



North Somerset Beekeepers

(a Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association Reg Charity No 271717)

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2024 at The George, Backwell

Present: Heather Pitch, Adam Evans, Tom Francis, Jodi Moger, Eric Sortwell,
Michael Batchelor and Tony Slater

Start time: 7.30pm

Venue: The George Inn, Backwell

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Rob Francis, Annabel Lewis, Paddy Brading and Jen Stallwood.

2. Approval of Minutes of 12 February 2024

Heather said it would not be possible to approve the minutes as much of what she had said in the Chair's report and Membership Secretary's report has been omitted. She would complete the minutes and recirculate.

3. Matters Arising (not covered below)

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report

There is approximately £12,500 in the bank; last year there was approximately £9,000. The Spring Capitation has been paid. This year it was £6,000; last year, £5,600. The receipt from courses is £2,500 this year, so far, compared to £2,200 last year. The All Risk insurance for the club's assets is up for renewal. Michael has looked at whether it would be advantageous to have a joint policy with other branches of Avon and found that it was not.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Category	On roll
Country	6
Honorary	1
Junior	1
Local	7
Partner	11
Registered	196
School	1
Total	223

Lapsed this year	
Local	8
Junior	2
Partner	4
Registered	32
Total	46

It was agreed that Heather would produce some more information about how long the lapsed beekeepers had been keeping bees for and the reasons they gave for not renewing, if any.

6. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report. Heather asked about the progress of the approach by a second would be installer of solar panels around the Langford area. Tony said he would reply in the same vein as the original one, which was we would support their aim of increasing biodiversity and creating amenity space, but that we are not interested in going any further than that.

7. Education Co-ordinator's Report

Heather noted the following from Paddy's written report: the feedback forms have been received and she would like to set up a meeting to discuss the 2025 course. Paddy thought that the course had been a great success. Eric said he thought Paddy had done a great job and it was agreed, through these minutes, to thank her formally for the good work she had done.

The Ashfield Prison project is progressing well.

8. Apiary Manager's report

Eric said that this Sunday is the first session at the apiary for half of this year's new beekeepers, the other half coming the following Sunday. This is subject to the weather, but so far so good.

There has been an initial inspection of the apiary colonies. All 11 colonies are queen-right, and all are looking good.

Eric noted that no-one has yet been appointed Events Manager. Heather said that nothing had come of Jamie Ellis speaking at our summer training and barbecue event. But instead Dan Basterfield and Anne Rowberry have indicated their willingness to demonstrate examining hive – like a bee safari as in some previous years, but in the club apiary.

The Christmas Dinner will be held on 6 December 2024 at The Old Farmhouse, Nailsea with invitations for 60 people.

9. Programme Manager/ Webmaster's Report

Programme: Adrian Wells and David Capon are all set to run the Swarm Control session on 13 April 2024.

Website: Now contains all the Branch's policies and procedures and Committee Meeting Minutes since January 2011 (grouped in year order). These will be retained for 7 years. The Programme and Introductory Course page has been updated but still contains the 2024 Application Form. Adam will get the latest version from Paddy and upload it.

10. ABKA Rep's Report

Nothing to report.

11. Members without portfolio

Nothing to report.

12. Chair's Report

Rob Francis is now officially confirmed as an Avon Honorary member in recognition of his services as the Association's Education Co-Ordinator.

One Tilian cordata and stake pack was purchased for £80.50 and left at the apiary. Eric will supply a suitable plaque and get it planted to mark the 150th anniversary of the BBKA.

Electric extractor has now been repaired and PAT tested. The electrician did not want payment but a £25 donation was paid to the Branch by the member who broke it.

Heather had received a forwarded email from Kitland Solar Farm on 14 February 2024. Tony agreed to follow this up with a suitable reply.

Save the Bees – a donation of £500 was sent to the BBKA.

Adam had emailed a draft Social Media Policy to Heather which she will circulate to the Committee for comments.

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting scheduled for 9 September 2024 will now be held on 16 September instead.

14. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10 June 2024, 1930 hours, The George, Backwell