

# South Staffordshire and District Beekeepers Association



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 via [Zoom Meeting](#) videoconference at 7.30 pm

	Action
<p><b>1. Present:</b> Alan Greenman (Chair), Claire George, Clive Stewart, Dayna White, Ed Bennett, Julie Hamer, Phil Atkin, Russell Barlow &amp; Stuart Roberts.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies:</b> Jo Berriman.</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of the last meeting:</b> Ratified.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters arising or items not on the Agenda Item Schedule</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1: <i>Yarnfield Parish Council (YPC) and Yarnfield Business Park (YBP) – Russell Barlow feedback and subsequent action</i></b></p> <p>a) A report was sent to all committee members after Russell’s meeting with <b>YPC &amp; YBP</b> on 17<sup>th</sup> June – Thank you Russell. No action required w.r.t. <b>YPC</b>. <b>YBP</b> have shared their plans to establish an apiary on their land. Russell advised <b>YBP</b> that bees could be put in that apiary from next season. They are happy to work with an individual beekeeper, if we have any members who would like to take this on. Russell advised he would share YBP’s plans with the committee and would subsequently advise them if we thought it feasible.</p> <p>b) Members are to be canvassed as to whether they could make use of the proposed site.</p> <p>c) Clive has also been in contact with <b>YBP</b> w.r.t removal of an established colony within a <b>YBP</b> building. He recommends undertaking this in spring (to reduce stress on the bees), and return those bees to the new planned apiary at the end of June / mid-July; as per Russell’s advice.</p> <p>d) It was suggested that organisations seeking advice and site visits such as <b>YBP</b> be asked to join the association in addition to paying reasonable travel expenses.</p> <p>e) Existing membership statuses are deemed inappropriate and creation of a suitable Membership is proposed to adequately re-imburse the club for its advice and time. This is to be an item for a subsequent committee meeting and will make reference to <a href="#">Public benefit: running a charity - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>.</p>	Ed
<p><b>4.2: BBQ arrangements and ticket price</b></p> <p>The BBQ will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> Aug at Hilton Green. The ticket price will be £5 per person. Members can bring friends and family. HG will supply the BBQ and gas. The team organising the BBQ will be Alan, Claire, Phil, Julie and Ed. The majority of committee members expect to be there. A zoom meeting will be set up to work out the details and comms to members will follow.</p>	

<p><b>4.3: Beginners 2022 Course</b></p> <p>a) Stuart confirmed he did not want to be involved in the Beginners next year.</p> <p>b) With no-one to lead the Beginners and no Education Co-ordinator, there was a discussion over beginners course options in the light of existing advance bookings for 2022. A Beginner's sub-committee is to be established to discuss this; volunteers for the subcommittee are to be sought via the newsletter and e-mail. Members will be canvassed at the BBQ, if and how they would be able to support the course. The first sub-committee meeting will be in September.</p> <p>c) The committee discussed topics that need to be addressed – rationalised below for discussion at the sub-committee, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of last year's beginners and feedback from this.</li> <li>• Who wants to contribute and what are they willing to do? give lectures, attend apiary sessions or provide other support, leading to confirmation of course viability and decision to proceed.</li> <li>• Course format – lectures (physical vs Zoom), tutors, apiary sessions etc.</li> <li>• Course materials (Stuart has confirmed he was happy for year's material to be used).</li> <li>• Course timeframe and Dates – to enable advertisement and bookings</li> <li>• Location and facilities.</li> <li>• Booking mechanism.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Post Meeting Note: Trevor Smith has e-mailed: 22<sup>nd</sup> July outlining what he is willing to do for the 2022 Education Programme and 24<sup>th</sup> Jul proposal for Beginners' course; these will also be considered by the sub-committee.</i></b></p>	<p>Alan / Ed</p>
<p><b>4.4: Beginners booking system - use of <a href="#">Eventbrite</a></b></p> <p>a) This year the club experienced an unfortunate issue of people paying without being registered as Beginners.</p> <p>b) Stuart suggested we could use <a href="#">Eventbrite</a> for bookings to prevent this issue and there could be potentially additional benefits e.g. less administration. It was questioned whether using this would be that much of a benefit considering the maximum number of booking circa 30.</p> <p>c) The final decision on this will be made by the Beginner's sub-committee.</p>	
<p><b>4.5: Honey Bee Experience Days dates for 2021 and 2022</b></p> <p>a) The Committee agreed the date for the 2021 Honey Bee Experience will be Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September and it will take place at Shugborough.</p> <p>b) For 2022 the provisional date will be set as the same weekend (Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022). The Honey Bee Experience is to be advertised on the website and via leaflets at the county show via Stafford Bee Group (if willing).</p> <p>c) The National Trust are to be approached to see if they could support this by provision of a meeting room, as for two days before this (Fri 17<sup>th</sup>- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Sept) they have asked if we could support them, by attending a stand in the walled garden to talk about bee keeping; the opportunity for members to support this is to be advertised on the newsletter.</p>	<p>Alan</p>

d) Russell has provided a quotation for public liability insurance to cover HBE attendees who are not members of the club.

**4.6: Hilton Green equipment for tool tray**

Phil to clarify with Mel, whether equipment recently purchased and re-imbursed covers this. Items sought include a second smoker, lighter and other peripherals. Dayna to supply.

Phil/  
Dayna

**4.7: Report on 2021 Exam successes by Trevor Smith**

a) The following are to be highlighted to members in the newsletter, along with individual commendations:

- Module 2 Products of the Hive: 5 entrants 3 distinctions and 2 credits.
- Basic Assessment: 11 entrants, 1 distinction, 9 credits and 1 pass.
- Honey Bee Health Certificate: 3 members took the assessment, all passed.

Well done everyone!

b) 17 members are participating in a Module 6 Honey bee Behaviour study group.

c) The Committee agreed to send a “Thank you” letter to Trevor.

Alan

**5. Review of Previous Committee Meeting Actions**

5.1: Outstanding actions were reviewed; 10 remain open.

Count of Actions	Months Open					Grand Total
	1	2	5	4	6	
Communications	1	1				2
Education		1				1
H&S	1			1	1	3
Membership			1		1	2
Quartermaster	1					1
Treasurer		1				1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

5.2: Actions raised in June '21: 6 of 9 were closed – Well done Committee!

**6. Treasurers Update**

6.1: A report covering Quarter 2 was received and accepted – thank you Julie.

6.2: **Proposal to encourage members donation to Cancer Research as a mark of respect to Steve Smith:** Following Steve’s recent passing, the opportunity for members to donate to Steve Smith’s chosen charity is to be advertised to members in the newsletter.

Alan

<p><b>7. Apiary Co-ordinator's update</b></p> <p>7.1: The bees have served up well through Assessments and Beginners course and the apiary is at a good strength – Thanks to the Apiary Working Group (AWG).</p> <p>7.2: Following recent challenges experienced with Nucleus colony productions at Hilton Green, Paul and Penney Twibil have visited to provide support and help clarify the issue – further communication is awaited.</p>	
<p><b>8. Health &amp; Safety update (inc. Asian Hornet Team)</b></p> <p>8.1: <b>Shugborough Apiary Grass Access systems:</b> Following requests for better apiary access at Shugborough, Russell researched available products and sent a short report; which the committee discussed. All were relatively expensive and the conclusion was that as the club does not have a permanent residency at Shugborough (we're on a yearly contract) it would not be appropriate to invest in them at this point. Access has been added to the wish list for medium term.</p> <p>8.2: <b>National Trust meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct @12:30:</b> Arranged to hear NT's plan for the walled gardens; we will raise our access issues with them.</p> <p>8.3: <b>Action to be taken if members are stung by insects:</b> A flow chart has been produced and will be posted at the Shugborough apiary – Thank you Russell.</p> <p>8.4: <b>Asian Hornet Week for 2021:</b> will be 6th-10th Sept and will be advertised in the August Newsletter. No UK sightings this year so far.</p>	Alan
<p><b>9. Honey Production and Sales</b></p> <p>9.1: All available honey has been extracted from Shugborough's supers (thanks Stuart), resulting in 4 Buckets of honey that have been taken to the Store.</p> <p>9.2: The honey is to be jarred for sale at club engagements. Phil has offered to help and Kate and Charles are to be asked for help with this too.</p>	
<p><b>10. Constitution Review including life memberships</b></p> <p>Discussion postponed till Oct committee.</p>	
<p><b>11. Correspondence – 5 items received. 3 from BBKA – Responded to in green</b></p> <p><b>June</b></p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> - HMP / YOI Swinfen Hall – Request for assistance with establishment of Apiary We can support HMP/YOI if they join us as members. It's believed SS&amp;DBKA have members whom have relevant experience to running apiaries in these environments.</p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> - BBKA Area Association pilot discussion forums - summary and actions – <b>no action.</b></p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> - LS 2021-06-08 BBKA News Archive Website – <b>to go in newsletter.</b></p>	Ed    Alan

16<sup>th</sup> - Beginners Course Accessibility query – Policy required for public visits to apiary – public liability insurance. At this point in time we have an accessibility issue and we don't believe it would be suitable.

Ed

17<sup>th</sup> - 2022 Beginners Course enquiry

17<sup>th</sup> - LS 2021-06-17 Area Associations Meetings – duplicate info from 15<sup>th</sup>.

18<sup>th</sup> - LS 2021-06-18 Insurance information – Confirm if any action required w.r.t. clarification of insurance cover re apiary training activities. Confirmed no action required.

28<sup>th</sup> June – Beekeeping questions to be answered by website.

### July

1st - LS 2021-06-30 Channel 5 Documentary Series - Life After 70 – **add to newsletter**

Alan

2nd - LS 2021-07-02 Insurance Cover for Association & Branch Officers – **Information to be added to Committee Member Starter Pack.**

Ed/  
Claire

7<sup>th</sup> - LS 2021-07-07 Bees' Needs Week 12-18 July 2021 – forwarded to members

13<sup>th</sup> - [BBKA 15439] Website Enquiry – Thank you to Brian Harvey for Swarm Collection – **Pass Thanks on and add to newsletter if possible.**

Alan

12. A.O.B.: None.

13. **Date of next meeting: 23rd August at SureStore in Cannock**  
Gallan Park, Watling Street, Cannock WS11 0XG

