

Medway Beekeepers' Association
Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 7 May 2019
at 28 Wallace Road 7:30pm

Present: Mark Ballard, Elaine Laight, John Hendrie, John Chapman, Sheila Stunell, Bob Smith, Tony Edwards

Apologies for absence: Paul Lawrence, Sonia Belsey

1. **Minutes:** were signed as a true record of the meeting
2. **Matters Arising:** Taster day for new beekeepers had received no response.
3. **Finance:** latest figures from 11 February. We have taken £7646 in total. In terms of the numbers nothing much has changed, 89 full members and 48 associates including Paul Akehurst member at Gravesend, who would like to do our basic course and has joined as an associate. On membership there are a lot of £30 in April; late people coming in in dribs and drabs. Total of 8 new members in April.
4. **Correspondence:** Sheila had received several requests from schools and WI's for talks. This list of enquiries was passed to John Chapman.
Various people asking for bees but not really looking for training. Sheila has responded with information about training and membership.
5. **Education:** We underestimated the getting of buddies and communication has been a problem. Donna Murray has dropped out of the course.
National Grid: The course went well and ended with a visit to Sheila's bees which was well received. Most live in Medway Towns and Bob has spoken to Gravesend and Dartford for outlying folk.
Perhaps do the spring course later in the year so that we can run straight out to look at the bees.
Basic List: Neil Byhurst, Michelle Joy, Archie McLellan, Louise Balderston, Graham Handy, Louise Barwick, Paul Akehurst.
Couple of evening sessions running through basics. Think about dates for John Chapman. Monday or Tuesday evening. Book the hall for November exams
6. **Apiary Update:**
We still have three hives also the apidea which has got a red queen in which needs to be moved on. Colony 4 might be queenless check next weekend. Hive inspection 13 April, 4 May cancelled due to cold weather.
Archie McLellan has donated a mulching lawnmower.
David Hopper has offered a couple of colonies as he is hoping to downsize. Owner of 217 has returned the key and Mark will arrange a lock for the bolt on the gate.

Need to replace a fence post at the 215 end of the site. Owners of 215 interested in purchasing the land if at any point we move out.

Apiary rota up to date for June. Reminder to update the records in the shed. Another couple of meetings for beginners have been planned, one this weekend.

7. **Swarm Phone:** active but slow.
8. **New Apiary site:** Site visit by members thought promising. Reservations; shed occupancy and access during the wet. John Myatt would like to use home team changing room for storage of pallets and the toilets but that is all. They take on water and we take on electricity maintenance of roadways. We might buy materials and he would lay it. We would need to buy two gates. Maintenance – down to us interior and left-hand side of path to protect the hay crop. Garages would be for our use.
Parking would be organised just as you come up to the moat in front of the pavilion. No rent. Standing charge for electricity. Insurance- - do we need to insure the building? need to talk to John Myatt. BBKA still cover us against third party. Going forward we need to be setting up gates with a view to installing bees in Spring 2020. Clarify maintenance agreement, insurance, electricity. Mark to get pricings for gate post and scalplings for the road improvement. Mark happy to manage it. John Chapman to make further contact with John Myatt.
9. **English Festival:** lots of people helping we had good coverage all day long. Had to pay for teas which was a disappointment. Collecting of equipment is a three/four person job. Jill had made some bunting which brightened the site. Was very profitable.
10. **Annual Dinner:** John to follow on with Jen about that. Dimmable lighting at the hall would be a good idea.
11. **Top bar competition:** Bring your own top bar. 18th May queen marking and John will sign the top bars. Frames need to be back early for judging at the autumn fair.
12. **Any other business:**
Bob: issue of reimbursement of exam fees. Kent reimburse at least the basic to successful candidates. Put it off for a year and look at it again.
Mark: some of the Gazebos need maintenance some of the pins are no longer attached. Could have a day to look at them.
John Chapman thinks the old one needs to be replaced before too long. Couple of volunteers for apiary maintenance. Neil Byhurst, Paul Franklin, Archie may be available.
13. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 25 June at 2pm at 28 Wallace Road

Signed: _____ Date: _____