

Swansea & District Beekeepers' Society
Main Committee Meeting on (Tues) 16th January 2018
at the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon

Present

Ian Algie (IA), Julian Caruana (JC), Martin Davies (MD), Stephen Davies (SD), John Gale (JG), Sue Lawrence (SL), Paul Lyons (PL), David O'Carroll (DOC), Nicola Oulton (NO), David Salkilld (DS), Jean Salkilld (JS).

• **Apologies**

Received from Gertie Axtmann, Gill Lyons and Karen Squires.

• **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

• **Matters arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

• **Treasurer's Report**

There is little to report as the Society's books are currently with Kim Lawrence to allow him to scrutinise the 2017 accounts.

Our Account balances are: No. 1 Account - £ 10,865.31
No: 2 Account - £ Nil

Notes:

No. 2 Account – balance has been moved across to No. 1 account as the separation is no longer required.

JG reported that he had received a cheque for £595.00 from Neath Port Talbot Council and asked if anyone knew why we might have received this. It was agreed that this was likely to be an error and JG advised that for now he would pay it in to the No. 2 account and make enquiries with Neath Port Talbot Council. JG also reported that he will be paying an invoice (when he has the cheque book back) from Peter McFadden for the mesh to be used in the workshop following the AGM.

JG presented a draft version of the 2017 Summary Accounts, the final version of which will be sent to members with the AGM papers. JG referred to expenditure being in excess of income predominantly because of the high expenditure, in 2017, on the Society Apiary. DS asked where the entry for the £1000 grant from CCS was and JG advise that this is shown on the Income side as £996.05 (transferred from Account No.2) as actual expenditure was £3.95 in excess of the grant (as shown on the Expenditure side under Gower Show – Centenary Costs).

DOC suggested rearranging some of the lines so that where there is

income and expenditure against the same cost centre they are on the same line. He also suggested that maybe, as they are interrelated, Education and Apiary could be combined as one cost centre.

- **Sub-Committee Reports**

Apiary:

Ten hives/colonies have now been returned and resited in the Society Apiary – one hive/colony is still with MD. The colony which was with IA had unfortunately died. The (temperamental) colonies that were with SD have been re-queened but SD will assess the temperaments of all the colonies with the new Apiary Manager. All the treatments have been completed with demonstrations in the use of Acetic Acid and Oxalic Acid (vaporising and trickling) having been given. All colonies have now been given small amounts of pollen candy

SD reported that more brood frames and foundation will be required as he anticipates that the new Apiary Manager will want to replace all the brood boxes.

NO advised that the track down through the field to the Apiary is currently unable to be used as Llys Nini have laid retaining boards across the gateways to contain a new path between their work area and the gate into the field. These boards prevent any vehicle access to the Apiary. JC agreed to take this up with Llys Nini.

SD has been asked by Mike Grinter if, as the new Apiary Manager, he will be expected to become a Committee Member. It was agreed that ideally Mike should become a Committee Member as this is one of the official roles within the Society and is listed at the end of each set of minutes. As IA and MD (currently the Assistant Apiary Managers) are both on the Committee they should be able to give any reports from Mike on the odd occasion that he is not able to attend a Committee meeting. JC will send Mike Grinter an email confirming our wish that he becomes a Committee Member.

Bee Tent:

MD reported that an invitation had been received, from the Gwent Wildlife Trust, to attend the Go Wild! Event they are holding in Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar on 9th June, 2018. MD has contacted the organiser and can confirm that the event is slightly shorter than others (10am to 3pm), they are happy to donate £100, access is good and that we would probably be placed next to the Bees & Butterflies stand – nice and quiet!. As a couple of the events that the Bee Tent has attended in previous years have now had to close it was agreed that new events could be added and that we should try this one out.

Education:

NO advised that she hasn't yet been able to meet with those who have volunteered to help. She also still needs to contact those people who have expressed an interest in the Study Groups which emails

were sent out about previously (Sept).

NO reported that the Facebook page has had a lot of hits recently.

JC advised that he had just received an email about the March sitting for Module exams. NO confirmed that it would be OK to send this out to all members.

NO also suggested that, as there was no facility for the 2017 Beginners' Class to follow up the classwork with practical experiences in the Society Apiary, JC should send an email to them offering the facility to refresh their knowledge if they wished. NO would provide JC with the names of all those who attended/completed the 2017 course.

Gower Show

No formal report as GL unable to attend. JS reported, however, that the Gower Show Sub-group have discussed the possibility of producing and placing large explanatory signage behind each class being exhibited in the Honey Show. DS advised that we would need to order more hessian in advance of the 2018 Gower Show and that GL believes the cost will be £50 - £100. Committee agreed that this purchase should proceed.

- **Events**

GA advised that the Skep-making Workshop on 17th Feb had not been fully subscribed. It was originally agreed that Committee members should not be allowed places unless they were not all filled by general members. As there were still a couple of places it was agreed that these could now be opened to Committee members.

GA reported that the arrangements for after the AGM had been sorted and that talks have been arranged for March, April, and June 2018. As in previous years there would be no talk in August. JC said he would update the Events Calendar on the website.

- **Website**

JC provided an update to say that Jonathan Bowen is still working on a restructured website. He has looked at the possibility of having different (and page relevant) pictures at the top of each page but retaining, at least initially, the current picture for the home page. Jonathan has also 'reserved' some generic email addresses which could be used in the future. Jonathan has asked if the new website would need to be agreed by the Committee but JC has advised him that, whilst the Committee would be interested to see the new website it would not be a Committee decision as they had already agreed to him putting a new one together as the old one needs revising. It was also agreed that anything being worked on would have to be an improvement on what we have currently.

- **2018 Annual General Meeting**

JC reported that two proposals have been received and no nominations have been received. The proposals relate to the purchase of additional equipment for use by the members (Claire Miller) and the sponsoring of a lecture at the WBKA Anniversary event in July 2018 (David Salkilld).

DS advised that he was contemplating standing down from the Committee but that he was prepared to continue editing and producing the Newsletter unless another member wished to take this over.

As no nominations had been received for the Secretary's role DOC felt that this matter needed addressing and that dividing the roles that the Secretary currently fulfils needs to be considered and may help to attract members to put themselves forward. JC has included in a previous email to members all (or at least most) of the tasks he undertakes and that for many years the role of Secretary has been combined with Joint Membership Secretary and Spray Liaison Officer. DOC suggested that these could be divided up but JC pointed out that this would then involve more liaison and updating between these roles.

- **Correspondence**

BeeCraft (Tradex) - Tradex have allowed *Bee Craft* to have some space alongside their stand to be 'staffed' by willing volunteer beekeepers specifically to talk to new beekeepers. JC has advised Wendy (BeeCraft) that we would be interested in principle. We would need to ascertain who is going to Tradex and establish if any are prepared to give an hour of their time.

Coastal Communities Fund - Haf Hughes has forwarded information regarding this fund (funded by the National Lottery), which is open to, amongst others, charities and voluntary and community sector organisations to apply for.

- **Any Other Business**

T' Shirts – SL asked if it was alright for her to get a range of sizes and colours from the supplier selected. DS pointed out that this had already been suggested and agreed at a previous meeting. The actual logistics were a matter for the person managing the project and did not need to be referred back to the Committee

- **Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on 20th February, 2018 (in the New Lodge Social Club, Gorseinon).

Officers (elected at the AGM 2017):-

Chairman

David O'Carroll (dsocarroll@yahoo.co.uk)

Vice Chairman Paul Lyons (sd_bks@btinternet.com)
Treasurer John Gale (johnhgale@hotmail.com)
Secretary Julian Caruana (sdbks.secretary@gmail.com)

Other Committee Members

Ian Algie
Gerti Axtmann
Martin Davies
Stephen Davies
Sue Lawrence
Gill Lyons
Nicola Oulton
David Salkilld
Jean Salkilld
Karen Squires

Committee Roles:

Apiary Manager Stephen Davies (stephendavies64@yahoo.com)

Bee Tent Lead Martin Davies (minarimartin@outlook.com)

Education Officer Nicola Oulton (nikoulton@yahoo.co.uk)

Events Secretary Gerti Axtmann (gerti.axtmann@gmail.com) &
Karen Squires (kes.llanelli@virgin.net)

Gower Show Secretary Gill Lyons (gillml@btinternet.com)

Librarian Paul Lyons

Membership Secretary Julian Caruana & John Gale

Newsletter Editor David Salkilld (d.salkilld1936@btinternet.com)

Webmaster Selina Taylor