

# South Staffordshire and District Beekeepers Association



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via [Zoom Meeting](#) videoconference at 7.30 pm

	Action
1. <b>Present:</b> Alan Greenman (Chair), Claire George, Dayna White, Ed Bennett, Jo Berriman, Julie Hamer & Russell Barlow.	
2. <b>Apologies:</b> Clive Stewart, Stuart Roberts & Trevor Smith.	
3. <b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> Ratified.	
<p>4. <b>Matters arising or items not on the Agenda</b></p> <p>4.1: <b>Honey Bee Experience Day:</b> <i>Post meeting note from Stuart: We are being asked for dates - the website needs updating for this.</i> Last year the September experience day worked well. Prior to the Covid pandemic there were 3 a year. The Committee agreed to plan for experience days in September. Claire will organise this. Expressions of interest are to be requested via the website.</p> <p>4.2: <b>Engagement with Hilton Green (HG):</b> We paid a £350 bill for HG apiary and facilities use last year. Alan and Russell are planning to meet with HG Directors on 4<sup>th</sup> June @2pm, to discuss further use of their facilities.</p> <p>4.3: <b>Support Staffordshire Feedback:</b> Julie researched the website and spoke to a Support Staffordshire Liaison Officer – Thank you. They provide a Support Service to the voluntary, community and social enterprises. The services are funded by Stafford County Council. Benefits include 10 hrs development support and 3 hrs of training. Training categories include supporting mental health, vulnerable people, effective bid writing and book-keeping. Although free to join, minimal value for the club was seen in stated benefits. Julie also took a sounding from Stafford Bee Group, who were of a similar opinion. Based on this, the Committee decided not to progress with the offer.</p> <p>4.4: <b>Website – Calendar Dates:</b> The website is a key communication tool for the club. Members desire it be enhanced with a simple page with an overview of the club's annual year, as well as a listing of forthcoming events – to be added as agenda item to comms meeting.</p> <p>4.5: <b>Swarm Collectors Additions Process update</b></p> <p>a. The application process has been approved and is ready for upload to the website.</p> <p>b. The form has been trialled by Phil Atkin – Thank you – no changes required.</p>	<p>Alan / Claire</p> <p>Ed / Stuart</p>

- c. Claire has reviewed and amended the Membership Secretaries standard *Notification of Rejection Letter* – Thank you.
- d. The Presidents *Notification of Acceptance Letter* and proposals for establishment of an annual engagement with our Swarm collector community need further review from the perspectives of the Swarm Collector, the President and Education.  
*Post Meeting note from Stuart: I think you know my views on swarm collectors now (basic + active + competent) or (already on list + competent)*
- e. Diane Bees has been contacted on the BBKA forum to confirm we can make use a training presentation on swarm collection – a response is awaited.

Stuart / Jo

**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	4	
Committee Area				
Chair		1	1	2
Communications	2			2
H&S	1		1	2
Membership		2	1	3
Treasurer	1			1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

5.2: Actions raised in Apr '21: 11 of 15 were closed – New Committee off to a flying start!

**6. Constitution Review including life memberships**

- 6.1: The initial step is for the committee to understand the provisions within the existing Constitution – Ed to precis and circulate.
- 6.2: Initial feelings were that lifetime memberships were potentially problematic and should be protected and reserved for members whom have made significant and on-going contributions for many years. Other honorary member statuses may be more appropriate. The Committee will further debate this next meeting

Ed

*Post Meeting note: Life Members feature in four clauses within the constitution, as follows:*

*Precis from South Staffordshire & District Beekeepers Association Constitution – October 2015 Amended March 2017 and 2018. Confirmed by the Association AGM March 2018:*

**4. Membership:**

- a. The Association shall consist of **Honorary Life Members**, Honorary Friend, Registered Members, Partner Members, Country Members, Associate Members, Junior Members and Friends.

<p>b. Members (excluding Junior Members and Friends) shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Association.</p> <p>c. In recognition to services rendered to beekeeping, any person who is not a member of the Association may be elected an <b>Honorary Life Member</b> by resolution proposed by the Committee and carried by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes cast at the Annual General Meeting. This sub-paragraph does not confer the right to vote at any General Meetings of the Association.</p> <p><b>5. Subscriptions:</b></p> <p>d. The BBKA capitation fee and BDI premium, if applicable, shall be paid from Association funds in respect of <b>Honorary Life Members</b>.</p> <p><b>7. Meetings</b></p> <p>a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 31st March. The business of the meeting shall include: ii. The election of: i. <b>Honorary Life Members</b> in accordance with rules 4(b).</p>	
<p><b>7. Education Co-ordinator's update - Note Stuart apologies</b></p> <p>7.1: <b>Missed Beginner:</b> A prospective Beginner whom booked in December and paid in January, was unfortunately not given a place on this year's course. An investigation to prevent this happening again will be undertaken. The member will be contacted and apologies offered along with, a refund and an enquiry as to what other support we can offer them this year.</p> <p><i>Post Meeting Notes from Stuart:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There appears to have been an internal communication error between Membership &amp; Education Secretaries, which will be corrected for 2022.</li> <li>2. The club needs someone to plan the 2022 Beginners course.</li> </ol>	Alan
<p><b>8. Apiary Co-ordinator's update - Note Trevor apologies – Alan and Jo fed back</b></p> <p>8.1: The Apiary Working Groups (AWG) are attending the apiary, however bad weather is limiting inspections and holding up colony expansion.</p> <p>8.2: The Next AWG is 2nd June.</p>	
<p><b>9. Correspondence – 5 items received. 3 from BBKA – Responded to in green</b></p> <p><b>April</b></p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Member info request: are we compiling a list of swarm collectors. <b>Yes. Listed inspectors are to be reviewed annually as per the new process.</b></p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> LS 2021-04-22 Spring Convention 2021 is still available to watch! <b>Previously advertised in new letter.</b></p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> Parish Council at Yarnfield – Beekeeping projects - <i>Post Meeting note from Stuart: The Parish council have asked again.</i></p>	Russell / Alan

<p><b>May</b>  5<sup>th</sup> LS 2021-05-05 BBKA Training Programme Summer 2021 – Not discussed.</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> LS 2021-05-06 ADM 2022 - Hybrid Meeting – <b>Stuart preference advised to go in person.</b></p>	
<p><b>10. A.O.B.</b>  <b>Next Committee meeting: Should it be in person?</b>  Members were hesitant; so, we will ask the question at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>11. Date of next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> June</b></p>	