

Minutes

Rugby Beekeepers AGM

Feb 28th 2018

Friends Meeting House

Rugby

Meeting opened 7.30

1)Apologies

Gill Berridge, Ian Davis, Tim Riggs, Tim Belk, Chris Smith and Bruce Roberts

Attendees

Margaret Holdsworth (MH), Pauline Young, Richard Wilkinson, Steve Martin, Maurice West, Andrea and Norman Clark, Martin Wibberley, Wayne and Mary Allen, Gaynor Imrie, Hayley Kenney, Rowan Moore(RM), Alex, Fran Payne(FP), Gail Plester(GP), Sam Peckett(SP), Steve Brown(SB), Heide and Douglas wells, Kim Spencer(KS), Cathy Moore(CM)

2)No items raised from last year's minutes, Accepted

3)Report from Chair (MH)

A moment was taken to remember a well-known local beekeeper and previous committee member, John Handy, recently deceased.

Thought are also with another very well-known beekeeper and previous committee member who is known to be very unwell.

The aims of RBK are to spread information about value of bees in our environment and support we give them as beekeepers. Education of general public and of those who chose to be beekeepers is of huge value.

We spread information to general public by attending several events, taking information boards, free leaflets, tools of beekeeping and where possible an observation hive to involve and interest those attending.

Each year we offer an introduction to beekeeping course, open to all applicants for a moderate fee. Any who choose to become beekeepers are freely supported by a mentor who offers practical hands-on support in the apiary as well as electronic responses to any worries or questions. Current year 2017, We had 12 attendees, 7 of whom have become beekeepers.

We have a teaching apiary, where all of our members, though particularly newer beekeepers are invited frequently throughout the season to be part of inspections, and planned manipulations to help them understand and organise their own colonies. These meetings are not very well attended. We endeavour to improve this.

There is a monthly newsletter for all members. Warwickshire beekeeper is a magazine contributed to by all 8 member branches within the County.

In October 17 Fran Payne organised a very successful honey show.

We successfully applied for a grant Award by new shopping centre at Elliott's field and will be putting on an exhibition in conjunction with Warwickshire Wildlife Centre in August 2018.

We have purchased a new branch extractor, Steve Martin remains happy to store and facilitate access for all members for £ 5 a loan.

We have bought the newly published book Asian Hornet by Steve Martin, this is available, as are all the branch books from our library via Gail Plester. An inventory is available on our website

We will have social meets in the summer to maintain contact in a low key way.

Objectives for 2018

To continue to promote beekeeping at public events. To encourage members of RBK to attend and interact with public.

Fulfill Elliott's Field award

To design and purchase our own information boards

Run monthly winter meetings (September to April) with educational speakers.

Have meetings in May and June for continuity and information but without paid speakers.

Run annual honey show in September or October

Encourage and support members to undertake basic assessment and BBKA study modules, whether or not the intention is to sit the written examination.

4)Treasurer's Report

Number of members steady

62 in total

45 full members

10 partner members

3 associate members

4 life members

Total funds = £2,514 (not inc Eliotts Field Grant)

Extractor bought £5 to hire, contact Steve Martin

2 Water heaters purchased

Demonstration hive purchased

There has been no increase in the RBK subscription this year

There has been no increase in BDI (bee disease insurance) cost this year

Honey from branch apiary is divided, 25% given in appreciation of use of the site. 75% sold and money raised returned to branch funds.

Request that if there are any workshops or lecturers members would like to have branch arrange please come forward and we will try to accommodate.

5)Committee Elections.

Current committee, MH, SP, CM, SB , GP, RM FP KS all willing to re-stand. Re-elected unanimously.

New committee members

Hayley Kenney (proposed FP, seconded MH)

Mary Allen (proposed CM, seconded MH)

Gaynor Imrie (MH/RM)

We still need a chair elect, no nominations or volunteers. This will need to be discussed later.

6)Trustees

Two trustees are needed to sit on Warwickshire Executive committee. Currently Sam Peckett and Cathy Moore. Willing to stand (proposed SB, seconded GP)

7)Method of Payment

Currently all payments to RBK account are a cheque sent to treasurer (SP).

We need another method of payment, SP will investigate possibility of bank transfer.

We also need to look at change of bank. CAF now charge current account holders. Other charity accounts do not. SP will look at this, suggested banks were Co-Op, HSBC, Credit Union.

8a and b)Suggested change of venue and day of week

Friends Meeting House (FMH)has advantage of being central, good size and facilities. Disadvantage is parking, if Theatre has a production on parking can be quite difficult. Various possible venues were discussed Cawston, Churchover, Dunchurch, Hillmorton. Overall people seemed generally happy with FMH.

There was a suggestion that the meeting day could vary between months, specifically Wednesday one month and Thursday Following month so those with other commitments might have a chance to attend.

Overall while a good suggestion the practical application would be difficult, booking a hall for different days could be confusing and result in members turning up on incorrect day or bookings falling through being judged irregular.

Plan, discuss at RBK committee and possible circulate suggestions to whole membership.

Meeting closed at 20.05