

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24th Zoom, 2024

Present: Alex Merchant, Cathy Mudge, Paul Smith, Alan Binge, Jonathan Custance Baker (Chair), Caroline Taverner, Steve Tucker

1. Apologies

- Basil Strickland
- Ed Maltby
- Karen Pearson
- Jill Blackett

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from 23rd July, 2024 were approved and signed off.

3. Matters Arising

- None

4. Secretary's Report

- Talks will be starting 1st Tuesday of the month at Woodbury Reading Rooms.
- The AGM is planned for the 5th November at 6.30pm with Derek Mitchell after to give a talk on Bees.
- Member has asked Cathy about her Exam certificate, these will be going to Caroline to be handed out at the AGM.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Paul has sent accounts for review.
- Money has come from selling Nucs and Queens it raised £1,700. Courses brought in £4,000
- Paul said to thank Caroline and David for their hard work in this area, seconded by Jonathan
- Expenditure has focussed on the Exeter Apiary, New Huts and storage, equipment. Investing in the Apiary is the right way to use funds to keep it in a good condition.
- We have gone from £27,800 to £27,200 but Paul expects funds to rise to £28,000 once honey money has come in.
- We have £15,000 of assets, Paul will come to the Apiary to undertake the annual inventory, Alan said photographic record is fine.
- The accounts have now been successfully reconciled.
- Jonathan thanked Paul for his work on the accounts.

6. Website Updates

- Basil unavailable.

7. Education Officer's Report

- Kathy Lovegrove has been working on and sent a Winter Programme of Education
- There is an update on Bee Health, Bee Pests and Diseases.
- All of this is to support Beekeepers in Devon, helping candidates choose and take the right modules.
- Caroline has been approached by a group of Artists and Sculptors with a project for Exeter Cathedral featuring Beeswax motives. 1,000 people will take a pre-made wax votive and make personal to them or the group they represent. Education around it will focus on honey and bee workshops. Caroline is negotiating a price for the wax which they want to buy from Exeter Beekeepers in the first place, then look to Devon if they cannot get enough. Caroline is hoping to get as many beekeepers as possible to donate their wax. The artists are keen to get involved in preparing the wax. Caroline hopes to arrange a central point for collection, Cathy concerned about wax coming to Apiary so a volunteer point to be arranged. A 5Lb block of wax retails at approx. £25 depending on condition.
- Caroline is hoping to finalise dates for next courses this week. There may be an improvers course depending on the number.

8. Asian Hornet Update

- Steve went to the Princess Gate stall, information for people, someone dressed as a Hornet. Many leaflets were handed out and money spent on posters and signs were well worth the effort.
- Recently there has been a lot of information on the BBC, bad year for insects in general. There were 18 nests in the UK in Kent, E Sussex and Hampshire.
- With the import issue this will not go away, we are keeping on top of it at the moment. Positive report from Plymouth, the 2023 nest that was spotted and destroyed has not led to any new sightings. Last AHAT meeting was on Zoom, Steve will try and keep verification people in touch, as no nests and keep them on board for spring.

9. Apiary Report

- Alex reports that we are getting near the end of feeding up the bees
- Now is the start of repairing equipment as we bring in supers etc.
- Sale equipment discussed, we need new brood and super boxes.

10. Devon Executive Meeting

- The EC is still looking for people to shadow EC members, Mike Ticehurst in particular. Existing members are happy to be shadowed. All the EC meetings are on Zoom and are held in the day. Webmasters are needed to help with the online site. If anyone within the branch is able or willing to take part.
- There is still no General Secretary for the EC
- Annual Devon Beekeepers meeting of the BBKA are looking for proposals to put forward. Is there any subjects we want to raise. Mid October is the cut off point.
- Date is 14th December, they would like 4 members per branch to attend, 30 are required to make a quorum. There will be a speaker and it will be on Zoom.
- Central area being looked for, The Kenn centre at Kennford was suggested.

10. Honiton Show

We will ask for a report regarding the Honiton Show.

11. Any Other Business

- Farmwise is all organised, we just need to get enough volunteers for the day

Meeting Adjourned: 19:53