

Devon Beekeepers Association

Exeter Branch

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 21st March 2023 on Zoom

Present: Jonathan Custance Baker, Cathy Mudge, Jill Blackett, John Heal, Karen Pearson, Alan Binge, Imogen Hallam.

1.Apologies: Basil Strickland, Ed and Rosemary Maltby, Caroline Tavener.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 21st February 2023

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

3.Matters arising

Chairman and Secretary have been busy, along with Caroline looking at the need to Register with the Local Authority as a Food producer. Caroline is unable to come today, but is conscious that the committee will be discussing the issue tonight. Jonathan said that while we are here because we enjoy the Beekeeping and have fun with it, we will register if required.

Caroline attended a Beekeeping meeting in Taunton where Andy Pedley spoke at length , describing the regulations and set up which requires a Honey producer to register locally.

Jonathan and Cathy had emailed and discussed with a few Environmental Health Depts. And Caroline initiated a conversation, with a series of questions, to help clarify.

Jonathan has spoken to other branches, Jack Mummery, BBKA (Talk to your Local Authority), but none are registered or have not thought about doing so. David Packham also thinks that we may need to be registered after attending the course.

Although we only spin off the honey, Greendale label it, then sell it, this is called White Labelling and puts the onus onto us.

It was suggested that as we are acting as a Community producer.

So Jonathan seeks approval from the Committee for Cathy to send a letter to East Devon , a short statement, asking if we need to Register. Cathy will send to Committee before sending. It is important as a teaching apiary that we do it in the correct way.

The committee then discussed Food Hygiene Certificates, Jonathan is taking his, Imogen downloaded hers after online course, Cathy also has one.

Imogen needed hers for selling at certain farmers markets.

4.Secretary's Report

We have had our last set of evening meetings at Topsham Rugby Club. John has still not had an invoice from them yet to pay for bookings.

It has not been an easy venue, there is only access to a small kettle which could disappear anytime, no kitchen access. It is often muddy and tables are designed to have tablecloth covers, so difficult to keep clean. Due to past security issues there is a lot to be done, locking bollards etc.

Cathy would like to look at better venues for next Autumn, the Committee made a few suggestions.

5.Treasurers Report

We have £35,000 approx. in the bank and with £6,500 to the BBKA and the BDI for members.

We now have 188 members, which is still down and course money continues to come in.

Jill is still not getting her magazine. Alex has been paid for extra equipment bought for Apiary.

6.Apiary Report

Just a reminder that we do not have an Apiary Manager, a group of members run the Apiary and Cathy takes the role of Co-Ordinator, ensuring equipment is supplied for Alex for grounds Bee Shed. Organising volunteers to help Paul Smith with bigger projects. Karen Pearson organising speakers through the summer, Jill Blackett the garden and Bee friendly planting, Martyn Myhill Queen rearing.

7.Any Other Business

Dates for Future Meetings on Zoom

Tuesday 18th April 2023, Tuesday 23rd May 2023, Tuesday 20th June 2023, Tuesday 18th July 2023

