

Stowmarket and District Beekeepers' Association

Founded in 1947

Minutes

Of the

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 5th February 2024 at 7:30pm

At

Stowmarket Community Centre

Hillside, Stowmarket IP14 2BD

1. Apologies for absence – 17 prior to meeting by email and Trevor Galton, Rachel Bodsworth, and Sarah and Lawrence Paton.

A total of 39 members attended the meeting.

Committee –

Greg Monaghan (Chairman), Andy Smith (Treasurer), Roger Chapman (Secretary), Maggie Lawrence (Training Coordinator), Linda Stuart (Membership Secretary), Bohdan Antoniwi, and Sarah Neesum.

2. Minutes from previous AGM– Held 19th Feb 2023 at Stowmarket Community Centre were agreed (proposed by Richard Martin and seconded by Linda Stuart).

3. Matters arising– None

4. Chairman's Report – See Appendix 1 to these minutes

5. Treasurer's Report – See Appendix 2 to these minutes

Accounts were adopted – Proposed by Steve Mayhew and seconded by Maggie Lawrence

7. Election of Officers–

Both Roger Chapman (Secretary) and Sarah Neesum have stood down from their roles and the committee.

All other current serving committee members have agreed to continue in their posts. Members present unanimously voted them in.

Steve Mayhew agreed to be secretary and Sarah and Lawrence Paton to manage the association's apiary at Baylham. These appointments were also agreed unanimously by members.

The members thanked Richard Martin for all his sterling work on the association apiary, Roger Chapman for his work as secretary and Sarah Neesum for her work as Membership Secretary.

Committee as follows-

Hon President - Richard Martin

Chairman - Greg Monaghan

Secretary - Steve Mayhew

Treasurer - Andy Smith

Committee members - Bohdan Antoniow, Maggie Lawrence (Training Coordinator), Linda Stuart (Membership Secretary), Sarah and Lawrence Paton (Apiary Managers)

Robert Pratt agreed to be swarm coordinator

9. Any other Business –

Since there were sufficient members present to make changes to the constitution, Greg Monaghan requested that the abbreviation for Stowmarket and District Beekeepers' Association be changed from SDBA to, the more commonly used, SDBKA. This change was passed unanimously.

This concluded the AGM which was followed by an Asian Hornet Briefing given by Jane Corcoran Suffolk Asian Hornet Coordinator.

The briefing was followed by a social event with cheese, pate and wine during which 100ml of Trappit (Asian Hornet attractant) was distributed to members who'd brought a sealable jar.

- At the end of 2023 we had 146 paid-up members, plus 13 partner members and 4 country members. So far this year we have 76 renewals, of whom 2 have not paid.
- Finances are healthy and we have been spending on various projects.
- We have held two very successful social events this year, free to members; Hog Roast and President’s day. Both were well attended and very successful. We had to cancel the Christmas social due to lack of interest. Invitations were sent to all members – only 15 replies were received, 5 of those were from committee members.
- Our website had become unusable, due to a series of events in the last couple of years, so we have constructed a new one, with professional help, ensuring that we have full access and control for the future.
 - The previous sites (2) will be left to wither, as we are unable to delete them. The new site is at www.stowmarketbeekeepers.com and is where all news and information is to be found.
 - We also have new email addresses for all committee members, which are listed on the website.
- Our association apiary at Baylham Rare Breeds Centre did not fare well last winter, and we lost over 70% of the colonies. We have managed to recover colonies but we had a poor honey crop last season.
 - Several members report similar high losses in their own apiaries.
 - The apiary, however is in a good state of repair and we will be reorganising the management this year to make better use of it and to provide more teaching opportunities for new members.
 - Richard Martin, our President, has run the apiary almost single-handed for many years but has now stepped down as apiary manager. I wish to thank him for all his hard work over the years. He will continue to provide extraction facilities.
 - The management of the apiary will be taken over by Lawrence and Sarah Paton but they will need a team to help out. **Volunteers are required.**
- We held a successful beginners’ course of 20 students in early spring, including practical training. With our help, all our students managed to acquire bees, either via swarms or nucs. This year’s course is fully booked and will begin later this month.
- We have set up an Asian Hornet Team to increase awareness of members and the public and set monitoring stations. **More volunteers are required.**
- We continue to sell Association honey at Wyken Farmers’ Market each month, although we have run out of stock due to the poor year at Baylham. We also participated in local village shows and fetes in the Stowmarket area. We have equipment for display, including a complete hive, an observation hive and other educational material, plus a gazebo with signs and flags.
 - There is, however little interest amongst members to enter honey shows at the moment.
 - Due to the fact that there is some geographical cross-over of our members and those of WSBKA we have begun to cooperate whenever possible and encourage members to attend each other’s meetings.

- We find it difficult to attract members to club nights, which are not well attended. The enforced isolation during COVID seems to have hung-over somewhat. We also find it difficult to get volunteers to become Officers. In particular, Roger Chapman is stepping down as secretary. I wish to thank him for his time and hard work on the committee both as Secretary and as Chairman. **We do not have a candidate to replace him** yet. I also wish thank Sarah Neesam, who is also stepping down as membership secretary, for all her work.
 - We cannot function properly without members stepping up to help out with the organisation.
 - I ask all members to consider participating more and/or volunteering to give your time when required.

Greg Monaghan

Chairman SDBKA

STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION 2023 ACCOUNTS RECONCILIATION

6102.06

Opening Balance 1 Jan 22

INCOME

Honey sales	112.00	168.00	180.00	45.00	150.00	90.00	100.00	845.00
Training	264.20	264.20	264.20	264.20				1056.80
membership subs								4929.25
Hive sale								0.00
Refund error	140.00							140.00
								6971.05

EXPENDITURE

speaker expenses	7.50							7.50
Hall hire	61.56	87.53	148.35	38.62	36.00	33.00		405.06
EARS								0.00
Zoom membership	143.88							143.88
Training	113.78	252.53						366.31
Card reader	94.80							94.80
Website	144.00	1400.00						1544.00
Capitation	2929.35	953.40	121.00					4003.75
AGM Expenses								0.00
Beecraft subs	99.00							99.00
Hog Roast	198.98	223.20	424.50	450.00				1296.68
Apiary expenses	60.00	111.72						171.72
Honey refund	150.00							150.00
refund overpayment								0.00
Postage								0.00
xmas party								0.00
Bacton Fayre								0.00
Suffolk AGM expenses	10.48							10.48
Closing Balance 31 Dec 23								4779.93

Notes: