

**Present:** Chris Betley, Jenny Band, Patrick Brennan, Neil Hillbery, Ray Nicol, Mike Scotton, Alex Lawrence, Harvey Kirk, Irek Gajowniczek, Ted Chatley, Candice Williamson, Michael Foster, Warwick Francis,

**Apologies:** Tony Wilson,

#### **1. Minutes and Outstanding issues from last meeting**

Minor corrections required, Ted proposed and Ray seconded the minutes. Patrick signed as read.

Matters Arising: Talk by Professor Brown and trip for members not yet followed up.

Patrick is awaiting quotes regarding tree felling works at the apiary in Twickenham. Patrick has the schedule of works.

#### **2. Apiary and Mole works**

Quotes from the builder have not yet been received for works at rear of Miller Hall.

Water was turned off at Mole Apiary for the winter.

A Schedule of works for 2018 has been formulated:

- a. Replacement of windows and doors at Mole apiary
- b. Concreting at rear of Millar Hall
- c. New Hide. Candy has made preliminary enquiries regarding costings.  
Shaun has suggested a solid roof for shade similar to a Car-port. The current soft roof may not last one more season.  
Candy suggested that the scaffolding poles are robust enough to take a corrugated plastic roof painted black.

#### **4. Membership secretary's update**

Membership sign up email is going out next week. No changes at BBI or membership numbers:

Full members	158
Partners	17
Country	2
Hons	9
Junior	1
Family	19
Total	206

Warwick indicated that as far as percentage of members who have passed the Basic BBKA examination we are currently 7<sup>th</sup> in the country.

#### **5. Correspondence received**

The vast majority of correspondence regarding the winter beginners course. 42 have confirmed.

One email regarding a French intern was referred to the BBKA

Jenny suggested a better system required to prevent email replies going to 'spam' folders

Warwick indicated that other BKA's charge a fee for the beginner's course, this would show commitment to finish the course. Neil pointed out that if a lecture is cancelled then we would be accountable.

Other ideas put forward were:

- Online exam to be passed
- Attendance record
- ‘First come first served’ with regards the practical element.

**6. Treasurer's update (NH )**

End of year 2017 summary available when completed. Ad -hoc committee meeting to take place to agree the accounts.

Jenny pointed out that the apiary inventory will need to be updated in due course. Jenny also indicated that much of the old equipment needs to be written off, but replacing with new would be expensive. There is equipment still used in the apiary more than 10-20 years old.

Jenny suggests a rolling programme to keep the inventory up to date, and treat this as an insurance claim document whenever needed. This shows good governance for the loss adjuster.

**7. Centenary planning**

This needs to be opened to members as well as the committee as time and energy are required. Jenny will write and Warwick will circulate a letter regarding this.

**8. AOB**

Neil pointed out that there are time scales with regards to nominations for the President/Chairman and Secretary posts. Ideally nominations should be received before the AGM.

The post of librarian does not need to be taken by a member of the committee.

The BBKA delegate conference will be attended by Warwick , he was willing to discuss the issues raised by it if the membership were interested.

Ray mentioned that the major dates in the beekeeping year need to be added to the website information:

16<sup>th</sup> March is beginners first week

23<sup>rd</sup> March is AGM

13-15<sup>th</sup> April is the BBKA Spring Convention

Keys to the Apiary kept by Mike Scotton were passed on to Christine.

End of meeting 8.35pm

Next meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Millar Hall