

ESSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION - ROMFORD DIVISION

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2021

Video Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Pat Allen (PA), Dawn Doyland (DD), Robert Hyde (RH), Rose McCarthy (RMcC), Norman McDonald (NMCD), Jim McNeill (JMcN), Filippo Negri (FN), Lorna Pattle (LP), Sue Richardson (SR), Terry Watson (TW), John Whittard (JW), Paul Wiltshire (PW).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Angela Mander (AM), Julie Mugglestone (JM).

2. **Minutes of previous meeting 11.3.21:** agreed, to be signed as a true record.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda:**

Spending of Divisional Funds: PA feels Peter Coyle's suggestion of having a test at the end of the beginners' course and prize is too difficult to do on site. Large donations to bee charities need to be clarified by the CEC. Rather than a large one off donation, it would be better to fund a project over a few years. We need guidance from CEC. JMcN to raise at next CEC meeting. Confirmed that we would reimburse members the fees for all BBKA exams and modules, once they have been completed and passed. CEC permission not needed for this. PW suggested that it would be a good idea to raise the sums awarded for the prizes for modules at EBKA level, to make them more current. JMcN to raise at CEC meeting. **Action JMcN.**

Divisional Bank Account: RMcC still does not have card or card reader for Barclays. She will need to contact Barclays again. BM has not passed over accounts spreadsheet to RMcC or PA, SR had tried to ring and speak to BM but he was not available. SR to try to contact BM again. **Action RMcC, SR.**

Council Tax Havering Council: SR has emailed Havering explaining BM no longer treasurer and asking for all correspondence to be sent to her, plus copy of bill. No reply received from them, need chasing. CEC are now looking at all the leases for apiaries, we really need a model for what clauses EBKA needs in any leases to be incorporated into any council leases, Trustees need to be able to be rolled over, from the ones originally named in signed documents, as new ones are elected. **Action SR.**

Updating Website: Padraig has been asked if the old items could be removed, he was going to look into this. Email was sent to members asking for blog entries, which would automatically drop older articles off the website. No submissions have been received. Committee meeting minutes now to be added once approved.

The Chase Apiary – new strimmer – RH has got a price for a petrol strimmer with attachments - £114.16. This would need to be kept safely, at RH's home. RH will need helmet with ear defenders to use this and strimmer must only be used by the warden, RH. Agreed as long as health and safety rules adhered to.

4. **Correspondence not otherwise on agenda:** SR has had an email from Thomas Binsted asking about circulating a survey for his MSc in environment and sustainability dissertation research project on beekeepers' awareness of the ecological importance of wild pollinators and the environmental pressures they face following the rise in popularity of beekeeping over the past decade, at Birkbeck College, asking for our ethics requirements. This would need clearance from the CEC, email to Vanessa. **Action SR.**

5. **Offer of hive site on wild flower meadow in Ingrave:**

Helen Kingsford has asked if there are any beekeepers who would like to have hives on a wild flower meadow in Ingrave which is being planned. More information needed about size, access, secure for storage of equipment etc. Experienced beekeepers only. **Action SR.**

6. **Request from Thomas Binstead to circulate survey for MSc, asking about ethics approval :** see point 4 above.

7. Regular Reports

7.1 Trustee/DVM: All trustees must now sign a form for terms and responsibilities. EBKA is now looking in to all apiary leases and agreements, all different. Romford Division AGM minutes need to be sent in for records. Epping Forest Division suggested a hardship fund for members, in the light of COVID hardship issues. It was agreed that each division may judge their own cases for a hardship fund. Harlow Division will now be hosting the annual conference in 2022, not 2021. The Orsett Show for 2021 has been cancelled, so the Essex Honey Show may be held separately in a suitable hall, TBC. Malden have changed their name from Dengie Hundred, Maldon and District, to Maldon and Dengie 100. The trustees were concerned about the use of MAD for honey or beekeepers, MAD not to be confused with the trade name of a type of “hallucinatory” Nepalese honey with a trademark.

7.2 Chairman: PW has kindly agreed to have the honey jars delivered to his house again this year. FN an LP offered to help on the day. PW noted that not many of this year’s students had been attending the monthly zoom meetings, hope this will change once the practical sessions start. RMCC said maybe worth mentioning the monthly meetings at the practical sessions. Students do receive the newsletter and emails informing them of the monthly meetings.

7.3 Secretary: SR and JMcN attended an EBKA zoom meeting in April about health and safety and risk assessments. Several attendees felt that it was all becoming too complicated, and common sense should prevail. However, we need to recognise the legal aspect of this. Several risk assessment forms were discussed. We said that PA was doing a great job for Romford, PA has now received a new risk assessment form from the EBKA which she has used, but felt that her original one was better suited to our needs.

7.4 Treasurer: RMCC has not been able to do anything as still no access to Barclays and no documents handed over by BM, see above point 3. PA is currently dealing with bank account. Currently we have 116 full members, 20 partners, 31 students and 7 associate members. £4,602 has been spent. Some outgoings include : £114 for printing March The Essex Beekeeper magazine, BM’s son’s company; PA printed April and May magazines herself at a cost of £90, for the 35 copies needed; purchase of 3 colonies from Ted G £360; new jackets for beginners’ course £517; books for course £320; BBKA capitation £2,321. Income of £8 for sale of 2 mini nucs. RH said he has a donation of £60 for a school presentation he and his wife gave at Squirrels Heath School. PA asked RH to pay this in to Barclays himself.

7.5 Show Secretary: nothing to report.

7.6 Apiary Wardens

7.6.1 BT London Road: bees slow, weather poor. Nothing else to report.

7.6.2 Havering: Roger Honey asked to put 2 hives at the apiary, checked and Ok. He now has 4 due to swarm control. JMCN’s 2 hives not bringing in much, surviving, pollen going in.

7.6.3 Hornchurch: NMCD left meeting due to poor connection – no report.

7.6.4 The Chase and Bee Garden: Weather bad, not much activity. All OK otherwise.

7.6.5 Teaching Apiary: There are 5 full colonies and 3 nucs. 1 of Ted’s nucs has already replaced its queen. There are enough colonies for the beginners’ course. Weeding of the meadow area is needed.

8. Programme 2021:

June – Bob Smith on Bee Health. July – Bees for Development. We may be able to go back to Chadwick Hall. Can we hold Zoom presentation there? SR to contact St Michael’s church regarding hall hire. August and September – undecided. Suggestion for Margaret Thomas - bee glands/ pheromones. Or Bob Maurer - bee microscopy. October – Bees Abroad.

9. Courses 2021:

Beginners Course: 31 students, plus tutors. First outside session to be held on Tuesday 18th May. Jackets and books to be given out. Dummy inspection with virtual hive and lighting smokers, all outside.

- 10. Bulk Buys 2021:** JM said she had not had many responses to her request for those members who may want MAQS in September. Will be unable to get a quote without some idea of quantity. Send another email? Discussion about possibly using another treatment other than MAQS.
- 11. AOB:** EARS project – Jane Ridler has asked whether divisions would like to share the video presentation on CPBV from Theodora Commandeur the PhD student that EBKA help finance, email to be sent to committee with YouTube link and then we can decide. **Action SR.**
- 12. Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 15th July 2021, via Zoom.

Meeting finished at 9.35 pm.

Paul Wiltshire

Chairman