

## **CBlandford and Sturminster BKA**

**Minutes of a committee meeting** held on 8th January 2019 at 7.30pm at the White House Shillingstone

**Present** T. Villiers, G. Buckland, K. Hughes, D. Hughes, T. Payne, L. Morgan, L. Gasson J. Nalty, S. Billington, R. Camping, C. Harward, K. Redman

**Apologies** I. Condon, G. Grant

**The Minutes** were accepted

**Matters arising from the minutes.** GB to carry out a risk assessment for the Introductory Day. Frames for the new hives will be given out on 15th January to people who come to the talk. The two hives given in memory of Elizabeth Green need plaques commemorating her death. LG to order them. They will be in the SCC on the Introductory Day for people to see and bees introduced later when they are in the apiary.

**Treasurer's Report** RC produced a statement of accounts before the meeting. He explained that after deduction for BBKA capitation and BDI the would be £9,950 in the account. This is about £2,000 more than at this time last year. The Green family owed the balance of the purchase of the hives which had been covered by the collection at the funeral of Elizabeth Green. TV said he would write to the family. TV suggested that some of the assets be put in a savings account. RC said that he would add it to the current saving account.

**Membership Secretary's Report.** JN said that at present there are 89 registered members, 14 partner members and 11 associate members. 6-8 people had left the association. LG would contact a few who had not continued their membership. As David Gostick no longer arranged the use of the honey extractor LG would ask Tim Harman if he would be prepared to organise this as well as the money paid for the use of it. LG would put this in the next Newsletter when it has been arranged.

**Education Secretary' Report.** TP said that there are 7 people coming to the Introduction Day, 12 beginners who had paid their deposit, 3 on the waiting list and 7 who were interested in doing the second year course. TP would get hold of other members of the first year course to find out if they are interested in join the second year course this year. LG would put a notice in the Blackmore Vale Magazine about the Introduction Day and the courses. KH would advertise it on Breeze radio. Passed members of the course were welcome to come to the apiary at anytime if they needed help. TP would organise the Introduction Day as he had in the past.

**Apiary Report** GB said that he and Gordon had treated all the hives with sublimation of oxalic acid (apibioxal) all the hives were well, the fences round the apiary were fine. There are a lot of moles which need treating. He had made an inventory of all the equipment and its value. There is the value of £9,728.81 worth of equipment in the apiary and in people's possession. It was suggested that a book be kept in the shed so that if anyone borrowed anything or removed it this would be noted.

**Website discussion** CH explained the purposes of the website were to be an information site for members including sales/wants/events; a means of engaging members who don't come to events; promoting beekeeping in the community and encouraging non members to join training courses. He was concerned about information about swarms. It was decided that as LG kept a swarm list of people in the association who want swarms the first call should go to her then if she is not available the caller should approach the BBKA website. Other items on the website could involve bee related activities such as candle making and social events. RC ran the Facebook page but did not put much on it. CH pointed out that that Facebook is largely used by people under 35. On a show of hand it was decided not to engage in Facebook. CH would simply post news on it but there would be no comments on it from the public or anyone else.

**Report on the DBKA meeting.** LG said that there had been some discussion about the problem of the Asian Hornet. Mark White from EDBKA would be the county co-ordinator as he has already been involved with its eradication on

Jersey. He would contact the Asian Hornet co-ordinators from the various associations. It is important members know where and when an AH has been caught. Beekeepers are the people the NBU trust most in making an accurate sighting. KR is our AH co-ordinator she will contact Mark White. Other discussions included the AGM in Dorchester and the level of the subscription for DBKA which is recommended to be £3.00 in future.

AOB CH asked if the minutes of the committee meetings could be put on the website and hopefully read by our members. This was agreed.

RC explained the new arrangements for recording membership on a central database like that used by BDI. Local associations would be able to see their own information. RC would be the Approver and JN the editor. Only the editor could change things but a number of people would be able to view the information. All the members and students would need to agree to be on the register this would mean they would be able to receive newsletters etc.

LG said that she had arranged to take a table at Blandford Expo to inform the public about the Introduction Day and the courses. TP said he would join her. We need material about the association and beekeeping to be displayed.

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7.30pm at The White Housed Shillingstone**