

TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING NO: 720

WEDNESDAY 7th AUGUST 2024 at 7.40pm

Virtually via Google Meet

MINUTES

Present:

Ray Nicol (RN); Warwick Francis (WF); Patrick Brennan (PB); Jane Sachdev (JS); Christine Betley (CB); Irek Gajowniczek (IG); Harvey Kirk (HP); Phil Webb (PW); Mandy Moss (MM); Greg Elliot (GE); Julie Hill (JH).

Apologies:

Jonathan Palmer; Sally Ewen; Alex Lawrence; Candida Williamson.

1. Minutes of the last Meeting and Outstanding Issues (26.6.24)

Thanks were recorded to JS for taking the previous Minutes as JH was on holiday.

JS proposed the Minutes as a true record.

WF seconded.

All agreed.

PB reported one Key Safe has been ordered for the outside wall next to the meters. A further Key Safe will be ordered and situated inside compound with the key to Miller Hall. The combination of which will be given on a 'need to' basis.

PB has a spare Honey Prep Room key.

CB suggested there was an audit of all the keys including in the key cupboard and asked the Committee to let her have details of which keys, if any, they held.

ACTION: CB

GE suggested a mortice lock on the door to the Miller Hall but this was felt unnecessary given the two locked gates between their and the road.

WF suggested that people were reminded to turn the key round a second time to dead bolt the Miller Hall when leaving.

It was agreed that the padlock code on the entrance gate should be changed from time to time.

Presidents' Evening – 15th November. PB suggested a talk on Asian Hornets or bumble bees and would make enquiries about availability.

ACTION: PB

2. Apiary and Mole Works

TWICKENHAM

Shed roof has been re-felted by Rob.

The drains had been cleared by AL.

GE suggested hiring a skip to clear the rubbish along the side of the building.

Candy to be asked if the spare netting was required.

MM asked about the Health & Safety document. Discussion took place about Epi Pens, which are no longer available. It was agreed the reference to the pens in the document should be deleted. MM to further update the document and circulate.

ACTION: MM

RN asked for any comments regarding updating the Apiary site.

JS asked whether the document should include anything about safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. MM confirmed as a Charity, it was a statutory requirement to have a Safeguarding Policy and this should be separate to the Health & Safety document. The Policy should also include those who use the Apiary. JS offered to look into this.

ACTION: JS & MM

MOLE

JS reported more clearing had taken place. A review of the purpose of Mole should take place and prepare a strategic document to bring to the Committee by the end of the year.

PW asked about the windows which are in a terrible state. However, it was felt the Clubhouse was the main issue and until the future of the building was agreed it was not worth spending any money on repairs. It was agreed that the next Committee Meeting would take place at Mole so the site could be assessed.

HK raised a concern about the number of hives at Mole and considered it inappropriate for anyone just bringing their bees to the site. There are currently 20 hives on the site - many belonging to committee Members. The rental cost per hive is £12. Agreement on the maximum number of hives and identification of the hives to be discussed at the next Committee Meeting which will be held on the site on Sunday 15th September at 1400.

3. Education Group

JS had circulated notes of the Seasons Review. It was agreed the hide should be taken down before the October Honey Show.

4. Correspondence received

WF to re-send Twickerbees password to JH as this had not been received. **ACTION: WF**

WF mobile number to be taken off the website. **ACTION: MM**

Discussion took place about spam being received by members and the British Bees Removers Association.

BBKA Talks for Beekeepers – one “Preparing for Winter Bees” is due out soon.

5. Social Media

MM has begun inputting information on Instagram. CB and PW are meeting with Staines Rugby Club who are interested in having bees on their site.

GE asked if MM could provide stats on engagement on the website once revamped.

6. Membership Secretary's update (WF)

Membership is currently running at 140, the breakdown as follows:

Registered: 117

Partner: 8

Junior: 1

Country: 3

Family: 3

Associate: 2

Hons: 6

GE asked if there were any figures on the past ten years of membership.

To encourage more volunteers, more members were needed.

Increasing awareness about the value of pollinators and an objective that has a broader environmental reach should be the way forward.

7. Treasurer's update (WF)

WF had circulated the Financial update prior to the Meeting.

Capitation is completed. WF will put Gift Aid through so there will be more money in the bank.

The shop used to turnover £12000- £14000 a year but currently it is running at half that. At some stage a review of the shop will be needed.

MM felt that the shop wasn't promoted enough in terms of the benefits, regarding what discount there was and the stock so people could compare prices.

PB said there were "window shoppers" who would come in and asked the prices but didn't necessarily buy.

Discussion took place about the savings account and exploring ways of making the money work better as the funds were not currently attracting much interest. The Charity can only invest in approved schemes and it was agreed that research would be done to look into options.

WF suggested Coif account:

<https://www.ccla.co.uk/funds/coif-charities-investment-fund>

8. Asian Hornet Action Group

No further action at present.

9. A.O.B.

Library – GE offered to be the librarian. PB to share the database of current books in the library he had compiled.

ACTION: GE and PB

It was agreed to buy the books suggested by MM as additions to the library.

9. A.O.B. (contd.)

GE suggested buying a strimmer and a colour printer.

WF to research

ACTION: GE and WF

JH had suggested purchasing a de-capper for the Honey Prep Room as advertised in the August TTBKA magazine. It was agreed that further research into the possible benefits of this was required and we would see if one was demonstrated at the National Honey Show.

MM had carried out a lot of work updating and refreshing the T&TVBKA website and invited ideas for further content.

10. Dates of Next Meeting

Sunday 15th September at 2pm at Mole Apiary.

RN thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 2130.

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