

## ESSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION - ROMFORD DIVISION

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Video Meeting held via Zoom

**Present:** Pat Allen (PA), Dawn Doyland (DD), Rob Hyde (RH), Angela Mander (AM), Rose McCarthy (RMCC), Norman McDonald (NMcD), Jim McNeill (JMcN), Filippo Negri (FN), Sue Richardson (SR), Terry Watson (TW), John Whittard (JW), Paul Wiltshire (PW).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Julie Mugglestone (JM), Lorna Pattle (LP)
2. **Minutes of previous meeting 14.9.21:** agreed and to be signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda:**

**Chadwick Hall:** PW has now got the projector, but no WiFi available at the hall yet. **Action PW.**

**The Chase Licence:** after a further email to Gareth Winn, he has emailed to say that a draft licence is being drawn up and will be sent to us to look at before we arrange a meeting. **Action SR.**
4. **Correspondence not otherwise on agenda:**

**WI Rainham Clocktower Branch Talk:** request for a talk, meetings are the first Thursday in the month, need to check if day time or evening. Ok if day time, small donation would be requested by speaker. **Action SR.**

**Richard Alabone:** request for contact details of Matt Broughton for information on rose hives, SR sent email to Matt.

**Facebook Page:** SR has had rather rude email/phone correspondence with a lady wishing to take the beginners' course. She was complaining about lack of response to a request that she claimed she had submitted by "Romford Beekeepers" Facebook page. SR explained that this was not the first line of contact for the division. SR had replied promptly to the first email she received from the lady via our website. It was felt that the Facebook page "about" statement is rather misleading, as although it is administrated by one of our members, it is not endorsed by the division and trustees would ultimately be held responsible for the content if there were issues. The Kingsfords have sold their equipment via the Facebook page. **Action PA.**
5. **Printing of The Essex Beekeeper 2022:** It cost £1,000 to print 35 copies a month of the magazine this year, and approximately £200 for postage. We currently only charge £8 per member to print and post. This does not cover costs even though the EBKA allow a sum of £4 per year per member back to the divisions for the magazine. Members who do not receive printed/ posted copies of the magazine are subsidising the 35 members who have printed copies. It was decided that we will print the January edition and that this will be the last printed version. At the AGM we will inform members of this decision. PA said that all the new members have opted for emailing of magazine and newsletter. Southend are planning to make a proposal at the AGM to reduce the amount allowed or printing the magazine. Braintree is probably the only other division to print it.
6. **Request for help with school beekeeping at Nelmes Primary School, Hornchurch:** SR has received request via one of our members, Steve Lawler, Long Ridings School, to ask if we could do a site survey at Nelmes School, Hornchurch to see if it is suitable for hives, as they are hoping to start beekeeping. PA is willing to go and meet James Wild. PA has been looking on the EBKA website and they suggest that schools have 3 registered beekeepers. PA wondered whether Steve Lawler ought to be registered as a school member too. **Action PA.**
7. **Regular Reports**

**7.1 Trustee/DVM:** Keith Lomax has joined the governance committee as PW has stepped down. Discussions as to whether members of the public should be allowed to handle bees on taster sessions due to insurance worries. On beekeeping courses students are covered by insurance as they are members. This suggestion was quashed. PA, along with others, felt that this was an important part of the taster sessions. But, disclaimer forms must be signed by all those on taster sessions. Harlow Division now has some new members on the committee. There is new webmaster for EBKA website – Graeme Croke, Chelmsford Division, who is taking over from

Nick Holmes after many years. The Ted Hooper Lecture 2022 is to be held at the Wax Chandlers' Hall in London, June or July. About 22 Romford members have shown interest in attending. The Ted Hooper Lecture this year is on 27<sup>th</sup> November, given by Professor Giles Budge of Newcastle University, on Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus (CBPV) via zoom, and members need to book a free place. Emails have been sent out. The EBKA AGM is on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2.00 pm in Chelmsford, possibly Writtle College, but they have become very expensive, details will be sent out later to members.

**7.2 Chairman:** request for this year's officers' reports to be sent to SR for collating.

**7.3 Secretary:** Valuation Appeal for Havering Apiary: no reply to phone call to the valuation office asking for explanation of why they would not accept the container as a container and reducing the value from £97.50 per m<sup>2</sup> to a container @ £20.00 per m<sup>2</sup>. A new appeal will be submitted. TW and SR have met at the apiary to take some new photos of the container and surrounding apiary. BM has also supplied a copy of the receipt for the container, clearly stating it is a container. We have however, received a refund from Havering Council of £512.78 for rates for the 4 years from 2017 – 2021, and the current year's rates, 2021 -2022, have been reduced from £276.48 to £130.56, giving a total savings of £658.70. **Action SR.**

We have not received any invoices for Chadwick Hall hire. SR to chase. The heating was not on at the November meeting, SR has emailed Judith Devney informing her and asking to check this. **Action SR.**

**7.4 Treasurer:** PA and RMcC have had a meeting to collate BM's paperwork. PA has had to recreate the accounts and start a new spreadsheet. There are a couple of cheque/cash deposits from early this year that cannot be identified. RMcC will work on the books and get the accounts up to date. The accounts need to be closed at the end of the year. PA will send out subscription later this year so that the money goes into next year's accounts. RMcC is now on the bank mandate but has still not received a card reader so is unable to access online account, but she has received a bank statement. So she will need to contact Barclays yet again. PA has spoken to Vernon Amor but he is not willing to look at our accounts this year. PA has contacted Paras Shah, Epping Forest's Treasurer and he has agreed to do them for us. **Action RMcC, PA.**

**7.5 Show Secretary:** Despite all the issues, the honey show went off well this year. The cups have been taken to the engravers for engraving. There are 2 or 3 that have run out of space for inscriptions and rather than get new cups and lose the history, AM has arranged for another base to be added to these. This will also make the cups look more impressive! Good curry buffet from JM and FN. Despite several no shows for the supper, a small sum was left after catering was paid for - £7.57, plus £30.00 for the raffle which JMcN and Liz organised. Need spreadsheet for supper. SR has cash and cheque to bank. Not sure what the hall hire charges are as BM used to deal with this. JMcN said that we used to give a donation of whatever was left after we had paid our others costs. Donation of about £50? AM to ask for cost and will contact church directly next year to avoid any future problems. **Action AM,SR.**

## **7.6 Apiary Wardens**

**7.6.1 BT London Road:** unfortunately one beekeeper has lost his bees. It looks as though the queen stopped laying and the colony died out. He is considering giving up beekeeping and has moved his hives out of the apiary. PA did speak with him at the November meeting, and suggested he might like to buddy up with another beekeeper next spring to get his confidence back, suggested that he could help at the teaching apiary. JW has started to treat the rail around the apiary with wood preservative as it is looking a bit rundown, it could do with replacing.

**7.6.2 Havering:** All quiet on the Western Front.

**7.6.3 Hornchurch:** NMCD will be ringing the warden at the country park to ask them to cut back the trees as the apiary is very dark, to let in more light.

**7.6.4 The Chase and Bee Garden:** All Ok at the apiary. RH is having a knee replacement operation and will not be able to help with the oxalic acid treatment at the apiary in person

**7.6.5 Teaching Apiary:** Insulation has been put on to all the hives. Planning to do the oxalic acid treatment early to mid December.

**8. Programme 2021:**

Richard Ridler is to be made a £100.00 donation to Bees Abroad for his talk.

Nothing booked in yet for next year. Suggestions made: February – spring preparation by Buckfast Bees – zoom only or zoom and hall depending on WiFi status. March – NMCD suggested a show and tell presentation with members bringing along their homemade bee equipment. An email is to be sent out asking for volunteers; Nick Messenger has made a solar extractor from insulation board. April – swarm control. August – honey preparation. September – hive insulation. Members to be asked at the AGM for suggestions.

**9. Courses 2022:**

**Beginners Course:** 5 students have already signed up for next year's beginners' course.

**Taster Course:** Two taster sessions to be held one in July and one in August. Decided to keep numbers to 12 per session. PA to suggest some dates. Some follow up sessions can also be run for this year's students.

Maybe a session on queen rearing too. **Action PA.**

**10. Bulk Buys 2022:** no report JM not present. Will need to discuss soon as need to order. **Action JM, apiary wardens.**

**11. AOB:** none.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 pm, 2022, via Zoom.

Meeting finished at 9.40 pm.

**Paul Wiltshire**

**Chairman**