

Minutes of the 715th Meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.45pm on google meets

Present: Warwick Francis (WF), Patrick Brennan (PB), Jane Sachdev (JS), Ray Nicol (RN), Candida Williamson (CW), Irek G (IG), Jonathan Palmer (JP), Alex Lawrence (AL) (and Mandy Moss (MM) as an invited guest to contribute to Asian Hornet item.)

Apologies: Christine Betley (CB), Julie Hill (JH), Harvey Kirk (HK), Phil Webb (PW)

1. Minutes of last meeting

JS will amend typos in Minutes of previous meeting; proposed by JP, seconded by IG as a true reflection of the meeting. Unanimously accepted.

Mandy Moss (MM) was welcomed to the meeting to contribute to discussions re how we progress the Asian Hornet monitoring and education plan.

2. Asian Hornet Group

MM recommended that everyone watch the Asian Hornet conference on youtube – particularly the interesting work done by Kent BKA, which should act as an exemplar for us. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUMk2tzaw1E>

- Email communication to T&TV members re AH work has not produced much response or interest. MM would like to find a better way to engage members.
- MM has been very active in contacting: local press; allotments in Hounslow and Richmond; Crane Park Association; and 42 associations with charity gardens and allotments etc offering posters and advice re AH sightings. **WF will send A4 posters to all allotments in Hounslow.** Crane Park has included info in their February newsletter, which is encouraging. Our objective is to enable general public to identify AH in the wild, take photos and report via the AH app.
- MM reported that Graham Merry has been instrumental in contacting landscapers and Royal Parks, which is appreciated. MM would like to make sure all garden centres have a stock of posters to hand out.
- Social Media: MM recommended that the T&TV website be updated with AH information **(RN to do)** and kept updated, so that there is an incentive for visitors to return to the website. Also, community groups with facebook to be tagged so that they receive info for their fb pages. MM would like to set up a whatsapp group of members who want alerts.
- Members' event so traps can be given out with presentation on how to use them. WF is getting the traps and "trappit" – should be arriving next week. It was agreed to dedicate **Fridays 15th and 22nd March to AH nights at the apiary.** MM will prepare a case study based on the Kent experience and present to members; PB suggested the video of the conference is shown; JP suggested an I/D banner on the fence to catch footfall in Whitton Rd; BBKA website has images and i/d info. Kent mapped their membership on a grid system to ensure monitored traps positioned across the area – we could do the same using the ER2 map of members. This will be discussed further at Monday's AHAT meeting (26th Feb) **RN to chair online.**

The meeting expressed thanks to Mandy for attending the meeting – MM left.

3. Apiary and Mole Works

Apiary

- a. RN has placed fondant on hives – about 12 colonies alive, some thriving, some less so. 3 dead hived colonies and 2 dead nuc colonies found.
- b. JH and PB have obtained quotes for roofing of sheds. JH's quote required us to collect materials and dispose of rubbish. PB's contractor lost interest due to delayed response from us. AL suggested using corrugated roofing – AL to submit a quote for using this material.

Minutes of the 715th Meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.45pm
on google meets

- c. Outside tap to be renewed/repaired so it can be readily used by members, to prevent use of the kitchen sink for cleaning hive equipment. AL will try to get this done this week and if not, will let RN know.

Mole

- a. WF asked for the invoice for the new lawnmower so it can go in the accounts please. CB
b. Skip to be ordered by JS for delivery to Mole in the week after Easter. AL will move any items he wants to keep before then, remaining items to be disposed of.

4. Education Group

School visits will re-start on Wednesdays and Thursdays during term time after Easter wef 24th April until Thursday 4th July 2024. A core group of about 10 volunteers have offered various levels of commitment to days/dates and a training session is being planned for early April so that everyone involved feels confident in the various roles they might wish to take on. JS to organise and lead this.

5. Correspondence Received

Introduction from Outreach Officer circulated by RN to committee members.
North Dorset BKA asking for advice re setting up a BKA Centre with honey prep, microscopy facilities etc. Agreed that RN will contact them and invite them to call or visit Twickenham.

6. Social Media & Website

(see comments under Asian Hornet above)

7. Membership (for 2024 to date)

62 Registered

2 Partner

0 Country

1 Family

2 Associate

25 Trainees (winter course)

5 Honorary

WF will send a reminder email before end Feb to those who have not yet renewed.

8. Treasurers update (WF)

- Year to date: £6,000 income, £838 expenditure.
- Mole Maintenance £516 for tree work – removal of two trees.
- Mole Water meter to be read and reading submitted.
- AH £129 cost of trappit. About £400 to be spent on traps.
- Winter course donations have been good, with good gift aid attached.
- Year End 2023 accounts to go to auditor (John Stowe?)
- Shop finances need to be reviewed – to ensure profitability and stock levels are appropriate. Stock on the computer is listed as a total value, not itemised.
- The value of the T&TV association increased in 2023.

9. AOB

- Dates for 2024
 - AGM – Friday 5th April at the apiary
 - Asian Hornet presentation nights – Friday 15th and 22nd March
 - First night of the season at the apiary Friday 15th March
 - First night of the practical course for beginners – Friday 12th April
 - Open Day – Saturday 15th June – Karl will be asked if he can organise again!
 - Final night of the season – Friday 27th September

Minutes of the 715th Meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.45pm
on google meets

- Honey Show – Weekend of 11th-13th October – Karen Mann to be asked to judge.
- President's Evening – Friday 15th November. JP will find a speaker.

Meeting closed at 21:30.

Next meeting Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.45pm via Google meet. Apologies in advance from CW, JS and JP.