

**Devon Beekeepers Association**  
**Exeter Branch**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 on Zoom**

Present: Paul Smith ,Cathy Mudge, Basil Strickland, John Heal, Ed Maltby, Jill Blackett, Alan Binge, Caroline Tavener, Jonathan Custance Baker.Cliff Dampney, Sylvia Guest

**1.Apologies:** David McLarin Imogen Hallam

**2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 on Zoom**

**The Minutes** of both meetings , having been previously circulated, were offered for approval. The minutes were to be signed by Paul Smith as a true record of the meeting.

**3.Matters arising**

- None

**4.Secretary's Report**

- Jars and Wax order is being arranged from Maisemore(Wax) and CJWynne (Jars) as looking at the quotes they had sent these were cheaper option. Cathy said that there was the Ethiopian wax from National Bee Supplies that members may be interested in, Cathy would offer this to see if any interest. Basil was happy to collect jars as per previous arrangements.
- Honey Adulteration talk from Tiverton was really interesting, Cathy had sent message to EBKA members that we were invited.
- Ed mentioned that he had seen a programme on the BBC about making Honey without Bees.

**5.Treasurers Report**

- Around £6200 will be sent to DBKA for our dues in next 2-3 weeks.
- A week on Monday is the end of the return for 2020
- We have 185 members , 161 Registered members, 12 partners, 3 honorary and 3 social members
- Supplies for the Apiary so far have been about £600
- Courses have posed a problem for getting members details, without them John is unable to enter them for membership and BDI, we really need a separate membership form for them We had considered an Online form to apply, but this is quite difficult to organise.
- Payment from members can be an issue, Cathy finds that when members arrive to collect and pay for orders its difficult to follow up, also with Bacs payment, Cathy will accept they have paid when they collect and they may forget.
- Alan suggested cashless payments, Basil has this at another social club and its about 1.75% interest, however you do need a wifi signal. This would allow cashless transanctions and we would know immediately who has paid.
- Cathy has a list for the next set of orders and we will invoice members before they collect.

**6.Apiary Report**

- We have 5 nucs available for sale. We have made an initial inspection, 1 hive has deformed wing virus, I have has Q cells, look like supercedure but so cold.
- Someone has made a path along the river, up to the bee sheds, and is walking through enough to make the path obvious. Cathy and Sylvia have blocked it with old wood to try and stop them. We discussed signs and the risk of attracting trouble and risk of vandalism if the path becomes well known.
- David M has arranged to meet Greendale manager to see if anything can de done to prevent this
- Caroline and Cathy have been arranging the risk assessment, we really need a Health and Safety officer, we have a folder with the original risk assessment, but nothing for Covid apart from hand gel and leaving rubbish and suits used for a week.
- The first person on site needs to set up the recommended precautions.
- The Covid risk assessment needs to go to someone in authority to approve at Devon or BBKA level.

- We need something in place before we open up the Apiary, Paul and Alan will check with other branches about how they are organising this and what protocols they are using.
- Cathy and Caroline will meet up to do the Health and Safety on 10<sup>th</sup> April, we may be open to all members from 17<sup>th</sup> May
- Paul said the flooring is ready to be fitted. Cathy has messaged members but no-one has replied. Alan suggested we do it ourselves but we will need to weld it to the floor at the join. Sylvia said we can get very efficient tape to do this. Pauls lowest quote is £330.
- Paul has also organised the Compost Toilet as suggested by Ed, looking at overlapping type of basic wood shed at about £300 to £500
- Jill has meshed the mouseholes in the log cabin from the outside
- **7. Web Managers Report**
- Basil would like to thank Mike Ticehurst for all the help he gave setting up our website.
- Paul will write to Mike to thank him.
- **8. Education Officer Report**
- Caroline said its the end of the Beginners course and we are now planning the practical sessions
- **9. Any Other Business**
- Caroline asked if we could organise Jar and Wax orders online, but Basil thought this would be a difficult thing to set up on the website. We would also have to arrange a form for confirmation of payment.
- Basil would like Photos for his website,
- Sylvia thanked Basil for sorting out books for the website, we also have a large amount of slabs
- Wendy from Beecraft wants to offer old magazines for beginners session, Committee are happy to pay postage and see if enough members want to buy them as a bulk buy.
- We have a few local commercial companies wanting to be involved in promoting products via our group but the committee did not feel that they were relevant to what we were doing.
- Cathy has been approached by a lady who would like to help Bees by putting up a swarm box or two in St James area of Exeter, this is an area where we do have a lot of swarm calls due to bees in chimneys of student houses. The committee is happy to support the initiative to catch swarm rather than call out a beekeeper.
- **Dates for Future Meetings**
- 7pm 18<sup>th</sup> May Committee Meeting
- 1000 17<sup>th</sup> April start of beginners class