

TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING NO: 717

WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2024 at 7.45pm

Virtually via Google Meet

MINUTES

Present:

Ray Nicol (RN); Warwick Francis (WF); Patrick Brennan (PB); Jane Sachdev (JS); Irek Gajowniczek (IG); Alex Lawrence (AL); Phil Webb (PW); Mandy Moss (MM); Sally Lewen (SL); Christine Betley (CB); Julie Hill (JH).

Apologies:

Harvey Kirk (HP); Jonathan Palmer (JP); Greg Elliot (GE); Candida Williamson (CW).

1. Minutes of the last Meeting and outstanding Issues (21.2.24)

RN welcomed new Committee members to the Meeting.

The Minutes were agreed as being a true record.

Proposed: PB

Seconded: WF

* Outside tap - the repair had been completed.

* Correspondence – there was interest from North Dorset beekeepers in how the Association raised funds.

* Speaker for President's evening. Sally Pemberton sent information on a speaker from Central Beekeeping to WF.

ACTION: RN, JP and WF to liaise

2. Apiary and Mole Works

TWICKENHAM

1. The lawn needs cutting. It was confirmed the Apiary has lawnmower and an electric hedge-trimmer. CB can bring the trimmer from Mole if required.

2. Sycamore seedlings are coming up in the lawn – need to look at whether these are suckers or can be easily pulled out.

3. The formation of a Saturday gardening group was suggested, possibly the first Saturday in the month. CB was happy to co-ordinate this.

ACTION: CB

4. WF reported a couple of members of Muslim faith on the Winter Course had difficulty in attending the practical beekeeping on Friday nights as it clashes with their sabbath. A Saturday afternoon group could be considered and there may also be other members for whom a Saturday was a preferred option.

5. JS will bring her litter picker and clean up the front courtyard on Friday 19th and was happy to continue to do this on Friday nights.

ACTION: JS

6. The electric meter cover is falling off the wall. AL reported it just needed new raw plugs washers and screws and would attend to it.

ACTION: AL

7. The First Night had gone well. RN to contact the beginners who did not attend as there were 3-4 people waiting for a place, although they had not completed the Winter Course.

ACTION: RN

8. Shed roofs – Member Rob Hall said he would measure when weather is better and liaise with RN.

ACTION: RN

MOLE:

1. The grass at Mole is also very long and pathways will be mowed to the hives. Training on the use of the new lawnmower is to take place.

2. Agreement and expenditure already approved to book a skip to remove all the unclaimed items and rubbish.

ACTION: JS

3. It was felt that the Apiary was not suitable to host a visit from the nursery school who will be based opposite. Instead, JS suggested an observation hive be set up and taken across to the nursery.

ACTION: JS

3. Education Group

Yesterday, JS had organized a run through of the programme for the Apiary sessions which begin on Wednesday 24th April. This season, there will only be one school class per visit and plenty of schools had already booked in. There are still some spaces left should there be more enquiries. The Hide has been put up and hives checked.

JS had created an excellent bookmark with an Asian Hornet picture on to raise awareness and give to each child attending the sessions. The cost of £30 for 500 was agreed.

ACTION: JS

CW had suggested a dedicated set of steps would be very helpful for setting up and dismantling the hide. AL advised that the Apiary already has an aluminium step ladder. It was agreed to find the ladder in the first instance to establish if suitable.

CW had also advised that she would be unable to make another hide when the current one needed replacing. Discussion took place on suitable alternative materials – possibly an aluminium frame with sliding fly screen doors. WF and AL agreed to speak to CW to establish if there is a template for her design that could be replicated by a manufacturer or what other options could be explored.

ACTION: WF, AL, CW

4. Correspondence received

WF received enquiries about courses and a request from the OSO Arts Centre, Barnes, to borrow a beehive or skep to be used as a prop in a production between 17th - 21st July. This would need to be collected by 15th July. Marion Earle is the Stage Manager and contact.

PW said he could help with this.

ACTION: PW

Warwick to set JH (Hon. Secretary) up with access to the correspondence Account.

ACTION: WF

5. Social Media

WF felt the Association only really needed social media to publicise the Open Day, Honey Show and any other fundraising events. MM offered to run an Apiary Instagram account.

ACTION: MM

6. Membership Secretary's update (WF)

The current Membership is as follows:

Registered: 112

Partner: 7

Junior: 1

Country :3

Family: 1

Associate: 2

Hons: 5

Total: 131

WF had taken trainees off the list.

13 new members had been accepted.

Capitation has been paid: £21590 and £378 .65 to BDI.

Membership had stayed pretty constant over the past five years around 140 mark.

7. Treasurer's update (WF)

Outgoings:

WF reported £636.45 had been spent on Asian Hornet traps / awareness so far
£516 on maintenance at Mole. WF felt the water bill at Mole was too high and JS offered to take a meter reading when the next Mole working party takes place.

ACTION: JS

Income:

£2,250 had been received for the Winter Course including Gift Aid.

The Association is currently spending about half of the income coming in.

PW suggested making a donation to bees for development in the third world. However, this did not currently conform with the Association objective, which is to educate.

MM offered to draft a mission statement about the objectives of the Beekeeping Association to include pollinators. The threat posed by the Asian Hornet is relevant to beekeeping too.

ACTION: MM

Discussion again took place about the change from Charitable status to an Incorporated organisation, thus removing any possible individual liabilities. PB reiterated he knew someone who could advise on this and would check his availability to attend a special meeting to discuss further.

ACTION: PB

WF asked new members of the Committee to provide their dates of birth register them on Charities Commission register.

ACTION: WF, MM, SL, GE

8. Asian Hornet Action Group

MM had sent out a lot of targeted messages, including to 45 allotments and Friends of Charities, 17 Garden Centres, 11 Golf Clubs, 4 large landscaping companies, local media 7 local newspapers, arboriculturists and 22 local tree surgeons. She is currently working on a list of schools, gardening blogs, Stately Homes and Estate and sports clubs.

A link is included to the Non Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) to request and download materials and also the TTVBKA website. MM was interested to know if the TTVKA website has had more hits as a result. RN said he would turn on the statistics section of the website.

ACTION: PB

MM is also hoping Richmond Council will put something on their website.

JH to send names of contacts at the Council and also the Twickenham Tribune online paper.

ACTION: JH

ID sheets to be put on Apiary website

Discussion took place about Asian Hornet posters. CB felt the ones in Bushy Park were too busy and detailed. Some Associations had created their own posters.

It was agreed that ID sheets would be put on the TTVBKA website and that we could look to creating an eye catching poster with a more simplified design.

ACTION: MM AND CB

9. A.O.B.

*** Equipment:** MM noticed lots of boxes had holes and it was agreed to eliminate anything that is not functional. Any boxes that could not be easily repaired should be left at the side of the Apiary by the sink to dispose of.

PB suggested making up new equipment would be good and could be incorporated into a woodworking class.

* **Shed roof:** AL reported the cost of materials would be £32 inc VAT for 3 x 1 metres and cost around £400 including screws. He would speak to Rob Hall on Friday and put a plan together.

ACTION: AL -----Remove. Rob Hall has the roof in hand. He/we'll sort it out on the same day as Christine has the gardening day. Ray.

* **Molesey Carnival** – JS suggested Mole had a presence at the Carnival on Saturday 8TH June.

ACTION: JS

* **Twickenham Open Day** – Saturday 15th June.

* **Speakers** – RN suggested setting up a small group to organise speakers on Friday nights after the inspections. SE had volunteered at the AGM about this but had asked for another volunteer too. Sally Pemberton had compiled a list of suggested speakers. Some practical sessions (eg. hive parts assembly) would also be welcomed.

ACTION: PB to speak to Sally, RN and MM on Friday

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 1945 via Google Meet.

RN thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 2120.

Link to Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/xgw-ucbv-iiu>