

# Warwickshire Beekeepers Association

## Solihull and District Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: There were 33 devices on the call representing 34 members.

**1. Apologies:** Alan Taylor and Roger Taylor sent their apologies.

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 10th February 2020.** The minutes had been circulated via email. That the minutes were accepted was proposed by Valli Cawte, seconded by Stuart Roberts. There was one abstention, otherwise everyone voted For.

**3. Matters Arising.** The minutes stated that the AGM would be held at the Methodist Church Hall, but circumstances required that it be held via Zoom.

**4. Chairman's Report.** Andrew reported that it had been a strange year as we had not been able to hold our normal physical meetings. The apiary has blossomed due to the hard work of the apiary team – Jim, John and Chris. Andrew thanked Brian and Mandy for their work extracting the honey. Andrew also thanked John for the apiary blogs which have kept us all in touch. We have had a number of virtual meetings with speakers or Q&A sessions and Andrew thanked those who had taken part. Exams and assessments were all cancelled during the year, but we did manage the beginner's course (theory part) so we owe those participants their practical session. We have started a new beginner's course this year with 12 attendees – thanks to Denise of all the organisation, and to all of the tutors. BBKA have announced that they will be restarting exams online this year and also assessments where practical. Thanks also to Graham Youdan for sending out the WB magazine. Finally, thanks to the membership for their support, to the committee and the the Treasurer – and a hope that we would meet in person in 2021.

**5. Treasurer.**

**Report:** We opened the year with a balance of £9717. We have our normal income from subs and our honey sales – but we have not been able to attend any shows. We have sold more nucs than in 2019 (thanks to the apiary team). Louise explained that the costs for meeting room had gone up compared with 2019. this was due to a) paying for the room for the 2019 Honey Show in this financial year and b) paying a subscription for Zoom instead of room hire. Apiary expenses have remained much the same – but we have a new trolley for moving equipment. We have closed the year with £11097 which is the reason that we are not charging a branch subscription this year. There was a question from Nicola as to why we hadn't purchased a 12 month Zoom License – but this time last year we didn't expect the lockdown to continue for so long. The committee will consider whether to purchase a 12 month license for the coming year – or hope that meetings will be physical very soon. That the accounts be accepted was proposed by Denise Grove and seconded by James Thorne. And accepted unanimously.

**Capitation:** Louise proposed that the Branch Capitation Fee for 2022 be up to £7 per person. This was seconded by Bryan Fearn and was accepted unanimously.

**6. Election of Officers:** The current officers of Andrew Heath, Chairman, Ian Davidson, Secretary and Louise Cameron-Ward, Treasurer were prepared to continue for another year and so were voted en bloc. Proposed by Jane Hunt, and seconded by Maggie Tavilla and passed unanimously.

**7. Election of Committee:** The current committee members (Denise Grove, Jim Hamilton, Sarah Heath, John Mellor and Maggie Tavilla) were prepared to serve again and there were no new

nominations. They were proposed en bloc by Sheila Vanhouse and Nicola Content and accepted unanimously.

**8. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Ruth Galvin has examined our accounts for a number of years now. Louise proposes that we continue with Ruth as the Independent Examiner. This was seconded by Maggie Tavilla and passed unanimously.

**9. Date of next meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> February – venue to be advised.