

Devon Beekeepers Association

Exeter Branch

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 23 May 2023 on Zoom

Present: Jonathan Custance Baker, Cathy Mudge, Jill Blackett, Karen Pearson, Alan Binge, Paul Smith, Alex Merchant, Basil Strickland.

1. Apologies: Ed and Rosemary Maltby, Imogen Hallam.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 18th April 2023

The Minutes having been previously circulated, were offered for approval, however Alan noticed some mistakes that need changing. The minutes were to be signed by Jonathan Custance Baker but will be offered next meeting.

instead.

Jonathan updated the committee on the health of John Heal who is still in hospital. Jonathan has sent flowers to Maggie.

3. Matters arising

4. Secretary's Report

The work group have put in an entry to the Stephenson's cup. As part of this we have range of short videos on the website.

We have had many emails about Bees swarming and a huge rise in the numbers ending up in chimneys and walls. Cathy has been giving advice and we now have a letter with a summary from the BBKA and links to people who may help. John Easton recommends Darren Smith of ISCA pest control as they will always call us first if they get a call to bees and will also cull the bees correctly if needed.

We don't really have anyone in the Exeter area who will help now. The latest company to do a bee nest removal here were Amicus. Advice about lighting a fire is only if bees have just arrived, heavy smoke for 24 hrs. Mark Doggett, has a Bee Vac he may be happy to lend out to a Beekeeper.

We have been asked to bring a Bee Display to shows and meetings. They have been taken to Topsham Museum for a pollinator day, Kenn Village Show on 10th June, Scouts are visiting on 23rd June, World Bee Day at Exeter cathedral garden on 21st and 22nd July with Kit Reynolds.

The solar farm has been in touch for an update, which I have given them, and honey which will be supplied by the member with bees on site.

5. Treasurers Report

Paul Smith has become the Treasurer while John is ill. The bank has been contacted to set in progress taking over the account. Alan confirmed that the EBKA spreadsheet puts in the bank statement then there is a transaction analysis. Paul needs to get online access to banking. There is a special form that will not download on Chrome and may take up to 21 days to process. Alan will take charge of membership.

6. Apiary Report

Zest hive is being built, led by Chip, with help from Alex. We are taking part in the DARG study on varroa and bee gyms. We have new Bee Suits as we need larger sizes, and a few suits are now wearing out. Extra equipment is needed as in frames and foundation. Cathy has swapped two 14 x 12 Deep Nationals for two Apiary Commercial Brood boxes as we have a lot of Deep Nat. and are not using the commercials.

7. Webmaster Report

The Devon County Show is on the website, also the Open days are on the Events page. The video clips on Youtube are also available. There is an article about Bees in Buildings. Basil will change

contact details on website for members to contact Alan instead.

9. Education Officer

8.Any Other Business

Sainsbury's have been supplying very clean, just white sugar to the Apiary. John Easton has written to thank them; Jonathan will also write a letter of thanks on behalf of committee. Basil suggested we give some Honey too.

Honiton Committee, Keith Bone is the temporary Chairman after resignation and Janie Smallridge will return. Jonathan said we will do what is right for Exeter and possibly put the Devon County show entry for Stephenson cup, provide honey for sale as a wide variety sells well.

Dates for Future Meetings on Zoom

18th July 2023