

## Stowmarket & District Beekeepers' Association

### Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2018, 7.30pm.

1. Present: Alan Seager (Chair), Tony Payne (President), Richard Martin, Roger Chapman, Kirsten Ryland, Maggie Lawrence (secretary) **ACTION**  
Apologies: Andy Smith, Felix Oliver, (Steve Hammond has resigned)
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as correct
3. Matters arising:
  - 3b. AS to get a copy of Ipswich Expenses Policy AS
  10. AP to draft email re Asian hornets. AS mentioned setting up of immediate/emergency response team - requesting volunteers to sign up. He agreed to approach County AS
  - 10b AS explained the procedure for Apiary open days. Requests acknowledged and put on Event Rota on website with email telling applicant and asking them to check on website. Previously FO has developed system for registering for events on website with automated email acknowledgement but not entirely successful as too deeply embedded in website.
  - 10d Has FO managed to get Sandringham leaflets? FO
  - 10f Banner has been cut down and in use at Wyken KR KR  
volunteered to source new 6' x 2' banner – vinyl with fixed eyelets, "STOWMARKET BEEKEEPERS"
4. Correspondence:
  - a. Crabtree email – FO to put Ipswich events on Stowmarket website.
  - b. Anglian Water – AS to write offering 10 x 1lb jars of honey @ £5, to be picked up by them.
5. Treasurer's Report: ASm happy with funds. RM informed Committee that there would be £400-£450 bill for jars/bee treatment/hive at the Apiary
6. No other meetings
7. Mentors Report: 30 requests, 19 mentors for 28 people
8. Club Apiary 2018 – approx 480lb off 6 hives. 72 jars bottled, rest in tubs. RM needs a week's notice if more bottles needed. Supers off and away for winter. RM has used moth crystals. Hives about to be treated for winter. All queened but some quite light. Apiary events on alternate weekends. Good attendance in June but tailed off, mainly people off beginners' course. 6-7 is optimum number.

Club Apiary 2019 – RM recommended continuing for another year – use to produce nukes, need 3 supers for each hive. Castellations easy. Should replace 14 x12 with National and use inflexible Queen excluders. Better labels on waterproof paper for honey jars. AS and RC to put together 2019 programme of events.

AS/RC

9. Shows:

**Bacton** - footfall deceased, sales down from 245 to 173, no honey tasting – wasps appalling. Darker honey sold better. 3 people interested in course.

**Walsham** – all prepared, AP has full rota of helpers, but concern over clearing up as not enough help taking down stall at end of Bacton.

**Wyken** – 16 jars sold on first morning. Well received, small table only needed in Jan/Feb/Mar.

**2019** - Buxhall on same day as Bacton seemed very “nice  
Weird & Wonderful Wood at Haughley Park around May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 day, specific craft stall to be considered

10. Members events:

**President’s Day** – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm start, Invitation to tea – AS to do flyer and ML to send out. KR offered 2 cakes, inc chocolate gateaux, ML to do coffee & walnut.

AS/ML

**Winter Season Calendar** –

KR/ML

18<sup>th</sup> October

15<sup>th</sup> November

13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Quiz

24<sup>th</sup> January

24<sup>th</sup> February

Suggestions – Cosmetics/Bee products/mead production/Asian hornets/Bee officer – chance to meet David Burns – bee diseases.

Evenings to include 10 minute talks

11. Members List – contact list better. ML to acknowledge, RC to offer mentoring, KR to follow up

12. Asset register – to be published on website without values

RM/FO

13. School groups – gone nowhere

14. AOB

- a. All agreed to buy smaller gazebo – £85 from Homebase
- b. Sugar – Bidfords in Stowmarket supplying not as much as expected. Can buy fondant through SBKA
- c. Apiary shed needs painting – AS to do flyer
- d. Top Bar Hive – not ready for occupation – no bees

AP

AS

15. Date of Next Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 at Tony Paynes