

South Staffordshire and District Beekeepers Association



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 9th Sept 2020
via Zoom videoconference at 7.30 pm

	Actions																																																																																								
<p>1. Present: Alan Greenman (Chair), Barry Crossley, Claire George, Clive Stewart, Dayna White, Ed Bennett, Stuart Roberts & Trevor Smith. For item 4.1 only: Wendy Woodward.</p>																																																																																									
<p>2. Apologies: None.</p>																																																																																									
<p>3. Minutes of the last meeting: Ratified.</p>																																																																																									
<p>4. Matters arising or items not on the Agenda</p> <p>4.1 Stafford Bee Group (SBG) update - Guest - Wendy Woodward, SBG Chair: SBG have established a website (https://staffordbeegroup.org/) to promote their forthcoming <i>free</i> lectures in Oct, Nov & Dec. They are trialling video conferencing solutions to deliver these; <i>SS&DBKA offered to collaborate by sharing the solution to reduce costs – SBG will confirm after testing.</i> Beyond this, for 2021, they are seeking a suitable physical meeting space to comply with social distancing guidelines. The club agreed to continue to collaborate on future event programming with SBG to maintain an exciting and varied programme.</p> <p>4.2 South Staffs Community Energy Group Grant – a matched funding grant has been offered to assist with buying a new marquee; the committee agreed to accept the grant with thanks. Fundraising to support this is to be an agenda item for the next committee meeting.</p>																																																																																									
<p>5. Review of Previous Committee Meeting Actions</p> <p>5.1: Outstanding actions were reviewed; 11 remain open.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="287 1563 1197 1966"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Count of Actions</th> <th colspan="7">Months Open</th> <th rowspan="2">Grand Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2</th> <th>5</th> <th>10</th> <th>12</th> <th>13</th> <th>16</th> <th>17</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>All</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apiary</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Events</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H&S</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stakeholders - President</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>5.2: Actions raised in Aug '20: 4 of 4 were closed – Well done committee!</p>	Count of Actions	Months Open							Grand Total	2	5	10	12	13	16	17	All		1						1	Apiary	2							2	Education						1		1	Events			1					1	H&S		1		1	1		1	4	Membership		1						1	Stakeholders - President		1						1	Grand Total	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	11	
Count of Actions		Months Open								Grand Total																																																																															
	2	5	10	12	13	16	17																																																																																		
All		1						1																																																																																	
Apiary	2							2																																																																																	
Education						1		1																																																																																	
Events			1					1																																																																																	
H&S		1		1	1		1	4																																																																																	
Membership		1						1																																																																																	
Stakeholders - President		1						1																																																																																	
Grand Total	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	11																																																																																	

<p>6. Education Co-ordinator's update:</p> <p>6.1: The club successfully held a Beekeepers Question Time via a Zoom Webinar on 3rd September. A recording of the session is now available on our website.</p> <p>6.2: The Honey Bee Experience Day is going ahead on Sunday 13th Sept.</p> <p>6.3: The Wolseley Bridge facilities main room has been booked for 2021 beginners; 22 of 30 spaces are already booked!</p> <p>6.4: Examinations: The November exams are cancelled. The Exam Board have an aspiration to establish virtual exams from April '21. Trial papers are being prepared.</p> <p>6.5: Students from interrupted study groups (Basic and modules 2 &3) have requested information re how and when to restart studies. The former includes a practical assessment normally undertaken at the Shugborough apiary – restart will depend on government advice. Module 2 students are to be contacted re study preparation for 2021 exams – the club's Zoom account is to be used to prepare these groups.</p>	Trevor/Ed
<p>7. Apiary Co-ordinator's update:</p> <p>7.1: Minutes from 12th Aug Apiary Working Group (AWG) are available; Alan to issue.</p> <p>Shugborough</p> <p>7.2: The apiary is in good state at the 2020 season end with 11 colonies and 10 Nucleus. Colonies are extremely calm and appear strong for winter. Winter preparations are almost complete. Varrora treatment (Apistan) has been applied and is due to be removed end of Sep. Feeding has been undertaken. Final disease inspections are to be completed.</p> <p>7.3: The AWG was commended for their efforts in maintaining the apiaries colonies and resulting bee quality.</p> <p>7.4: In addition to the Apiary teams, 3 club members came forward to witness inspections.</p> <p>7.5: AWG meetings will reduce in frequency over the winter. The next one will be the last regular meeting and the teams are to be thanked.</p> <p>7.6: Apparent English Bee Feeder surplus stock was queried – Have they been purchased as replacements for feeders with missing cups?</p>	Alan Alan

<p>Hilton Green</p> <p>7.7: A report from Chris Shaw has been received and the apiary team are in good health. Apistan has been supplied. Chris had kindly offered to collect a Thornes order of feeding equipment (eeks) on behalf of the club; to save on postage – Thanks Chris!</p> <p>7.8: The value of the club’s continued investment and use of the apiary was questioned as this year it appears to have yielded little return - it was not used for bee isolation (this year) and the maintenance cost was seen as an unnecessary burden. Rather than keeping full colonies from swarm collections (found to be healthy), the colonies should be united with others at Shugborough. Visible plans for application next season were requested – with the suggestion that it be returned to a simple isolation apiary as per the original intent of establishment.</p> <p>7.9: Queen Stock: Purchase of additional queens next year is being considered to keep the 1st generation genes – depending on how descendant queens behave.</p>	
<p>8. Correspondence</p> <p>8.1: BBKA Annual Delegate Meeting (ADM) (16th Jan '21) Arrangements – the meeting will be virtual – Stuart will attend on the club’s behalf.</p> <p>8.2: A final decision on our club’s vote re proposed changes to 1. BBKA voting and 2. association admission rules will be made in November. For 1 the weighted voting system was seen as beneficial to make the clubs vote stronger. For 2 the additional requirements for area association were seen as beneficial to maintain association quality, effectiveness and reduce BBKA costs.</p>	Ed
<p>9. A.O.B.</p> <p>9.1: Zoom subscription - The committee agreed to continue with the Zoom Pro monthly meeting subscription £14.38 – but the Webinar addin £38.40 is to be stopped in Oct when no events are scheduled.</p> <p>9.2: Alan to confirm with Wendy if they will make use of the Zoom License.</p> <p>9.3: Ed to take over administration of the Zoom License.</p> <p>9.4: Events Co-ordinator role to be advertised in the new letter to plan a Christmas webinar social.</p> <p>9.5: Shugborough gas appliances servicing: A quote has been received and is to be accepted.</p>	Alan Ed Alan

<p>9.6: Treasurer's Report: issued for information in advance of next committee meeting.</p> <p>9.7: Amazon Smile has been established and 19 people have registered so far. Member registration and use is to be promoted in the newsletter.</p> <p>9.8: Transfer of banking control: complete apart for correspondence and Paying in book. Paperless banking statements have been requested.</p> <p>9.9: Asian Hornet Week: is to be promoted on the club's website using resources available from the BBKA website.</p>	<p>Alan</p> <p>Alan</p>
<p>10. Date of next meeting: 7th October 2020</p>	