

## Blandford and Sturminster BKA

**Minutes of a committee meeting** held on 24th April 2019 at 7.30pm at the White House Shillingstone

**Present** T. Villiers, K. Hughes, T. Payne, L. Morgan, L. Gasson, S. Billington, , C. Harwood, K. Redman, G. Grant, I. Condon

**Apologies** J. Nalty, D. Hughes, G. Buckland, R. Camping

**The Minutes** were accepted

**Matters arising from the minutes** TV asked how the Blandford Expo attendance had gone. TP and LG had attended but the number of members of the public was very poor and they had 2 enquiries. It is not worth attending unless it is better publicised.

TV said that the hives given by the Green family would be brought up to the apiary one Saturday

TV asked whether a risk assessment had been done on the apiary. TP said he and GB had done an assessment . TV asked that a copy be kept with the minutes.

**The Treasurer's report** had been circulated in advance and the finances are in a good state. There are £12,665.66 in net assets. Money for the loan of bee suits had been banked but would be refunded on the return of the suits. DH would like to purchase new suits to replace those that are unwearable.

The subscription for the BSBKA should stay the same. The subscription for the DBKA is now £3 but this would come into effect after October. TV said that we had made £1000 from the sale of honey to Dykes they have not paid for all the honey yet.

**Membership Note.** RC and JN have sorted out the new BBKA membership database which includes most aspects of finance and information. TV thanked them for all their efforts. The survey of colony losses sent by Leigh Sidaway from the BBKA was considered appropriate even though Martin Smith apologised for it

**Apiary Report** GG had been up to the apiary and said that we need to provide a wind break to protect the hives and ties to tie them down in the wind, the hive stands should be lower in winter. We need to buy ekes for use in Bailey comb change. GG was given authority to purchase the apiary items needed now and the long term solution to strong winds would be considered over the summer so that measures could be put in place before winter after discussions with the Forum School the site owners. He had caught a swarm in Hazelbury Bryan which was very large with a Buckfast queen and taken it up to the apiary to replace colony that was lost. He had renumbered the hives so they are less confusing. There are now 8 hives in the apiary. The beginners group will use: KH's group- hive 2, SB's group - hive 4 and GG's group - hive 6 the rest will be looked after by the second year students. GG reminded grass cutters that the shed should be kept locked and the key kept in the key safe. GG and IC would find suitable anchoring ties for the hives.

**Education Officer's Report** TP said that there are 15 on the beginners course and 8 on the Second year course. He has 18 names on the waiting list for next year though some of these are unreliable having not taken up places offered earlier. The committee agreed with LG's suggestion that the numbers on the first year course be raised to 20 to reduce the backlog as there are enough tutors to cope with that number. IC is prepared to step in if anyone is away. LM and KR are also prepared to help with those on the courses.

**Review of the Introduction Day.** TP said how impressed the visitors were with the welcome they received and how well it had gone. Pam Payne had fed 65 people for £1.29 a head. The food was much appreciated. TP had written to thank all the helpers on the day. LG thanked TP but said that he ought to give someone else a speaking role in the middle of the day as he, Terry, was very tired after such a long day and so much organisation. LG would write to Pam Payne and thank her for all her work.

**AOB Asian Hornet** KR was asked about progress with the Asian Hornet. She said that she had not met Mark White yet but if people saw what they thought was an Asian Hornet they should send her a photograph of it. She would then check that it was an AH and if so send the image to Nation Bee Unit or Kevin Pope. CH suggested that we put a number of traps in the apiary and attach a web cam so that they could be monitored off site. He would look into the feasibility and cost of the idea. TV said kill traps are better than nothing and GG could add this to his list of Apiary requirements. TV said that CH's website was doing well and thanked him for his work.

**Shaftesbury and Gillingham show.** TV, LG and Cuffy are going to a meeting on 2nd May to discuss the Farming food and fun tent with Sam Braddick and others what we could contribute. He thought we could arrange for an observation hive on the site. He had asked for more novice classes to be included in the show schedule but this had not been accepted.

IC had repaired the observation hive from Shaftesbury and Gillingham BKA and apart from a hose or tube it is ready to use.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 13th June at 7.30**