

**ESSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION - ROMFORD DIVISION**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.30 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Pat Allen (PA), Linda Dulieu (LD), Garry Furnell (GF), Roger Honey (RogerH), Rob Hyde (RobH), Angela Mander (AM), Norman McDonald (NMCD), Rose McCarthy (RMCC), Julie Mugglestone (JM), Filippo Negri (FN), Sue Richardson (SR), Alan Sansford (AS), Terry Watson (TW).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Doyland (DD Dawn), Jim McNeill (JMcN), apologies received after meeting – unable to join Zoom meeting, John Whittard (JW).
2. **Minutes of previous meeting 12.9.24:** Minutes agreed and to be signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda:** none.
4. **Correspondence not otherwise on agenda:** none.
5. **Regular Reports**

**5.1 Trustee/DVM:**

November Meeting: Chelmsford is producing AH honey labels to put on jars for sale. Dave Garrett is booked in to do a talk on the AH at Maldon. Ted Grad is doing a talk on the Wax Chandlers at Braintree in November. There was poor attendance on the modules 1 and 3 training that Jane and Richard Ridler ran in prep for taking the exam in November. Looking at running training for module 5 for the following March exam period. In Essex, 2 people have entered module 1, 1 for module 2 and 2 for module 3 for the November exams.

The next Officers day has been scheduled for 1 March 2025.

There was discussion around the AGM date and a proposed date of 27<sup>th</sup> March has been suggested, Romford to host as our final commitment for this year. Timetable for submission of divisional finances will be issued by Alison in due course.

The issue of health and safety took up some time. It is the responsibility of all divisions to ensure that this is disseminated to all members, The H & S documents are all on the EBKA web site. The last training session was back in 2021 and it was thought a further one would be helpful. Each division to supply an H & S officer to go to a training half day and this info would then be given to members. H & S was to be added to the template for reporting to the CEC at each meeting.

The conference feedback from members was good and everyone enjoyed the day. Colchester is next on the list, followed by Braintree and then Saffron Walden in 2027.

**5.2 Chair:**

JM has spoken to Pdraig to ask about the website and to see if he is still happy to be running it, as few things haven't been put on, he has had long Covid. See AOB below. Conference went very well, thanks to the conference committee and everyone who helped. We all worked so well together.

**5.3 Secretary:**

SR has received, completed and returned the annual charity form from Havering council for rates reduction. Circulated the many emails received as appropriate. Is anyone else stepping down from their committee posts please? TW said he was stepping down from president, Havering apiary warden and AH representative. NMCD thanked Terry for all his hard work and service. GF offered to take over the post of AH rep. It was decided to tell members of vacant posts in the December newsletter to give more time for volunteers! SR asked for officer's reports for the AGM. First Thursday in January is 2<sup>nd</sup> is very early, can we hold AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> instead? Believe another group uses the hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month. RMCC will contact church. **Action RMCC, SR.**

#### 5.4 Treasurer:

Latest accounts were emailed to the committee before the meeting. We made a loss of £631.41 on the conference, this will be covered by the EBKA. Details to be sent to them for payment.

#### 5.5 Show Secretary:

The honey show went well, chip suppers good. It is nice to have a National Honey Show judge, Claire, as our judge. She gives good, constructive comments. Cups are at the engravers and will be given out at our December meeting. AM is not able to attend, but SR has offered to stand in.

#### 5.6 Apiary Wardens

**5.6.1 Havering:** TW visited on 11<sup>th</sup> November, the bees were flying and bringing in pollen. All OK. We will need a working party over there in December.

**5.6.2 Hornchurch:** All well, but vegetation needs a lot of trimming. Will need a working party – December or January 2025.

**5.6.3 The Chase and Bee Garden:** bees were flying. All OK. Car park cone which had gone missing, which stops people blocking the entrance gate, has been replaced. JM and AS found one and requisitioned it. RH will visit regularly over the winter.

**5.6.4 Teaching Apiary:** FN will cut the grass, on his last visit the bees were flying. All boxes have been swapped over for the winter.

#### 6. Programme 2025:

Emailed message: DD wonders if there is WiFi in Chadwick Hall now. We did not get a definitive answer before. If so, we could have speakers on Zoom, to widen the scope of speakers. DD has found that some speakers do not like to travel too far. RMCC to ask church. JM asked if Clive de Bruyn would be able to give a talk. He has spoken to us several times in the past. GF said we need to try to have topical subjects. NMCD said it is up to the committee to come up with some interesting topics. Roger H suggested queen rearing. We have plenty of money so we should use it. PA said that Tony could give a talk on helping garden insects, and what you can see in the garden with a bit of “let alone” gardening. He has been taking photos of lots of interesting insects. **Action DD, JM, and committee.**

#### 7. Courses 2025:

Welcome to Linda Dulieu who has taken on the role of Education Officer – thank you!

**Beginners' Course:** LD met with PA and SR for a meeting to discuss everything and now has all the information needed to go forward. LD has updated the application form for the 2025 beginners' course, and the Ts & Cs. The cost is to remain the same as last year. The first session is on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Both of these documents were sent to Pdraig on 8<sup>th</sup> November, but so far they are not on the website. LD to email him again, or maybe phone him too? We need to get the details on as soon as possible. See AOB below regarding website. LD also offered to be health & safety officer for the beginners' course. **Action LD.**

**Taster Sessions:** GF has set the dates for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Decided to charge the same as this year, still covers our costs of hall hire etc. Flyer needs to be done, and added to the website. **Action GF.**

- 8. Asian Hornet Team:** The cold and wet spring meant that the new queens did not do well this year, so the AH was not too prolific.
- 9. Bulk Buys 2024/25:** If we are going to get oxalic acid, this needs to be ordered very soon. NMCD will check to see what is left from last year, and expiry date. **Action NMCD, AS.**

#### 10. AOB:

**Website:** JM has spoken to Pdraig, about updating the website. He said he is suffering from long Covid. He said that the minutes have not been sent regularly. SR said this is definitely not the case. LD said that the website really could be improved for members and for prospective new beekeepers with more up to date information being included. All agreed on this. LD asked whether she could be given the website access codes

so that she could add course details herself. Agreed that this would be a good idea. JM to speak to Padraig. Regarding all the out of date items on the site, LD said that it should be possible to remove these. LD has experience of using a Wordpress website and suggested that rather than spending money on a completely new site, it would be possible to update and revamp the site ourselves to make it much better and keep it more up to date. This needs to be discussed with Padraig. Does he still wish to do the website or would he be willing to pass over to someone else? **Action JM, LD.**

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 – via Zoom

Meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

*Chair - Julie Mugglestone*

*Minutes - Sue Richardson*