

Committee Meeting

South Staffordshire & District Beekeepers Association

Wednesday June 12th at 7.30pm

SureStore, Gallan Park, Watling Street (A5), Cannock, WS11 0XG

Minutes

1. Present

Alan Greenman (Chair), Claire George, Trevor Smith, Dayna White, Wendy Woodward, Stuart Roberts, Lynne Lacey, Phil Atkin & Keith Thompson

2. Apologies for absence

Paul Twibill, Clive Stewart

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Proposed by Trevor, Seconded by Claire

4. Matters arising not on agenda

- Bee Safari – still to be confirmed – Action Trevor !!!!!
- Extractor purchased by Alan
- Positive message went out to members
- Hilton Green needs a purpose – Alan to speak to Chris – Meeting happened. Alan stated that it was set up as an isolation apiary. There is no plan to take on any more bees. £350 is owed for storage and use of the site for the next 12 months. Chris offered to open up on a Saturday for inspections.
 - Do we want this apiary ?
 - If yes then what is the purpose of this apiary ?
 - Bees have been removed – where to ?
 - More communication is needed between HG and Shug
 - Committee to draw up some guidance as to the use of both apiaries
 - Guidance for what to do with the bees at HG
 - Unite with Shug bees ?
 - Split into Nucs for beginners ?
 - Action for Trevor, Alan & Stuart to write guidelines and take to the AWG
 - Alan referred to the document that came from HG Directors

5. New queens

We have been offered 10 queens – should the association take them ?

Proposed by Keith, Seconded by Dayna – Voted 8 for 1 abstention.

- Claire was concerned with the cost
- Claire raised the point that imported queens is a delicate subject.
- The Bee Inspector Ben Bowen should be informed when we know the delivery date of the queens – Action Stuart / Alan
- Plan for queen introduction – Action Stuart / Trevor

- As an action for future expenditure – analysis of the accounts needs to be done to work out where our profits come from and how we can exploit any further opportunities – Action Wendy, Claire & Dayna

6. Apiary work group

A report was received from the AWG confirming that they had systems in place to provide bees for the T&L schedule. There is a shortfall of equipment and gave some suggestions about improvements for next years' schedule. A request for working parties was suggested.

Howard continues to do the mowing in the apiary.

Dates to be set for the future – on a quarterly basis

- Action – AWG to set the dates
- Action – AWG to elect a chairperson – Alan to speak to Paul

7. Education group

The group met on the 4th June – minutes available

Could Dayna attempt to keep track of which work-streams are attended.

- Action Dayna – using register

The practical session for the beginners needs to be slicker. Discussion on this will take place during the winter.

There is a possibility of using Tuesday evenings for beginner practicals.

We decided that we would have a theme that ran through the winter lectures. Need to be careful in not overlapping with Stafford Bee Group.

Basic – June 19th – 4 candidates, July 15th – 2 candidates

Honey Bee Health Certificate - 18th July – 3 candidates, 20th July – 2 candidates

8. Treasurer's update and income streams

Update – not much change – will review at the next meeting

- Action Claire – to present next time

Income streams – what is the point of the fundraising ?

What are the income streams ?

What are the core aspects ? Merchandise, honey etc

If there is a specific requirement then possibly need to go for funding

- Action – we need a financial plan – looking out 3 years to 5 years – Wendy, Claire & Dayna

Claire needs a stock-take every year (ideally December or January) – can we have a plan for doing this ?

- Action – Stock-take plan – Trevor

9. Quartermaster (storekeeper) duties

Trevor has written a job description – it was discussed at length.

It was accepted with the amendment that the QM agrees with the AWG about purchases for working-parties.

For consumables the QM should be allowed to use their judgement.

10. Club merchandise – clothing and badges

Trevor talked about Blueprint Rugeley website
Keith talked about his alternative – low cost and in the past we have added £0.50
Based in Kingswinford – Keith will administer
Alan asked Keith to present them to members at a meeting
Is there a free choice of colours or do we have a corporate colour ?
Email to go out to members – story in the newsletter. Prices agreed.

- Action – Keith to send details to Alan for newsletter

Badges already ordered

11. Club storage issues & location – Hilton v SureStore

There is an offer of free storage at SureStore (plus the insurance cost of £5.50 per week). HG is not secure and not a convenient location.

The offer was accepted – proposed by Trevor and seconded by Dayna

- Action – Trevor and Dayna to agree what will be stored where (Dayna has offered storage too)

12. Confirm committee meeting and winter lecture dates for 2019 and 2020

Discussion around dates – why is there no December or January lectures ?

Agreed to adopt the dates proposed by Lynne

13. Honey Show and BBQ

10th August @ HG for BBQ charge of £5 to cover costs.

21st September @ HG for Honey Show

- Action – Claire to produce tickets

14. Correspondence

Correspondence items received by Email forwarded

- Burton Healthy Bee Day
- Bees for Development Newsletter

15. Any other business

- Alternative sites –
- Ashend Farm – Beekeeper and demo wanted for end of June
 - Action – email to go out to Kate and Charles & Peter Bell
- Keith Stratton has an extractor – Alan will put in newsletter
- Letter from Gill – discussed briefly
 - A survey of the membership will be done at the end of the season. To include all aspects of the provision for the membership.
 - Item for next meeting – Action Lynne

16. Date of next meeting

August 21st 2019