

Medway and County Kent Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 February 2018 at 2pm at Wainscott Memorial Hall

1.
Members attending – see attached list
2. **Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman, John Chapman, welcomed everybody to the meeting. He commented that John Hendrie would not be attending as he had an appointment in Cambridge, and that the Association Apiary was continuing under the able management of Elaine Laight who organised the rota for the volunteers who managed the colonies throughout the season.
3. **Apologies for absence:** Mark Ballard, John Stunell, Peter Griffiths, Paul Newman, John Belfield, Eric Layer, Angela Watson, John Hendrie and Peter Kimber
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2017:** were taken as read and signed as a true record of the meeting.
5. **Acceptance of the minutes:** was proposed by Terry Clare, seconded by Elaine Laight. The proposal was carried by majority.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes held on 18 February 2017:**
Item 6 Insurance status at the apiary. John Hendrie had confirmed that we were covered
Constitution amendments – would be discussed later on the agenda
7. **Annual Report:** The annual report had been sent out to members before the meeting covering the Annual Delegates Meeting, Apiary Report, Education (winter studies), the Website, and proposed constitution for approval by the meeting. John Chapman had distributed a copy of the Chairman's report,
8. Terry Clare gave a verbal report at the meeting. He Congratulated the following members who had passed Module 7 in March 2017:
George Cole (CR)
Richard Joy
Elaine Laight (CR)
Jennifer Ferry
And in November 2017:
Mark Ballard
Melanie Henbest
Terry reported that this would be his last report as Education Officer. The introductory course in 2017 had gone well with 25 people attending including two inmates from the open prison on Sheppey. Slightly more than 25 people undertook the practical which was held at the prison apiary. There were four simultaneous inspections and two workshops to make up equipment. Due to refurbishments at the cricket club there was no social held this year. All those who wanted them were given buddies/mentors. This is in line with practice for the last 20 years. There is always telephone support for those who do not want a mentor.
Terry noted that more and more people were coming on to the course but don't follow up by keeping bees but they retain an interest. Course for the last few years had been held at

the weekend, rather than in the evening. Weekends and evenings produce entirely different demographics and weekends have worked well. Course membership reflects a wide ethnic range and reflects the local population mix.

Medway Beekeepers' had started very small (30 members) and has gradually built up to its present numbers. Steve Marks and Terry Clare were the first members to take the basic examination and Terry the first in Medway to take the module examinations. The Basic course is BBKA level 2 and as such gives would be beekeepers a good grounding in understanding bees.

Beekeepers who have taken the introductory course are spread through Gravesend, Sidcup, Folkestone, The Midlands, and as far afield as France, Germany and Pakistan!

At the end of the report John Chapman thanked Terry for his years of service to beginners through his introductory course and for the support given by Pat Clare. John presented Terry with a gift as a mark of our appreciation.

Bob Smith proposed acceptance of the annual report, this was seconded by Tony Edwards.

9. Finance and membership report

Events English Festival takings a bit down on previous year, the ploughing match was better Honey show a bit better than the previous year. The apiary produced honey this year and if it hadn't been for Medway and Terry's contribution from Sheppey the Kent Show would have run out of honey to sell.

2 Nucluei were sold from apiary this year.

Disappointed with numbers for the annual dinner. Donations came in from diners after the dinner.

We do not have the same swarm arrangement with Medway Council any more. We are making our own arrangements for swarm collection. Jen Ferry's number was given out by the council she has complained to them.

A grant was received from Medway Council for our attendance at the English Festival.

A trading profit was made from the sale of honey jars and foundation sales to members.

Stock column shows we still have some stock to sell.

Expenditure: new gazebo was purchased this year.

Cost of hall hire.

A donation was made to IMYB

Assets appears to be deficit John paid a bill at the end of the year from his own money and this was refunded to him after the accounts had been finalised.

Email question from John Bellfield responded to by Jen Ferry.

Proposal to accept the finance report: **Proposer:** Mike Tomkins **Seconded:** Terry Clare

- 10. Membership and Subscriptions:** Discussion took place concerning the membership fees and the introduction of junior membership. The proposal was put forward that full membership should remain at £30, Associate Membership £10 and that junior membership should be £1.

Proposer: Paul Lawrence, **Seconded:** Terry Clare

11. Election of Committee:

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

Proposer: Richard Blaxland **Seconded:** Bob Smith Carried unanimously.

12. Approval of Officers' Honoraria for 2017:

Proposition: that the Secretary and Treasurer each and the website manager be awarded an honorarium of £150) and that the Independent examiner be given £25.00

Proposer: Terry Clare **Seconded:** Elaine Laight

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 : Mike Tomkins

Seconder : Jen Ferry

Carried by a show of hands

14. Any other business:

John Belfield asked in a letter what has happened to swarms that were collected and why we only sold two nuclei over the whole season. Sheila Stunell would respond to this letter Jen Ferry has organised a trip to Chapel Down vineyard to include a tour and wine tasting. This will take place on 27 July. So far 24 people have booked.

15. Chairman's Closing: The Chairman expressed his thanks to the membership for its support during 2017. He gave a vote of thanks to John Hendrie for his tireless work on the finances of the association. The chairman expressed disappointment at the poor support for the Annual Dinner but hoped that bringing it forward in 2018 to avoid Guy Fawkes night might improve the situation and increase the numbers.

16. Date of next meeting: Saturday 16 February 2019

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

MEDWAY AND COUNTY KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Apologies for absence 18 February 2017

Mark Ballard

John Stunell

Paul Newman

Angela Watson

Peter Griffiths

John Belfield

John Hendrie

Peter Kember

Eric Layer