

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SAILING CLUB
On Tuesday 1st December, 2009

PRESENT: Jill Tinsey, Penny Snell, Chris Snell, Lorraine Gibson, David Bancalari, Joan Burton, Brian Gemmell, Stuart Grant, Judy Heal, Kelly Thrower

APOLOGIES: Terry Gibson, Keith Morgan, John & Margaret Woodford

MEETING OPENED: 20.10

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 2.3.3 Speaker for AGM

Chris advised he would make contact with Robin Paige to invite him to give a talk/presentation

Item 3.1 Fakenham Farmer's Market/Poster for Taster Sessions

- Invitation for the Association to have an educational stand on 24th April 2010 at Fakenham Farmer's Market discussed with the general consensus that the invitation be accepted. Lorraine to contact Ann Chappell.
- Discussions on wording and size of poster for Taster Sessions discussed at length. Agreement reached that the title should be 'A Taste of the Honeybee's World' with the sub-text to read 'If you think you would like a closer encounter with honeybees, why not come along and take a look inside a hive at one of our Taster Sessions. Cost £5 per person per 2 hour session. Prior booking essential. For further details and to reserve a place contact Lorraine or Terry Gibson on 01553 674051.' Lorraine to place an order for 10 x A3 (Association display use) and 50 x A4 (Parish and library notice-boards).

Item 6.1 Tenure of Office

As no suggestions/proposals were forthcoming Jill asked for the subject to be put on the agenda as a separate item for the next committee meeting.

Item 7.1 EARS Agreement

Penny advised that the review of the draft was complete and with the exception of a few typing errors, everything was in order.

Item 9.1 EGM/Social Evening

Jill reported that at the AGM no membership nominations for Membership Secretary had been received. However, after business had concluded, Diane Flower had voiced an interest in knowing more about what the role involved and following a discussion with David Bancalari and Jill, had offered to give the function a go. Jill proposed that Diane be co-opted onto the committee. Seconded by Stuart Grant. All in agreement. Jill to liaise with Diane and Joe to arrange handover.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

3.1 Copies of e-mails forwarded to committee members, as follows:

- 2010 ADM papers
- 2009 Open Forum Report

- Notification of delay in delivery of BBKA News
- 3.2 Jill read out a letter from Cambridgeshire Beekeeper's Association advising of the one day seminar that they had organised for Saturday 13th March 2010. Comment that it might in future years be worthwhile arranging the WNKLB AGM on third Saturday in March to avoid a clash with what is generally an interesting event was duly noted.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- 4.1 Chris circulated the Income & Expenditure report for November. He proposed that, in order for the benefits of having an apiary be more accurately reflected, sales of association honey be shown in the apiary account. Following discussion on the sub-setting of income and expenditure the following points were raised
- general agreement that income from Association honey be shown in apiary account.
 - whereabouts of second hand hive parts purchased earlier in the year was queried as Brian commented that he was unable to account for much of it. Lorraine commented that as most of the items cleaned on the recent cleaning day was this equipment, it should be at Flitcham. Brian said that he would need to compile an inventory to identify exactly what equipment there was.
 - David asked about the apiary budget and suggested that at the next committee meeting it may be useful to review the figures in order that future plans/needs be assessed. Brian and Chris to liaise and prepare figures for next meeting.
 - Jill suggested that payment in the form of an honorarium be made to the Apiary Manager and Education Officer. Various points of view were expressed both in opposition to and in support of the motion. The primary objection being that as a number of people gave freely of their time such payments may be regarded as being divisive and contrary to the ethos and principles of what was essentially a voluntary organisation. Jill argued the case that in view of the level of commitment necessary involved with these functions together with the amount of income that had been generated by Introductory Course fees that a nominal payment was not an unreasonable gesture. The eventual outcome of the discussions were that Jill proposed an honorarium, payable annually, be made to the Apiary Manager. Seconded by Lorraine. All in agreement. Judy proposed that the Education Officer receive payment based on a proportion of the income from fees. Seconded by David. All in agreement. Treasurer to prepare a recommendation for both payments.

Chris concluded his report by advising that

- the 2008 accounts had been adopted at the EGM
- the appropriate modification to the constitution had been actioned and application to the HMRC Charities would be carried out. It was noted that whilst the revision was expected to be acceptable to the Charities Commission that it would require ratification at the AGM.
- a query was raised as to whether gift aid could be claimed on 2009 membership renewals. Chris responded scope existed for retrospective claims to be made.

Current account balance as at 1st December £3549.24

5. BEE INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

Keith had advised that there was nothing to report.

6. **2010 ADM:**

Jill asked for thoughts on the propositions and nominations. As none were forthcoming it was agreed that committee members should read and consider each of the items in preparation for the next meeting in order that John Woodford could be provided with guidance on how to vote.

7. **ASSOCIATION APIARY UPDATE:**

Brian reported that a tree had fallen across the top bar hive, but that there was no damage. Stuart offered to saw the tree up and remove the wood. All of the Association's hives had been hefted and with the exception of one at Blackborough End all were heavy and at this time did not require the addition of fondant. Warning posters needed to be replaced due to rain damage. Penny and Chris offered to print/laminate replacements. Brian sought and was given permission to purchase wax, frames and a WBC roof.

8. **WORKING GROUPS PROPOSAL:**

Brian explained the reasoning behind the proposal. Basically the idea was to involve more members in planning for the future, identifying problems and to spread the increasing workload. Lively and prolonged discussion ensued which resulted in general agreement that

- in principle working groups could be a viable proposition
- a steering group would be an unnecessary layer of procedure, rather the leaders of the working groups should report back to and communicate directly with the executive
- the ideal would be five groups namely Apiary, Education, Communications/Media, Shows and Events
- each group to comprise a minimum of 4 people and to be made up of committee and non-committee members, both new and long-standing, ideally in a 50/50 ratio
- each group's primary objective would be to identify what needed to be done, when and, what resources would be required and then, once approved, to gather the volunteers to carry out the task
- the leader of the Apiary group to be the Apiary Manager, the Education Officer to lead the Education Group and David Bancalari was identified as the leader of Communications/Media. Leaders for the two remaining groups still to be identified
- if proceeded with, the constitution would need to be amended
- committee members to return to next meeting with firmer suggestions/ideas on how the working groups should operate and names of potential members

9. **FUTURE EVENTS:**

9.1 **Sun 6th December - St. Ambrose Church Service at St. Faith's Church, Gaywood.** Jill Tinsey and Judy Heal to do the readings. Sermon by Father James Fyfe. Bell ringing to start at 17.30. Service at 18.30. Tea/coffee and honey cake to be served after the service.

9.2 **Sat 2nd January 2010, 1.30 p.m. – Oxalic Acid Demonstration at Keith Morgan's.** Ring round co-ordinators to advise Keith how many members had indicated their intention to attend the event by 30th Dec.

9.3 **Fri 29th January 2010, 7.30 p.m. – New Year meal at The Crown Inn, Gayton.** Arrangements made for a 2 course carvery followed by tea/coffee. Maximum of 40 places.

9.4 **Sun 21st February 2010, 2.30 p.m. – Wax-a valuable commodity**

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

10.1 Jill proposed that the number of committee meetings be reduced from twelve to seven, to take place in February, April, May, June, July, September and December. The intention being that the February meeting would be primarily for preparation for the AGM whilst the December meeting would deal mainly with preparation for the ADM. The monthly meetings during the beekeeping season would deal with operation of the planned events/shows/demos and training courses. Should it become necessary extra meetings would be called, although if the proposed working groups came into being this was envisaged as being unnecessary. Universal agreement.

10.2 In his absence Terry had requested that the question of whether the increase of £3 on the subscriptions, voted for at the AGM, would be implemented given the healthy state of the Association's finances. From the discussion that followed there was a general consensus that there was not a need for the increase to be imposed. However, there were concerns as to whether the Constitution would be contravened if the increase was not made. Penny proposed that the increase should stand for 2010, but that no further increase be considered for 2011. Seconded by Brian. David proposed that the subscription remain at the 2009 rate. Seconded by Chris. Votes in favour of Penny's proposal: 2, in favour of David's: 5. Motion carried not to increase subscriptions for 2010.

MEETING CLOSED: 23.00

Next meeting is on 5th January, 2010 at 8.00pm at the Sailing Club

Signed.....Dated.....