

THE DEVON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, TORBAY BRANCH.
BBKA website: devonbeekeepers.org.uk Branch web site: www.tbbk.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 27067

**Minutes of the Torbay Branch Executive Committee Meeting held at Sainsbury's
 Restaurant, Yalberton Road, Paignton at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25th 2017**

Present:

Liz Westcott	Chair; Education Officer; Honey Show Secretary; Microscopist
Di Hatherley	Branch Secretary
Glyn Davies	Apiary Co-ordinator
James Schindler-Ord	Branch Web Administrator
Doug Westaway	Editor: BUZZ; Swarm Liaison Officer; Branch Spray Liaison Officer
Lynette Taylor	Treasurer
Mike Ticehurst	Membership Secretary; BUZZ distributor
Alan Barrett	
Gerry Stuart	Vice-Chair; Librarian (from 9.30 p.m.)
Maureen Brown	(from 9.30 p.m.)

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
 No apologies had been received but Gerry and Maureen had contacted the Secretary in advance to advise they would be late for this meeting owing to a previous engagement.
2. **Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: approval & signing**
 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate and duly signed by Liz

3. **Matters arising**

**ACTION POINTS FROM THE MEETING
 STATUS**

RESPONSIBILITY

A/P

236	Consult Damian Offer re: tree and parking permits	Gerry (parking permits)
	Ongoing	
	Complete	Alan (tree)
239	Investigate webcams for Stephenson's Trophy	Mike James
	Complete	
240	Contact Mick Male re: skep making sessions	James
	Complete (two Saturdays early in 2018: 10-16.00 three weeks apart: 27 th Jan and 17 ^h Feb))	
241	Contact Clare Densley and Adam Vevers	Doug
	Ongoing	
242	Investigate hall hire at St Paul's Church	Lynette
	Complete	
243	Add local swarm collectors' list to website	James
	To be completed at a future date	
244	Update DBKA swarm collectors' list	Mike

Complete

- 245 Ascertain insurance cover for Apiary visitors Mike
Liz to ascertain through Colin Sherwood; ongoing
- 246 Write letter of thanks to Lindsay Di
Complete

4. Parking at Cockington Apiary

Gerry will contact Marissa to ascertain the current position **(A/P 236)**

5. Toilet for Cockington Apiary

Liz asked the Committee to consider the acquisition of a composting toilet. After discussion, the Committee decided not to pursue the idea at present.

6. Strimmer

The Committee agreed the acquisition of a petrol strimmer which would enable members to increase the area of the apiary. The budget is £150. Alan to purchase **(A/P 247)**

It was agreed that a larger apiary gardening team would be desirable and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

7. Smoker Fuel for Cockington Apiary

Liz suggested that Apiary fuel should be changed as sparks are often emitted from the smokers. Glyn suggested that damp grass added to the fuel could resolve the problem. James will contact a coffee importer at Newton Abbot to ascertain if they have any spare hessian as this is excellent fuel producing cool smoke. **(A/P 248)**

8. Policy on Selling Nucs

The Committee agreed that any available nucs should be allocated to beekeepers who:

- a) Are full members of TBKA
- b) Have completed the introductory course
- c) Have had relevant practical experience at Cockington Apiary for at least 8 sessions

New Beekeepers will be encouraged to look after a nuc at the apiary and to purchase it at the end of a season for £70. Allocation will be on a first come first served basis.

9. Accommodation for Winter Meetings

Lynette has investigated annual costs at St Paul's which will be £522, slightly more than the Gerston Chapel which is £480. The Francis Norrish Room will be booked from 19.00-22.00.

The Tuesday dates are: October 10th; November 14th, December 12th, February 13th and March 13th.

The Monday dates are: January 15th and 29th; February 12th and 26th; March 12th and 26th; April 9th and 23rd.

In addition to these dates, the Church Hall has been booked for Saturday, November 25th for the AGM 13.30-16.30.

N.B. St Paul's cannot accommodate our request for the Church Hall on Tuesday January 9th for the Honey Show as it is in use to provide shelter for the homeless.

10. Introduction to Beekeeping Course

Sessions will run fortnightly from 15th January 2018 until 23rd April at St Paul's Church.

11. Basic Assessment

Two beekeepers were assessed on July 25th and three on July 26th

12. Apiary Management + New Beekeepers and Further Training

Liz raised concerns that at the Saturday Meetings at Cockington Apiary, a few inexperienced beekeepers, who have not completed the introductory course, may not always be working within the appropriate group. After discussion, it was agreed that for the time being, Committee Members should be more proactive in ensuring all members attending are working at their appropriate level and being vigilant in ensuring all who desire it have access to hands-on manipulation.

13. Winter Programme

Suggested speakers include:

Adam Vevers: making nucs or queen rearing

Glyn Davies: a topic of interest

Mike Ticehurst: making bee gadgets

Dave Packham: an item of current interest in beekeeping

Douglas to contact and book speakers **(A/P 249)**

14. Annual General Meeting: November 25th 2017 2 p.m.

Douglas to contact and book John Risdon to speak about the Singer family **(A/P 250)**

15. Annual Dinner

The Redcliffe Hotel and Palace Hotel are to be explored as possible venues. Glyn will ask Dr. Dhafer Benhem to speak about beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey. **(A/P 251)**

16/17. Update re: Possible Funding

Gerry is submitting three funding proposals: one for his apiary in the walled gardens at Cockington, one for Occombe Farm and one for the Branch Apiary with up to £4/5k available for each application. Although there is a good chance of a favourable outcome, we need the authority of the landowner who should be aware of the proposal and happy for it to proceed. Funding should be for developmental purposes and benefit the wider community, for example gloves, outfits, laptops, projectors, water supply, electricity, teaching aids. There will be a related item on the agenda at the next meeting so members can think about possibilities for the Apiary.

18. Any Other Business

The following items were discussed and agreed:

- Another picnic table to be purchased in spring 2018
- Apiary barbecue provisions to be purchased by the association: burgers, rolls, wine
- Some hives need replacing. Members requested to create a shopping list for the next meeting **(A/P 252)**
- Gerry has purchased some After Bite and antihistamines for the first aid box.

- Liz has created a sign for the new shed advising that the door be kept closed at all times
- In her Chairman's Chat, Liz will promote an initiative to invite members to improve the Apiary grounds on a Sunday morning **(A/P 253)**

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12th at 7.30 p.m. at Sainsbury's Café, Yalberton Road, PAIGNTON

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

A/P		RESPONSIBILITY
236	Consult Marissa re: parking permits	Gerry
245	Ascertain insurance cover for visitors from C Sherwood	Liz
247	Purchase a petrol strimmer within budget	Alan
248	Enquire about surplus hessian from coffee importer	James
249	Contact speakers for Winter Meetings	Doug
250	Contact John Risdon to speak at AGM	Doug
251	Invite Dhafer Benhem to speak at Annual Dinner	Glyn
252	Create a shopping list for Apiary equipment	All
253	Promote Apiary grounds improvement Sunday	Liz

Di Hatherley (Hon. Secretary)

Friday, July 28th, 2017

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