

# **TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING NO: 721**

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 2PM**

## **MOLE APIARY**

## **MINUTES**

### **PRESENT:**

Ray Nicol (RN); Patrick Brennan (PB); Jane Sachdev (JS); Harvey Kirk (HP); Phil Webb (PW); Sally Ewen (SL); Julie Hill (JH).

### **APOLOGIES:**

Warwick Francis (WF); Mandy Moss (MM); Greg Elliott; Alex Lawrence (AL); Candida Williamson; Irek Gajowniczek; Jonathan Palmer.

### **1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (7.8.24) AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

These were agreed as a true record.

Proposed: PB

Seconded CB

All in favour.

Key safe is up and working in the front yard. PB needs to order a second key safe inside the compound for access to Miller Hall and also a new key for the gate into the compound.

It was agreed the combination padlock codes would be changed next year.

#### **ACTION: PB**

- \* Presidents Evening – PB spoke to neighbour and chased but haven't heard back
- \* JH is up and running with Secretary@Twickerbees email account
- \* The Library is not yet online
- \* The colour printer has been purchased
- \* PB suggested putting a socket on the exterior wall of Miller Hall next year
- \* Praise was given to GE for all his work tidying up the shed.
- \* The hide has been taken down

### **2. TWICKENHAM AND MOLE WORKS**

#### **MOLE**

CB spent ages mowing the lawn

The building is in a poor state and there appear to be tree roots coming through the floor. A window is broken and there is a crack in the ceiling.

Options for Mole were discussed:

- \* Demolish the entire building and do nothing
- \* Keep the kitchen and demolish the hall and have an open area for activities
- \* Repair the building
- \* Replace with a log cabin or block build
- \* Do nothing and leave it to fall into a further state of disrepair

### **MOLE (contd.)**

A dry storage area was needed.

Discussion also took place about the use of Mole moving forward. As of today there are 25-30 active hives belonging to Members at Mole, which was considered too many. The building was not currently suitable for hosting any educational activities.

JS offered to obtain a rough costing for works, explore options and write a proposal, reporting back to the Committee in twelve weeks.

**ACTION: JS**

### **TWICKENHAM**

Praise was given to Greg and his Team who has tidied up the Apiary and the black shed

Second treatment been put on bees

There are currently 11 colonies at the Apiary and it is hoped to come out of winter with at least 8.

PW offered to look at the electric sockets outside the Miller Hall and see what was required to bring them back into safe use.

**ACTION: PW**

GE had put together a spreadsheet of sub groups. The Sub groups would report back to the Chairman and this would then be discussed at the Committee Meeting.

Spreadsheet to be issued to Committee with the Minutes

**ACTION: RN & JH**

SE asked for the key for the chemical cupboard In the Lab to lock it up. There is a drawer with keys in on the left hand side of the Lab.

GE to be set up with Twickerbees account if he would like one.

[Schools@twickeerbee.co.uk](mailto:Schools@twickeerbee.co.uk) account to be set up for JS.

**ACTION: RN**

### **3. EDUCATION GROUP**

A lady from Achieving for Children enquired about the possibility of workshops for young people aged 11-16 who are struggling with mental health. JS to contact her direct.

**ACTION: JS**

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

JH circulated copies of the various correspondence received including:

\* Annual Delegate Meeting 11th January 2025 information (received 28.8.24)

\* Paul Jennings Habitats & Heritage asked if we are interested in benefiting from / engaging with Grimwood Road horticultural site which H&H want to take over the lease.

\* Invitation to participate in a Honeybee Health research project

### **Events Schedule**

The schedule can be accessed via the Members section on the website and subscribers button at bottom. It was agreed that we should consolidate all the schedules of the various sub groups eg. Education, Exams, Day to day business of the apiary should be in the apiary schedule. That way we can avoid classes or at least be aware of them. So eg. we can avoid having a school visit and Basic assessment on the same day.

**Exams schedule** – It agreed that the Basic Assessments should not be done on Wednesdays during the Education Visits or on Fridays and to timetable later in the year. This gives the candidates more time to study and prepare and the candidates will stay longer at the apiary to look after the hives. Currently, once the Basic has been taken, the candidates disappear leaving the rest of us to look after the hives. Not fair.

### **5. SOCIAL MEDIA**

MM was doing a good job promoting the various events and the Honey Market on 31<sup>st</sup> August was a resounding success.

### **6. Membership Secretary's update (WF)**

Numbers had not increased or decreased

Registered: 117

Partner: 8

Junior: 1

Country: 3

Family: 3

Associate: 2

Hons: 6

**Total: 140**

### **7. Treasurer's update (WF)**

The document had been circulated prior to the Meeting. WF was to be asked what "Bees in the garden tkts of £50" related to.

**ACTION: RN/JH**

### **8. Asian Hornet Action Group**

17 nests had been identified to date, still Kent / East Sussex area.

## **9. A.O.B.**

**Cleaning Equipment:** HK reported that some new members did not like using the gas burner for scorching equipment and wondered if a hot air gun would be a better option. The disadvantage was there would be an electric cable. It was suggested that electric sockets on either side of the doors to Miller Hall would allow for two cleaning stations.

It was agreed to HK would purchase one for Twickenham initially and if it worked well we could buy one for Mole.

Proposed PB

Seconded RN

All Agreed.

**ACTION: HK**

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

**Dissecting Microscope:** SE asked if she could borrow a dissecting microscope to participate in a workshop at the Honey Show for a suggested donation and subject to insurance cover.

Proposed JS

Seconded JH

All agreed

## **CIO:**

PW obtained a quotation for a solicitor £750 plus VAT for disbursements to take Trustees off

It was agreed that the Committee should make the decisions

An email would be sent to Members advising them that a Special General Meeting would be held on the President's Eventing on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Questions should be submitted in advance.

**ACTION: RN, MM, JH**

**Molesey Christmas Market** – this will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November should any members wish to sell honey.

## **10. Dates of Next Meetings**

It was felt that physical rather than virtual Meetings were preferable.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm – in Miller Hall**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm**

RN thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 1540

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