

TWICKENHAM & THAMES VALLEY BEEKEEPING COMMITTEE MEETING NO: 722

WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30PM

TWICKENHAM APIARY

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Ray Nicol (RN); Patrick Brennan (PB); Jane Sachdev (JS); Harvey Kirk (HP); Phil Webb (PW); Sally Ewen (SL); Warwick Francis (WF); Mandy Moss (MM); Greg Elliott (GE); Irek Gajowniczek; Candida Williamson; Julie Hill (JH).

APOLOGIES:

Jonathan Palmer; Christine Betley; Alex Lawrence.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (15.9.24) AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES

These were agreed as a true record.

Proposed: RN

Seconded: PB

All in favour.

The second key safe has not yet been installed. PB looking into having a new set of keys cut. CB is in the process of carrying out an audit of the keys. Keys in the Miller Hall key safe will be checked, properly labelled and any surplus keys removed.

ACTION: CB

2. TWICKENHAMP APIARY

Electric sockets - Thanks to PW for installing exterior sockets at the rear of Miller Hall.

Guttering – GE reported that one corner of the Miller Hall was wet and needed to be made watertight. It was agreed that this would be addressed in the Spring. The gutters were all full of leaves again too and some method of preventing this in future would be looked into.

ACTION: Maintenance Team

Hives - RN purchased some fondant as some of the Apiary hives felt quite light. It was agreed that some 6 hives would be completely replaced with 2nd quality hive parts and stands would be made out of reclaimed pallets / fence posts. PW know of volunteers who can help too. Members can lend saws, electric screwdrivers too. It was agreed that members would be invited to come along to the hive making and wax rendering workshops.

Library – GE had prepared a spreadsheet of all the books in the library. Every book in the cabinet should be on the spreadsheet and has been renumbered from number 1. GE suggested a process for completing the renumbering and looking at what books should be kept and explore the value of some of the historical books. GE had put a quantity of journals in the Margaret English room for the Committee to look through and decide if they should be kept or not.

3. MOLE APIARY

JS reported that a "Moley Morning" will be held on Saturday 9th November to discuss the site.

JS to check by law rules on bonfires in terms of burning frames. A brazier was thought to be a good idea. JS waiting for a quote from a builder.

ACTION: JS

Discussion took place about the number of hives at Mole which was already at capacity for the space. Some form of teaching should take place on the site in the future.

RN suggested if some of the hives become Association hives and also selling honey.

Anyone with suggestions on the future of Mole should either come along to the Meeting or email JS / RN ahead of the Meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

JH had forwarded anything requiring action.

MM to pass on Staines Rugby Club details. WF said they normally have had more people sign up for the winter courses by now (currently 15). WF to send MM some information to put on the website. The course starts mid January.

RN thought we should invite as many people as possible on the winter courses which are held on Thursdays.

WF said there are people who cannot attend practical sessions on Fridays.

SE had been given two books on solitary bees which she would put in the library.

5. CIO UPDATE

MM reported that members would be asked to vote on the change at the forthcoming Presidents' Evening SGM.

JS suggested a slightly different wording for the SGM.

Ted Chatley's death certificate would be provided soon so his name could be removed.

Discussion took place about the number of Custodial Trustees, of which there are currently two - Neil Hilbery and Chris Deaves. There can be up to 5 Custodial Trustees.

MM proposed that the Custodial Trustees are changed now and that the Land Registry record is updated in due course.

Custodial Trustees need to be appointed and a vote taken on appointing WF and CB as custodial trustees. This can be done at the SGM.

JS / MM to send RN the amended wording. The budget for the CIO to be approved.

A new Agenda to be prepared and issued.

ACTION: RN

6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S UPDATE (WF)

Numbers had remained the same:

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.

The Honey Show raised about the same amount as last year – around £2300.

WF is looking into better rate savings accounts but thought it was best to wait until the CIO was complete before exploring this further.

Capital expenditure – eg printer

GE suggested charging people £40 or £50 for Honey Prep Room hire and including a non refundable deposit if the room was not left clean and tidy. The option to impose a penalty was already in place. Buckets of honey stored there should be properly labelled.

£50 bees in garden – explained this was duplicated money paid in at the beginning of the year.

8. ASIAN HORNET ACTION GROUP

The National Bee Unit had sent an email asking people to monitor for yellow – legged hornets.

9. A.O.B.

PW to email WF to organise payment for the sockets and give him the hard copy of the receipt.

ACTION: PW

Presidents Evening – MM had organised a speaker Gerry Brierley giving a talk about bees and ancient myths.

Other speakers were being lined up for future meetings including Steve Riley. The average cost is around £100 - £300.

ACTION: Sub Committee to arrange a date to meet to discuss further.

Sub Group Spreadsheet – GE asked people to read it and feed back. RN to re-circulate.

ACTION: RN

10. Date of Next Meeting

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

Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.30pm at Twickenham Apiary.

(JH sends apologies due to prior commitment and asked if someone could please take the Minutes)

RN thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 2115.
