

## Devon Beekeepers Association

### Exeter Branch

#### Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 on Zoom

**Present:** Jonathan Custance Baker, Cathy Mudge, Jill Blackett, John Heal, Karen Pearson, Alan Binge, Caroline Tavener.

**1. Apologies:** Basil Strickland, Ed and Rosemary Maltby, Paul Smith

#### **2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

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

#### **4. Secretary's Report**

Cathy and many members had been busy with swarms, one member had 7 arrive over a period of a week in the same tree, Martin had 4 swarms in 24 hrs. Cathy had been receiving requests to borrow equipment as many swarm collectors had run out. The Apiary has also used all equipment, so it was suggested they try Exeter Beekeepers Facebook.

So many people have rung for advice about swarms that have made a home in chimneys and buildings that Cathy has written a letter with all the links for people with this problem. The letter is on the website. At present we do not have a local contact who will undertake this type of work.

We have had to cancel the Open Day due to predicted Thunderstorms, but on the day the weather would have been perfect, which was a shame. Those interested will be given a further invite for the August Open Day.

The Bees have been exhibited in an Observation frame at a Pollinators Day at Topsham Museum and St Nicholas School in Heavitree. They will be going to the Cathedral Pollinators Day in July in the Bishop's garden.

#### **5. Treasurers Report**

Since taking over there are unpaid bills. Cathy is owed £1000 in expenses. One of the reasons was a large order of over £500 was made for Beesuits. Paul thinks that anything above £200 should go before the committee, or at least have the approval of the Treasurer or Chairman. In essence, the best way forward is a Debit card, this would enable a lot of expenses to be paid directly. All future payments above £200 on the card should be cleared. Caroline has asked as Education Secretary, she would like to have a card to pay for things such as books and venues for the teaching of members. The bank has been very slow to set up changes, Alan has a card, but has been told he needs to be sent a new one, but all correspondence is sent to John as they are unable to change address at the moment. So Maggie has to post on or it needs to be collected.

Jonathan will be visiting John when he gets an update from Maggie.

#### **6. Apiary Report**

Nucs for sale are developing well. Both courses are coming to the Apiary, the Beginners doing their practicals and now the Improvers are coming. There are going to be Basic exams this year, but we are waiting for the dates as there are problems finding an examiner.

Karen said Zoe's talk about Bees used in research. Jonathan said he would like a list of the talks and visits done over the year. Jonathan said Exeter has a really good programme of training and educating which needed to be publicised.

#### **7. Webmaster**

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Alan has been following up on new beginners. The links to them are not available as John may have been in touch but not yet added to the membership. They are missing out on insurance and also should not be coming to the Apiary.

Equipment hire was run by John so someone needs to take this over, perhaps Paul can do this. Is there an online booking system we could use. We need to be able to access the website, maybe use a digital plug in, Karen said we need a money trail.

Can we buy equipment as a shop, the members put their order straight into the shop and it goes directly to suppliers. As the order comes on a pallet there will always be an issue moving the equipment around. Cathy will ask suppliers if they do anything like this.

**Dates for Future Meetings on Zoom**

19<sup>th</sup> September, 24<sup>th</sup> October, AGM 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023