

TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the 676th Meeting held on Wednesday 7 June 2019 at 7.30pm
Miller Hall , 41, Whitton Road, Twickenham

Present: Jenny Band, Patrick Brennan, Ted Chatley, Michael Foster, Warwick Francis , Alex Lawrence, Jean Loveland, Ray Nicol, Jane Sachdev, Candida Williamson
Alice Cooper attended the first half hour.

Apologies: Chris Betley , Irek Gajowniczek, Sarah Crofton, Harvey Kirk, Ben Donaldson, Clive Harris*

*There was concern that Clive Harris's name had been erroneously omitted from the previous circulation list . Apologies to Clive .

Centenary Film: showing

The meeting began with a showing of the Centenary Film produced for T&TVBKA by Alice Cooper. It was agreed that the film is of a really professional quality and will be a great asset for the Association. Alice has produced it in various forms so it can be used in a variety of contexts. It will be unveiled for the membership in 2 weeks

Action WF: inform the membership

Alice and team have done a wonderful job and the Committee recorded its grateful thanks.

1. **Minutes & Matters arising.** Some minor typo errors were corrected. (to be sent to CB) . Warwick asked that item 5b. be removed (it had been misunderstood) and noted that 5e. (smart meters) will be decided in due course.
The minutes were proposed by PB , seconded by JB and unanimously agreed .
No other matters arising.

2 Twickenham Apiary & Mole Apiary Works

Twickenham Apiary : Derek the window painter has asked to be allowed to strip the windows and repaint them. This would take an extra day (£220) but would give a far better & more durable finish. This was agreed proposed by Pat seconded by Ray and agreed by the Committee. **Action PB:** instruct Derek to go ahead.

Gazebo work: PB reported that Paul says the existing footings are insufficient. The plinth is made with a dry mix so footings will now be needed. Extra cost.

Action PB: to get more details from to Paul. General consensus: it will be best to do the work properly at this stage .

Mole Apiary:

Looking very tidy and attractive now thanks to the O'Sheas' and others' efforts

Action JS: ask Clive to expedite the necessary tree work as soon as the bees are quiet. The damson tree in the centre will be left as it has been confirmed as safe , is used by the bees for pollen and swarming onto and gives character to the apiary.

Jane Sachdev asked about having a T&TVBKA Sign made for Mole (cf Twickenham's new sign). A small version (a maquette?) has been put on the gate and looks smart. The Committee agreed that a medium sized sign (60cm x 50 cm:) would be best as no planning permission is required. It should be commissioned and positioned to

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give maximum visibility from the road. Alex felt we should be tactful about placing it so it doesn't antagonise the neighbours. The final decision on position will be taken after the tree work is complete .

Action JS: get quotes for metal and dye bond signs

3 Correspondence received:

Nothing of lasting importance. All immediate matters were dealt with by WF.

4 Membership (WF)

Total hasn't changed since last meeting.

Discussion about whether an online payment system should be added to T&TVBKA's system. BBKA have just introduced one. WF wants to see how BACS works with it . In principle it will be a good thing for the future but we need to sort out teething problems first.

Ray said he can't identify new members on the current system. This will be addressed.

Broadband installation will help our efficiency in this and other issues.

5 Treasurer's Update

T&TVBKA outgoings have exceeded income for the last few weeks but this was a part of a planned expenditure on improvements to the fabric of the Apiary as part of the Centenary Year Programme. It has all been money well spent.

The issue of an honorarium for Alice Cooper was raised. Some form of remuneration to her personally had been discussed and assumed at the outset of the film production. She had offered to make us a professional film 'at cost' by not charging much for her own time. However the budget has increased due to some unforeseen costs outside Alice's control. The Committee was divided on this issue. Honoraria set precedents (eg: Chris Deaves – which has now been stopped in favour of an expenses claim.) Alice had originally asked that if there was unspent money in the budget, that it could pay for her time as she was otherwise giving it for free and it amounts to a loss of income. The Committee discussed alternative approaches – wine, flowers, rugby tickets but for a self employed person such as Alice these are not as useful as money. The matter was left undecided but with a general will to give Alice some meaningful form of appreciation.

Action CW: to see if her daughter – currently in contact with Alice - can surreptitiously find out what would be the best option for Alice

AOB

Exam results were back and generally good. Congratulations to all concerned.

Alex asked about windows and doors for Mole. Ongoing discussion. He has a quote .

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JS & TC: a **Mole members' Honey Sale** was agreed for members' to sell their honey.
Provisional Date : Sun 15 Sept

Action WF: adapt the poster for the Twickenham Honey Sale & produce it for Mole

Action JS: email all Mole members about it asap so they have time to prepare their honey.

President's Evening date confirmed: 22 November

New Hide. Candy & Jill have kindly undertaken to sew up the new netting for the new hide.

Old netting. A local school has asked for it but Reigate Beekeepers have asked to buy it

Action RN: contact Reigate Beekeepers and ascertain their offer.

Broadband installation:

Slight delay due to confusion with Openreach. Work was due to commence this week. The cable is to be installed under the front foot path leading to the road. The router will be in Miller Hall where it provides a good signal throughout the apiary.

Michael Foster noted that the front path is hazardous and needs to be improved .

Issues for Next Meeting :

JL : requested that the issue of how to increase our membership be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

PB: Stainless Steel wall guard for Honey Prep Room

Next Meeting:

Wed 18 Sept 7.30 Millar Hall

[Wed 18 Sept 6pm Education Group Round-up meeting]

The meeting closed at 8.47pm