

Medway Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held on

8th October 2019 at 28 Wallace Road Chatham

Present: Elaine Laight, John Chapman, Paul Lawrence, Bob Smith, Sheila Stunell

1. **Apologies for Absence:** John Hendrie, Mark Ballard, Tony Edwards, Sonia Belsey
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2019:** Were agreed and signed as a true record
3. **Matters arising:** Sonia was looking into first aid training and the possibility of epi-pens for training purposes.
4. The Autumn fair had gone quite well although it was felt that the footfall had not been as good as previously. It was agreed that publicity through libraries and local village Facebook sites should be tried next year. Sonia was congratulated, in her absence, on a good publicity job done. Some areas of improvement were discussed:
 - The shop should stay
 - Plants – possibly buy cheap seeds to re-sell, give out RHS list of plants for bees, ask for plant donations to sell
 - Refreshments does well
 - Photos could become backdrop rather than a stand as such
 - We could do a cake stall, candle rolling, and mead tasting
5. **Finance:** In the absence of John Hendrie no report was available.
6. **Correspondence:**
 - We had an email from Jasmine Carter from Reading University – Paul will respond
7. **Education:** There is a module 1 session on Monday evenings fortnightly leading to an examination in November. Module 3 is held on the alternate Mondays. The numbers are now at 23 in the small room but it is manageable. Some of the beginners are taking part in Module 3
The hall has been booked for all the dates including the examinations for module 1 in November.

8. **Website:** Members' area up and running. Information up to date with events to March 2020

9. **Apiary:**
Rota is now on the winter timetable and the apiary is closed to visitors. Elaine asked for a brief report from the monthly inspectors.

Mark had sent in a report: On the new site John Myatt is happy about gates and may be able to provide labour to spread scalpins. It was suggested that we might need hardcore as a base to avoid tractor ruts.

John Chapman has been in touch with NPower.

Mark is looking for gates. John Chapman suggested that they need to down a bit off the road. The gradient may need to be adjusted to deal with the incline especially for coming up to the road. Planned opening for the spring.

10 **Future Events:**

Annual Supper: All in hand

Winter Programme:

- December Bob has agreed to talk about pollen
- January Margaret Ginman
- February AGM

11 **Health and Safety:** Paul Lawrence had gone through the Moray Health and Safety Policy and adjusted it for our use. The policy is a good one and there is a risk assessment which can be left on site. We must not forget about the common sense of those in the group(s). Leave the policy now for a year and review. Tick sheet should stay

12 **Any other business:**

- We will need to meet with Mark to discuss what he wants with the apiary going forward. Also meet with lead inspectors.
- Apiary visits to members' apiaries should be reinstated for next year
- Jen Ferry has agreed to take over finding the speakers from next winter.

15. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 19 November at 28 Wallace Road at 2pm

Signed: Date: