

WHARFEDALE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date and time of Meeting: Thursday 11th March 2021 7.30 pm

This meeting took place online via the application Zoom

Present:	Chairman	Matthew Mason
	President	Anne Jones
	Treasurer	David Powell
	Secretary	Janet Hartley
	Education	Laurie Prowse
	Membership	John Forsyth
	Equipment	Sophie Pringle
	Webmaster	Laurence Truman
	General members	Jo Johnson
		Rob Claxton-Ingham
		Monty Pugh

AGENDA

1. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Constitution

Janet gave feedback on the difficulty experienced in trying to amend the constitution online which is held by the Charities Commission.

ACTION:

Janet will email a copy of the Wharfedale Beekeepers Association constitution to the Charities Commission in full.

John agreed to have a look at the Charities Commission website.

3. YBKA Delegates Meeting

John will be attending this meeting via zoom on the 27th March 2021. All relevant documents have been circulated to committee members. John gave an overview of each report. Committee members were asked to raise any issues or concerns with him prior to the Delegates meeting.

Discussion with Laurie took place regarding the Examination and Assessment report. Laurie will look into online examinations but at present there is no record of anyone wanting to do any modules. It was agreed that the Basic Assessment would not be possible online.

4. Craven College

Matt has had an enquiry from Rachael Charmbury, Business and Community Director at Craven College. They are interested in keeping bees in their horticulture area and educating students on the key role that bees play in a sustainable future.

Matt explained to Rachael that we are hobby beekeepers and if the College were looking at a more commercial enterprise then there are more appropriate organisations for this.

The college are enthusiastic about keeping bees on site, but it was agreed that WBKA need firm decisions on what they want, and what the Association can work with.

The Association has been given the contact details for the CEO and founder of Agrisound, Casey Woodward. This company manufactures remote monitoring equipment for hives. There is the possibility of a zoom talk.

ACTION

Matt will speak to Rachael at Craven College with feedback from the committee meeting.

Janet will contact Casey Woodward at Agrisound to establish the exact nature of his talk.

5. Safeguarding

The committee were joined online by Jenny Liston for this item.

Jenny had circulated the BBKA policy on safeguarding as a starting point. The BBKA are in the process of updating their policy at present.

Jenny has already contacted Linda Schofield, Secretary of Yorkshire BKA, who said she would bring it up at a meeting to be held shortly.

It was agreed that a policy should be Yorkshire wide rather than just Wharfedale and the onus should be on Yorkshire BKA to present a policy that other branch associations could adopt.

ACTION

John will raise this issue at the upcoming Delegates meeting.

Jenny will be invited to further meetings to update the committee.

6. AGM and Honey Show

Discussion took place regarding the likelihood of the AGM and Honey Show taking place this year. The room at Ilkley Rugby Club has been provisionally booked for Friday 12th November. Ivor Flatman, has agreed to judge on that date if the show goes ahead.

The idea was put forward to incorporate centenary celebrations for the Wharfedale BKA, with the possibility of free commemoration mugs for members attending on the night.

There was enthusiasm for an information board at Bolton Abbey, and an opportunity for a circular walk as part of the Burley festival in August.

Discussion took place regarding a history of the Wharfedale Beekeepers Association. Peter Longbottom and Bruce Speed were the names put forward as likely candidates for doing this.

The committee decided to err on the side of caution in light of coronavirus restrictions and discuss again at the June meeting.

ACTION

Matt will discuss with the sign writer regarding the information board.

NB Further to the committee meeting Matt has contacted the sign writer and a very rough estimate of a post mounted information board such as would be seen at a nature reserve would be £500 - £1000 including installation.

Matt will meet him to gather details to put in front of the committee.

The choice of mugs and cups from the potters is:

<https://www.duchess-china1888.com/white-fine-bone-china-mugs.html>

Jo and Anne will meet to discuss a circular walk at the Burley festival.

7. Monthly Meetings

Zoom meetings will continue up until and including June 2021. Depending then on all social restrictions being lifted, the monthly pub meetings can resume in July. These can be arranged at short notice with a reminder to the membership.

8. Swarm Officers

The Er2 database lists swarm officers and this is linked to the BBKA national map, so if anyone searches for a swarm officer in their postcode area, contact details will be available.

NB Following the meeting Sophie contacted all existing swarm officers asking who was willing to stay on the list for this year. This information will be passed to John for the membership database and Laurence for the website and Combings. Sophie also confirmed that Bob Hodgson will continue as swarm co-ordinator.

Many thanks to Sophie for doing this.

9. Bees for Members

John has been contacted by members who have lost bees over the winter. There will also be those taking the Beginners' course at the moment that will also require bees.

It was agreed that members should be encouraged to source bees locally. Laurie already makes a huge effort to source bees for all on the beginners' course.

John agreed to give a short presentation at the beginning of the March meeting on why it is best to source and keep local bees. Many thanks to John.

10. Beginners' Course

Laurie reported that the New Beekeepers' Course was well underway. A request for mentors and nucs for beginners will be included in a letter to members.

11. Claro Bees

Volunteers are required for Saturday mornings. The contact is Muriel Smith at clarobeesrota@gmail.com

A request for volunteers and further information will be included in a letter to members.

12. Er2 Database Training

John has attended training on the Er2 database. Last year John was able to send out receipts for the first time, but as yet is unable to generate a list for the treasurer.

John is hoping that at the next renewal of subscriptions he will be able to log the payment, send out receipts, and members can see what information is held and change it if necessary.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next meeting Thursday 10th June , 7.30 pm, via zoom.

Dear Members,

Wharfedale Beekeepers' Association held a committee meeting on Thursday 11th March 2021. This meeting took place via zoom. The following items were discussed.

Discussion took place regarding the likelihood of the AGM and Honey Show taking place this year. The room at Ilkley Rugby Club has been provisionally booked for Friday 12th November. Ivor Flatman, has agreed to judge on that date if the show goes ahead.

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Zoom meetings will continue up until and including June 2021. Depending then on all social restrictions being lifted, the monthly pub meetings can resume in July. These can be arranged at short notice with a reminder to the membership.

Members are reminded that the details of a swarm officer near to them can be accessed via the WBKA website and are published in Combings magazine.

Bob Hodgson remains the co-ordinator, so any member wanting to buy bees should contact him to be put on the list. Likewise, swarm officers should advise Bob when they have collected a swarm. His email is hodbob@hotmail.co.uk and his mobile is 07732 661739.

Any member who wishes to become a swarm officer should contact an existing swarm officer in the first instance to assist in collecting a swarm. It was agreed that it would be reasonable to ascertain that they have at least 2 years beekeeping experience and a knowledge of checking, feeding and isolating a swarm if necessary.

Volunteers are required on Saturday mornings at Claro Bees, at Harlow Carr in Harrogate. There is no need to be a skilled beekeeper as all the staff are helpful

and beginners will learn a lot from the experienced beekeepers. Each year Harrogate and Ripon BKA give a donation to Wharfedale BKA in recognition of help given. Please contact Muriel Smith at clarobeesrota@gmail.com for more details.

Please see the information below from Laurie Prowse, Education Officer.

Are you thinking about doing any BBKA Exams or Assessments this year?

If any of you are planning to apply for one, or more, of the BBKA module exams (which can now be done online) or practical assessments (including the Basic Certificate) please let our Education Officer, Laurie Prowse, know (laurieprorowse@hotmail.com) so that he can update our records and organise any support you might need.

Are you willing to be a mentor to a Beginner?

The '2021 New Beekeepers Course' is now well under way and many of the 'newbees' will soon be needing mentors, preferably someone who lives nearby, to assist them when they have a problem or just for occasional advice. If you can help, please let Laurie know (as above) and he will pair you up with a Beginner.

Are you able to produce one or more nucs to supply bees to our Beginners?

If you are planning to produce nucs this year, please let Laurie know (as above) so that he can put you in touch with a Beginner when the time comes. Last year, we managed to supply them all and each transaction was negotiated privately between buyer and seller.

The next zoom monthly meeting for all members takes place on Tuesday 30th March at 7.30 pm. A reminder will be sent out a couple of days before. John Forsyth has agreed to give a short presentation at the beginning of the meeting on why it is best to source and keep local bees. The meeting will then be open for questions and answers.

Best Wishes

Janet Hartley

Secretary

Wharfedale Beekeepers' Association