

**Wiltshire Beekeepers Association**  
**Minutes of Council meeting held at 19.30 hrs 12/09/17, Bishop Cannings Village Hall**

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- Attachments for Treasurer's Report, Membership Report and Training Report

**1. Attendees: - (12)**

- Chris Rawlings (Chair), Frank Lenert (Treasurer)
- From Melksham: Ruth Woodhouse, Amanda Vivian Crowder, Richard Rickett
- From Swindon: –
- From Kennet: - Sophie Chalmers, John Barber, Richard Oliver, Robert Carpenter Turner
- From West Wilts: - Kelly Sheaff, David Newell, Geraldine Lenert,
- Brian Wilson (MBKA and Secretary)

**Apologies:** Alan Stonell (President), Dennis Pictor (Vice Chair WWBKA)

**2. Minutes of Council held on 23/05/2017**

Detail	Action
2.1. The minutes of 21/02/17 were agreed as correct	

**3. Actions from minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Action reference refers to last meeting minutes	Action
3.1/9.4. SWCJCC/Exeter. BW had not heard back from either. RCT knows Peter Kennedy (Exeter) and will send PK's email to BW. BW to write again to Exeter and SWCJCC	3.1. BW write again to SWCJCC and Exeter

**4. Correspondence**

Detail	Action
4.1. BW advised that all Communications already sent to Branches	

**5. Reports from Officers**

Detail	Action
<b>5.1. Chair (CR)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. It has been a poor summer – CR has been affected by spraying and hoped that things would build up for next year</li><li>b. RCT noted that National Bee Unit had has no spray reports</li><li>c. CR highlighted the increase in training (see 5.6/5.7)</li><li>d. IMYB, held at Marlborough, went well (see 7)</li><li>e. Bath and West – an excellent year, an absolute success. WBKA did not win the shield (only missed out be 3 points). CR thanked Terry and Fee Cooke for running the Bee Garden (this will be taken up by Dennis Pictor next year)</li><li>f. CR reminded Council that, in line with the Constitution, that he would not be seeking re-election after the AGM and that RO was the WBKA Vice Chair</li></ul>	

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**5. Reports from Officers (continued)**

Detail	Action
<p><b>5.2. Secretary (BW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Already reported in item 4</li> <li>b. BW cannot attend the AGM (having as previous commitment in London).</li> <li>c. SC agreed to take the minutes of the AGM</li> <li>d. BW to send out all the pre AGM documentation and type up the minutes</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.3. Treasurer (FL) –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. FL reviewed his updated report/spreadsheet (see attachment to these minutes)</li> <li>b. The following <u>Invoices were passed</u> for payment with no dissention: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBKA capitation for = £557.00 (prop by RCT and seconded by SC)</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Swindon Capitation: - FL had received an email from Swindon disputing the membership figures for capitation. The error seemed to be in the originals numbers received from Swindon</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.4. Editor Honey Bee Times (RR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Next issue was due out soon</li> <li>b. RR will liaise with branches re delivery</li> <li>c. There was some late payment from some advertisers – this was in hand</li> <li>d. RR has secured some new advertisers</li> <li>e. RR still needs more stories, especially from Swindon</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.5. Membership Secretary (SC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. SC had sent in her report – see attachment to these minutes</li> <li>b. SC will be advising all Branches Membership Secretaries (copy to each branch Chair and Secretary) that after 25<sup>th</sup> December she will assume all non-renewed members will be classed as lapsed</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.6/5.7 Exams and Training (RO)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RO presented his report (see attachment to these minutes)</li> <li>b. The BBKA deadline for receipt of applications for Module exams for 11<sup>th</sup> November sitting, was 20<sup>th</sup> Sept</li> <li>c. BBKA data showed that the best County for exams was 40% of membership – WBKA was 28%</li> <li>d. CR noted that we are looking for another Assessor</li> <li>e. At the AGM, CR will thank Brunel Microscopes for all their support and use of their equipment</li> <li>f. RO noted that, as training numbers increase, we need to hire larger premises</li> </ul>	

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**5. Reports from Officers (continued)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>5.8. Year Book – (SC/CR)</b> a. Nothing to report as the activity starts in January <hr/> <b>5.9. Spray Liaison (SG)</b> a. SG not attending – no report <hr/>	

**6. Honey Show and AGM (Wear Wilts)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>
GL advised that: - a. Information/schedules etc had been sent to all Branches b. Raffle proceeds would go to Wilts Air Ambulance c. West Wilts and Kennett will have stalls d. There will be stalls from other suppliers/organisations e. Tea and coffee will be available all day f. AGM is scheduled for 12.00 mid-day g. New grading glasses have been sent to all branches and will remain the property of each branch h. Local Press have been contacted i. Two key speakers – Ken Basterfield ('Reading bees') and Dr. Robin Wootton ('Honey bees and insects as flying machines') j. Everything else is progressing satisfactorily	

**7. IMYB and Beekeeping in schools and BBKA Update, IMYB**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>7.1. IMYB</b> a. RR considered that the event was excellent i.e. the 'spirit' of the event (RCT agreed) b. Young people got a lot out of the events c. Some of the organisation was a bit 'patchy' d. Marlborough College was a super venue – albeit a bit expensive e. RCT found that the youngster's knowledge was of a high order f. FL wondered if the money spent would have been better invested in educating school i.e. we would reach more people	

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<b>7. BBKA Update, IMYB and Beekeeping in schools (continued)</b>	
<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>7.2. Beekeeping in schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RO noted that the BBKA has lots of initiatives in progress-ready for the Spring Convention</li> <li>b. RO also noted that this BBKA initiative (like many others) did not directly involve ordinary beekeepers i.e. BBKA members</li> <li>c. RCT wondered how many schools had beehives – the problems seemed to be the need for a teacher and parents to be fully supportive and engaged</li> <li>d. CR wondered how many WBKA members give talks to schools – branches should canvass their membership to find out the level of activity and any problems experienced</li> <li>e. We will keep “Beekeeping in schools’ as an agenda item</li> </ul> <p><b>7.3. BBKA update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. FL reviewed the myriad of activities relating to BBKA Management and Ian Homer’s activities and letters</li> <li>b. BW highlighted the letter from Ian Homer dated 17<sup>th</sup> July and the response from BBKA of 21<sup>st</sup> July including the statement from Mr Stephen Barnes, Chair of Governance &amp; Standing Orders Committee, "The BBKA takes very seriously the unsubstantiated allegations made by Mr Homer in his letter and had already initiated an investigation into the claims made. This investigation will be thorough in depth and overseen by past presidents. The Charity Commission will also be kept informed of developments. The intention is to have this investigation completed at the earliest opportunity and once completed a full and detailed report will be published"</li> <li>c. FL noted that the BBKA had issued notices about possible Motions of Censure for other County Associations and wondered if the WBKA should propose a Motion of Censure on Ian Homer</li> <li>d. Following on from WBKA previous Council meeting, CR had written to BBKA raising points relating to Ian Homer and possible Motions of Censure</li> <li>e. RCT asked FL to draft a Motion of Censure, to be emailed to WBKA council for consideration with a response and advice as to the way forward to CR by 7<sup>th</sup> October</li> <li>f. DN asked that WBKA write to BBKA asking for an update of their letter of 21/7/17 – BW to action this</li> </ul>	<p>7.2. d. Branches to canvass members re links with schools</p> <p>7.2. e – Schools to be agenda item</p> <p>7.3. e – FL to draft Motion of Censure and send to Council for their advice to CR by 7<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p>7.3. f – BW to send letter to BBKA</p>

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<b>8. Delegate Report</b>	
<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>8.1. BBKA dates: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. DN noted that we need to get all documents to BBKA by 21<sup>st</sup> October and the ADM on 13<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>b. Hence WBKA needs to schedule Council meetings to be well before 14<sup>th</sup> November</li> </ul> <p>8.2. SWCJCC: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Possible name change to South west Beekeepers Forum</li> <li>b. There has been no subscriptions for a few years – it is possible that a sub of £30 be asked for in the near future</li> <li>c. Salisbury BKA have still not confirmed that they will join SWCJCC</li> </ul>	

<b>9. AOB</b>	
<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><u>9.1. WBKA freezing Capitation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. This was proposed by Kennet at the last Council meeting</li> <li>b. FL advised that no capitation was being considered</li> </ul> <p><u>9.2. Beecraft 2<sup>nd</sup> nominee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RR will find out, from Beecraft, the names of the current WBKA nominees (one being Ross Gregory) and the roles of a nominee</li> <li>b. RCT considered that, once we had this information, Council should encourage each Branch to canvass members as to who would like to take on this role</li> </ul> <p><u>9.3. Asian hornets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RCT advised that none had been found to date, but that the National Bee Unit had allocated more time for the Seasonal Bee Inspectors to operate</li> </ul>	

<b>10. Dates of next meetings</b>	
<b>Detail</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>All at Bishop's Cannings Hall at 7.30 pm</p> <p>These are now confirmed as: 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.</p>	

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**Attachment 1**  
**WBKA Treasurer's Report – BW emailed to all Council 13/9/17**

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**Attachment 2**  
**WKBA Committee Report – Membership 12/9/2017**  
**prepared by Wiltshire Membership Secretary Sophie Chalmers**

**Membership numbers\***

	Kennet	Melksham	Swindon	West Wilts	total
Country	10	7	3	0	<b>20</b>
Junior	1	5	0	0	<b>6</b>
Partner	8	5	5	13	<b>31</b>
Registered	86	86	75	76	<b>323</b>
	<b>105</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>380</b>

\*Excludes associate and honorary members.

**Autumn capitation**

The BBKA issued its autumn capitation invoice, which accounts for new members who joined since the spring capitation invoice was issued.

Membership numbers have been signed off by all four branch membership secretaries and I believe the invoice is good for payment.

**Renewals**

The renewal process will start on 1 October.

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**Attachment 3**  
**Examination and Education Officer's Report by Richard Oliver**

General Husbandry

- Congratulations to Richard Rickitt on passing his General Husbandry in June.

Basic Assessment

- Eight members are known to have passed their basic assessment with five earning a credit (KBKA - 1, MBKA - 3 and WWBKA - 4).
- The results of SBKA members is awaited from the BBKA moderator.

Junior Certificate

- Two members of MBKA have been assessed for the Junior Certificate and were successful.
- My thanks to Chris Rawlings and Anne Rowberry for conducting the assessments.

Examinations - Saturday 11th November

- A small number of members have indicated that they wish to sit module exams in November though no application forms have been received to date; the deadline is 20th September to ensure the forms are with the BBKA by the 30th.
- Rowde Village Hall is booked for the morning.

**Winter Education Programme**

Microscopy Workshop.

- This is a two day event being held over the weekend of 18-19 November in Rowde Village Hall. Sally Wadsworth and Alan Stonell have kindly agreed to run the Saturday programme and I will facilitate events on the Sunday. Brunel Microscopes have agreed the loan of 6 microscopes for the weekend.
- The Saturday programme will introduce both dissection and pollen recognition.
- The Sunday programme will include testing for Acarine and Nosema.

Module 3 Preparation.

- I will be facilitating six sessions for those members interested in Module 3 which covers Honeybee Diseases, Pests and Poisoning.
- While it is hoped that those attending will wish to sit the exam, the main aim is to extend members' beekeeping knowledge.
- The sessions will be held in Seend Social Club on 21 and 28 Nov, 12 Dec, 9 and 23 Jan and 6 Feb starting at 7pm and lasting 90 minutes or so.

Note: -

- There are still a few places available for both the Microscopy and Module 3 sessions. Anyone interested should contact me at [raoliver.64@gmail.com](mailto:raoliver.64@gmail.com).
  - I would be grateful if committee members would promulgate these events to their respective members.
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