

Blandford and Sturminster BKA

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 10th October at 7.30pm at the White House Shillingstone

Present T. Villiers, G. Buckland, K. Hughes, D. Hughes, T. Payne, L. Morgan, I. Condon, L. Gasson

Apologies J. Nalty, S. Billington, R. Camping

Death of Meli Fowler. TV said we would like to express our sorrow at Meli Fowler's death and appreciation of her contribution to the association

Minutes Correction. TV had not intended to suggest changing the name of the association at the previous meeting he was trawling for ideas about the name following the demise of the Shaftesbury and Gillingham BKA

The Minutes were accepted

Matters arising from the minutes. GB to carry out a risk assessment for the Introductory Day and General purposes. TP has one done earlier and will send it to him.

GB to carry out an inventory of the apiary and its contents.

Treasurer's Report. RC was not at the meeting but sent a statement of the accounts and notes on the bee suits. These showed that on 30th September BSBKA had assets of £9,950.22. TV said this money would help to purchase a permanent apiary site and should not be reduced by unnecessary expenses.

Bee suits DH said that all the suits that had been lent out had been returned and the deposits reimbursed. There are 31 bee suits which is enough for the Introductory Day use. Most beginners had bought their own suits. It was agreed that any money still outstanding from the 2017 bee suit money would be written off as a charge against BSBKA.

Bee Books TV was concerned that few people coming to the convention would have cash or cheques and a card method of payment would be useful. LM said that card readers could be purchased for a one off fee which obviated the need to pay commission to an intermediary company. KH warned that Paypal and similar services often asked that lengthy contracts be signed for the use of their services. It was noted that the Treasurer was looking into the acquisition of a card reader and that it could have a number of uses in enabling people to pay the association. So far 39 members out of 99 had paid their subscriptions. The others would be sent reminders.

Education Officer's Report TP said that 1 member is taking Module 3 in November and 3 others are doing other modules. There are 5 people who are coming to the Introductory day and 15 who are interested in starting the beginners course. Many of these were people who had deferred their start on the course and may not be prepared to start yet. There are 3 people on the waiting list. TP will contact all those on the beginners list and find out how many are still interested in the course. He will also find out how many of last year's students are interested in doing the second year course.

KH asked about whether we should be running a course for beginners earlier in the year about the theory of beekeeping. There was some discussion of this but TP said it would add to the cost and length of the course and was reluctant to add to it.

Apiary Report LG said that 2 colonies were very weak and one of these would probably not survive the winter. There are a total of 7 hives and if one died out there would be 6. We need 9 hives for the 2 courses. LG would offer 1 colony and would ask Chris Hayes if he is prepared to sell two colonies. We have enough equipment for all our colonies.

LG said the Forum School's head has left and so have a number of staff. We do not know what the future of the school will be. LG will make an appointment to meet the acting head and explain our situation. Only about 4 people have been DBS checked this year.

Arrangements for the AGM and Committee Members. All those present were prepared to continue to serve on the committee. TV would find out whether Kerry Redman was interested in continuing on the committee.

LG proposed Gordon Grant be asked to join the committee as assistant apiary manager to Geoff as this would reduce the pressure on Geoff. TV would approach Gordon and ask if he is willing to stand.

AGM meal TP would cook baked potatoes, LM -a chilli dish, IC- Vegetable curry LG - Chicken stew and frozen peas DH, KH, James Nalty and Robert Camping puddings. TV would buy some wine for the evening. LG would supply apple juice.

Purchase of equipment. TP supported TV's proposal that a baby bottler would help with bottling all the honey produced in the apiary for sale at Dikes in Stalbridge This costs £349 from Thornes. TV would purchase it.

We also need hornet traps that trap hornet live so they can be sent to the NBU for study. IC said he would make some for the meeting in January and show members how to make them.

AOB TV said that we had received £241 from Nancy Green the daughter of Elizabeth Green to spend on the apiary in memory of her mother. Nancy is prepared to match that money so we should get about £500 to spend on a hive. TP suggested we get a National Hive with an gabled roof . We put a commemorative plaque on the roof and invite Nancy to the introductory Day to see the hive.

Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show TV would write to the show secretary and ask for a novice class to be added to the honey show schedule to encourage new beekeepers to enter the show. He would also ask if we could have an observation hive in the Farm and Food tent. We will need to wait until Sam Braddick retires before any further progress towards a honey tent can be made.

DH asked that beginner need to be told about the deposit scheme for hiring bee suits so that they start the course bringing their deposit with them.

LG gave a brief outline of the calendar of event for 2019.

Date of the next committee meeting 10th January 2019 at 7.30pm at the White House.