

ESSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION - ROMFORD DIVISION

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2021

Video Meeting held via Zoom

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** none

2. **Minutes of previous meeting 13.5.21:** agreed, to be signed as a true record.

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

Increasing prize money for BBKA awards: JMcN confirmed that it was agreed at the CEC meeting that the EBKA prize money for awards is to be increased, and also monetary prizes are to be given for other awards that do not currently have monetary prizes.

Divisional Bank Account: RMcC still has not received any correspondence from Barclays. She gave the forms to BM earlier this year and he informed her that he had sent them on to the bank. PA or JMcN will need to speak to Barclays. Only JMcN and PA have bank authorization now. Still no spreadsheet from BM so PA and RMcC will have to start from scratch with the accounts. **Action PA/JMcN, RMcC.**

4. **Correspondence not otherwise on agenda:** Helen Kingsford has told PW that she is giving up beekeeping and wishes to sell her bees and equipment. PW has asked for a list of items and prices so we can let members know. We need details to go forward. Also are there any more details of the possible hive site in Ingrave?

Action PW.

Licence at The Chase: JMcN has received an email from Gareth Winn from The Chase asking for a meeting to renew the licence, the last one was issued in 1996 and ran for 3 years so is out of date. Meeting to be arranged, we will contact him and suggest some dates in September. **Action SR.**

5. **Donations to Bees for Development and Bees Abroad:** it was decided that the matter should be brought up at the next CEC meeting, as donations should perhaps be made through the EBKA, with divisions making their own smaller donations. Maybe EBKA might like to make a substantial donation of around £1,000. Romford could also donate once discussed at CEC level. Noted that the EARS donation by EBKA is being raised from £1000 to £2000 for bee related PhD research projects. PW wondered whether there might be other areas of research in other parts of the country which merited EBKA donations too.

6. **Arrangements for return of monthly meetings to hall:** the August monthly meeting is to be held back at the hall. We would like to run a Zoom meeting alongside this, and we will need a projector, held by BM, and a screen, plus WiFi connection. SR to contact hall admin and ask about WiFi, and to contact BM to arrange for collection of projector by either JMcN or PW. FN has a screen we could borrow. The September talk is being given by Margaret Thomas in Scotland, so the meeting will have to be Zoom only, if we are not able to set up Zoom in the hall, or hall and Zoom if we can set things up. **Action SR, PW.**

7. **Regular Reports**

7.1 Trustee/DVM: There will be no Essex Honey show this year. Divisions are encouraged to hold their own honey shows this year, and it was suggested that it would be beneficial if divisions could hold talks on preparation for honey shows. There will be a Zoom Ted Hooper Lecture held later in the year, and this will be given by Professor Giles Budge, possible topic is chronic bee paralysis virus. JMcN has extracted from the teaching apiary hives 10 lb honey, plus about 3 1/2lb jars and enough taster jars for the students who attended the beginners' course.

7.2 Chairman: nothing else to add.

7.3 Secretary: SR has opened a Government Gateway account and “claimed” the Plots at Havering Apiary on the Rates Valuation Site. A check now needs to be submitted with supporting evidence to apply for the rateable value to be changed. SR sent an email to the business rates department of Havering (OneSource) asking if there was a quicker way of appealing, but reply was received saying no. SR also sent a recorded delivery letter directly to Havering Council, on 23.6.2021, asking the same question, and returning their charity status form, but no reply has been received to date. Appeal is to be for rateable value to be changed from original shed to smaller store from 23rd March 2018 to date. There is also the period of between 10th April 2010, when shed burnt down till 22nd March 2018 when no building was on the site. In theory no rates at all should have been charged. No facility in online form to appeal for/change 2 periods of time. A covering letter will be sent giving details and asking about appealing for this time period too. Not sure how long back we could possibly claim. Photos and committee minutes also to be submitted as evidence. SR has received a letter from Havering Council asking for a DD to be set up to pay the rates, but PA and all agreed to pay on a monthly basis for now.
Action SR.

7.4 Treasurer: PA reported : Outgoings: PW has been paid for the Zoom subscription; 2 rates payments have been made; 2 members, Graeme Ellis and Mark Wood have been reimbursed for their exam fees; £100 for printing The Essex Beekeeper. Income: £28 for selling division mini nucs; donation of £60 from RH for a school talk he gave; £89 credit to bank account, not accounted for as yet. Currently there is £20,000 in the bank account.

7.5 Show Secretary: confirmed that both halls have been booked; originally with BM in January, and then again confirmed with Jan Shaw, the booking secretary. As we will be back in the hall for monthly meetings, it will be OK for show entries to be sorted out at meetings.

7.6 Apiary Wardens

7.6.1 BT London Road: JW has been to the apiary with Ted, he strimmed the grass but unfortunately his strimmer broke half way through. BT have contacted him, after trying for a while, they said that they had lost our contact details. The management were having a meeting with the technical manager, Jim McCoy and notice the bee hives. Jim McCoy asked if we had a contract. We don't, but he stated that they did not want any money from us. JW's hives have little honey, except one that has 4 supers on it. Honey looks as though it will be poor this year.

7.6.2 Havering: some honey seems to be coming in now, and colonies are expanding, it is later than usual for colonies to still be expanding.

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

7.6.4 The Chase and Bee Garden: RH not at meeting – no report.

7.6.5 Teaching Apiary: There are 7 colonies. 2 colonies have been united, and 2 more may be united to leave 6 to overwinter. There was just enough honey taken off the hives to give the students a taster jar, plus about 10lb or so left over. Some honey seems to be coming in now. Mike has been cutting the grass and the flowers in the meadow area are looking good. Thistles need removing, but maybe later as the bees like these too.

8. Programme 2021:

August– Paul Wiltshire – winter preparation – meeting at hall and zoom if possible. September - Margaret Thomas - bee glands/ pheromones. October – Bees Abroad – Richard Ridler. November - ? December – Christmas Doo. For 2022 suggested that we continue to have some talks by Buckfast Bees.

9. Courses 2021:

Beginners Course: The beginners' course has now finished. Some students have started with bees now, some are waiting until spring 2022. NMCD has 3 students who wish to put hives at Hornchurch. Roger Honey has sold 1 colony to a beginner and may have another 1 available. Helen Kingsford has 2/3 colonies that may be suitable for beginners.

Taster Course: date set for Sunday 8th August, 12.00 pm – 4.00 pm, with 4/5 tutors, (JM offered to be health and safety officer), numbers will be kept to 20. Cost to be £20.

- 10. Bulk Buys 2021:** it was decided to buy Apiguard instead of MAQS. Email needs to go out asap as will need to have for distribution in August. JM has not got her new laptop so SR to send out email on her behalf. Price to be decided, but will be cheaper than members buying separately. **Action JM, SR.**
- 11. AOB:** Printing of The Essex Beekeeper: a quote for £102 (12 pages) including delivery has been given from RT Litho, based in Basildon, who print the local resident's magazine in SR's area. Agreed to go ahead with them for the August magazine. SR spoke to Dee the new editor and she says she will be able to send over the final copy in time for our monthly meetings. JM said that Alan Sansford used to work in the printing trade and may have a contact.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th September 2021, to be confirmed if via Zoom or in person. Please note change of date from Thursday 16th.

Meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

Paul Wiltshire

Chairman