Evening. There has been in excess of £9k income this year and the expenditure is £7.5k. For the Annual Prize Giving and Social Evening the income was £1350 and the outgoings £780. The Autumn Fair also made a profit but the figures are not yet final. The apiary spend was £800 and the income £455. The opening of a new Santander account has proved to be a lengthy process and the bank now required the signatures to be aligned with the existing account. The decision was therefore taken not to proceed but to maintain the two accounts we have, the cheque account with Barclays and the savings account with Santander. There is £11k currently in the Santander account but this is not yet final for the year – hall hire is one item outstanding. The new subscription form for 2019 was discussed and the following wording suggested by Paul was adopted	<p>Actions</p>
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The tick box can be removed as it is not needed.

There was a cost incurred for hiring the china for the dinner, this was discussed and agreed that this is still the preferred option.

Jen expressed her thanks to John H for his help with the finances/bookings regarding the Annual Dinner, John C seconded this.

5. Discussion on the Introductory Course and the support infrastructure required.

Bob worked through his discussion paper – Appendix 1.

A lengthy discussion took place and Bob agreed to summarise this in a follow-up paper.

Bob to write and Circulate follow-up paper

6. Past Events

- **Honey Show** – A good level of entries at 94 but an estimated 12% of the association engaged with the event.
 - The Top Bar competition at the Autumn fair, although it did not attract many entries generated interest and was thought to be a good way of getting people interested in showing.
 - The pitch at Wyevale was good in terms of footfall & visibility
 - The judge was good
 - How to get new people engaged was discussed – reduce the intimidation? Have a ‘Black jar’ class
- **The Ploughing Match**
 - The income was static which considering the weather was considered good.
 - Neil Byhurst, Sonia Belsey & Dave Hopper supported the committee on the stand.
 - We need to be better at exploiting this audience for apiary sites.
- **The Annual Supper**
 - Good attendance, Paul thought it excellent, John has asked for it to be repeated next year.
 - Paul noted that there
 - was too much food
 - there was no offer to reimburse those who provided deserts. This will be addressed next year.
 - It was thought this did well at bringing people together & them talking.
- **Autumn Fair**

- Worked well
- Estimated about 100 visitors
- Need to have an 'A' board outside and more advertising
- The Tombola organised and run by Sonia was a success

7. Future Events:

- **AGM** – February. To be discussed next meeting
- **Winter Meetings**
 - January 19, 2019 – Bob, Spring Preparation
 - February 16, 2019 AGM
 - March 16, 2019 Sale of pre used equipment with refreshments and possibly hornet trap making and woodwork
 - April 27, 2019 Outdoor, City way, Queen Marking
- **Suggestions for meetings**
 - COLOSS
 - Hive cameras
- Dates to be agreed for Autumn Fair & Dinner

8. AOB

- Bee Chat – will carry on, 4th Wednesday of month – but not December as its Boxing day!
- The Web site now has an SSL Certificate
- Potential site for bees – John C reported that Lauren from the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust said it may be possible to have bees at Sittingbourne on the science park
- Mockbegger Cricket Club site – Mark raised some issues with this potential new site. It requires a site visit to look at the inside of the clubhouse and the land.
- National Grid – the follow-up meeting has not yet taken place.
- How many of the Intro course from 2018 were keeping bees was discussed.

MB and JC to arrange

Bob will contact them to find out.

9. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18 December *at 2pm to 4pm* at 28 Wallace Road

10. Signed: _____ **Date:** _____