

ESSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION - ROMFORD DIVISION
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2025, 8.00 pm.
at Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL

Attendance as recorded in signing in book – 22 members: Terry Watson, Paul Heron, Lisa Henderson, Mark Wood, John Whittard, Jim McNeill, Liz McNeill, Norman McDonald, Pat Allen, Dawn Doyland, Ken Shutt, Sue Richardson, Nick Messenger, Patrick Young, Linda Dulieu, Robert Hyde, Angela Mander, Rose McCarthy, Gabriel Egemonye, Rosanna Seels, Filippo Negri, Colleen Manley.

Chairman: Pat Allen

1. Apologies for absence

Garry Furnell, Julie Mugglestone, Mina Goyal, Lorna Pattle, Alan Sansford, Paul Wiltshire.

2. Signing of Minutes of AGM 2024

Minutes approved by members in February 2024.

3. Correspondence relevant to the AGM

Email received today, 16th January, by Sue Richardson, from Richard Milliken a representative for Barking and Dagenham Council, working at Hilbery Chaplin, asking us if we wish to renew the out of date lease for The Chase. We were waiting to be sent a copy of a new lease from the rangers at The Chase but nothing materialised. To be discussed at committee meeting.

4. Officers' Reports

Report was emailed to members before the AGM, and copies were available at the meeting. Pat Allen ran through the report briefly.

The following comments were made:

Secretary – thanks given to Sue Richardson for her time as secretary.

Havering Apiary Warden and President – thanks given to Terry Watson for all his hard work as apiary warden for 16 years, and for being President for 10 years. Terry is going to stay on as a lay member of the committee. Terry mentioned that neither of the extractors – 1 electric, 1 manual, has been used this year.

Education Secretary – thanks given to Pat Allen for being education secretary for an amazing 22 years. Pat is happy to continue helping with the beginners courses. Thanks to Linda Dulieu who has agreed to take over and has already started working.

Linda reported that there are 7 people already signed up for the beginners' course.

Programme Secretary – thanks to Dawn Doyland for her work over the last 7 years who is stepping down. Unfortunately, no volunteers came forward. The members will be asked again.

Teaching Apiary – Pat thanked Filippo for maintaining the apiary. Pat mentioned that we still need to sort out storage for equipment at the apiary. We still have some money left from a legacy made by Don Bond. The money was originally given to us to use at Havering Apiary, but once we had installed the container there, his daughter agreed that we could spend the remaining money elsewhere for the division.

5. 2024 Divisional Accounts

Copies of the 2024 the accounts- receipts and payments, notes to the accounts, and balance sheets signed by the auditor Paras Shah were emailed to members before the AGM, and copies were available at the meeting.

Rose McCarthy explained some of the outgoing sums from the accounts:

Rose McCarthy added the following points to her treasurer's report:

Charity Giving – we would like to mindfully give donations to suitable charities. Please give your suggestions to the committee.

Bee health – any suggestions for more help from the division to keep our bees healthy? Please let the committee know if you have any ideas.

Beekeeping Exams – we need members to take the BBKA modules, it is good for members themselves and also good for the division too. A couple of years ago it was agreed that beekeepers taking exams and successfully passing would be refunded their entry fees.

Pat Allen has a record of Romford members who have taken the Basic Assessment, fees paid for this by members will be refunded by the division if successfully passed. The CEC also awards £50 to those who complete the assessment with a distinction; this is the Miss Avey Award. Beekeepers are not able to be on the swarm collection list without passing the Basic Assessment. Some allotment societies also require this as proof of qualification. Pat does not have records of what other modules have been taken by members, as she is not always told by the members; the BBKA keeps a record of qualifications.

Rose McCarthy said that she was happy to stand again as treasurer, but will be stepping down in 2026. She is happy for anyone interested in considering taking over the post next year to shadow her this year.

Thanks to Paras Shah for his work and for agreeing to examine our accounts again for 2025.

Accounts agreed, no comments or questions received. The accounts were signed by Pat Allen.

6. Elections to Committee

DVM/EBKA Trustee: Roger Honey re-elected.

Chair: Julie Mugglestone re-elected.

Treasurer: Rose McCarthy re-elected.

Secretary: Colleen Manley.

Programme Secretary: Dawn Doyland – standing down – no volunteers – *vacant*.

Show Secretary: Angela Mander re-elected.

Out Apiary Wardens:

Havering – David Manley

Hornchurch – Norman McDonald

The Chase and Bee Garden – Rob Hyde

Teaching Apiary – Filippo Negri

Lay Committee: Dawn Doyland, Liz McNeill, Lorna Pattle, Sue Richardson, Terry Watson, John Whittard, Paul Wiltshire.

All officers were elected *nem con*.

7. Date & Venue of Next Committee Meeting: Thursday 23rd January, via Zoom, 7.30 pm.

8. Elections to Other Posts

President: Jim McNeill.

Education Secretary: Linda Dulieu.

Membership Secretary: Pat Allen re-elected.

Asian Hornet Coordinator: Garry Furnell.

Bulk Buys Secretary: Alan Sansford and Julie Mugglestone – re-elected.

Disease Liaison Contacts: Jim McNeill - re-elected, Simon Perchard – re-elected.

Independent Examiner: Paras Shah – re-elected.

All officers elected *nem con*.

9. Other Posts

Equipment Secretaries: Honey Extractors: Pádraig Floyd, Norman McDonald. Pat Allen and Rob Hyde have other equipment. David Manly as new apiary warden of Havering Apiary will also be equipment secretary for equipment held in the container at Havering.

10. Any Other Business

Romford Division Website – there have been long standing issues getting the website updated and there are major concerns about it being out of date, difficult to use and with not enough information on it. One member said that when they had visited the website looking to take a beekeeping course, it was quite difficult to find out the information they were looking for. Another member said that WordPress is fine to work with and that the current website could be updated and improved. Another member suggested that we paid for someone to build a new website for us. The current website is unsatisfactory. It was suggested that we should have a work party to move forward with updating the existing website or in getting a new one built which better suits our needs. All attendees at the AGM agreed that the website should be urgently addressed as it is not acceptable as it is. The matter will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Date of Next AGM – Agreed that the AGM should always be the third Thursday in January to allow sufficient time for the accounts to be finalised and examined.

Lack of lighting at entrance to Chadwick Hall – unfortunately one of our members had a nasty fall outside the hall, the light in the porch is not working. There is no other light to the front of Chadwick Hall. Also the electric sockets on one wall of the hall are not working. These issues are to be reported to the church.

11. Date of Next AGM

Thursday 13th January 2026 8.00 pm, Chadwick Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chair:

Minutes:

Pat Allen

Sue Richardson