



Essex Beekeepers' Association

Minutes of the Central Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 6 July 2021 + Wednesday 7 July

Voting members			6 July	7 July
JR	Jane Ridler	Chair	Present	Present
VW	Vanessa Wilkinson	General Secretary	Present	Absent
PA	Pat Allen	Treasurer	Present	Present
JT	Jan Tutton	Chelmsford Trustee	Present	Present
GM	Glenn Mayes	Maldon & Dengie Trustee	Present	Present
SN	Simon Nicholson	Epping Forest Trustee	Absent	Absent
CA	Chris Allen	Southend Trustee	Present	Present
NH	Nick Holmes	Harlow Trustee	Present	Absent
BM	Bridget Mudd	Braintree Trustee	Absent	Absent
JM	Jim McNeill	Romford Trustee/Honey Show Delegate	Present	Present
LY	Linda Yeats	Saffron Walden Trustee (acting minutes secretary)	Present	Present
AL	Andrew Linley	Colchester Trustee	Present	Present

Officers/Members			6 July	7 July
JS	Jean Smye	President	Present	Present
DI	Dee Inkersole	Editor of the Essex Beekeeper	Absent	Absent
RR	Richard Ridler	BBKA Delegate	Present	Present
MW	Michael Webb	Secretary of Essex Show	Absent	Present
SG	Stephanie Green	Examinations Secretary	Absent	Present
GMD	Garth Milford	eR2 Implementation Manager	Absent	Absent
KL	Keith Lomax	Member	Present	Absent

Officers/Members			6 July	7 July
DG	Dave Garratt	Bee Health Officer	Present	Present

1. Apologies for absence

Simon Nicolson, Dee Inkersole, Michael Webb (Tues), Stephanie Green (Tues), Vanessa Wilkinson (Weds)

2. Minutes of CEC meeting held Tuesday May 4th 2021

It was noted that Michael Abel was present as an observer, not a voting member.

Action JR will sign amended copy of minutes and pass to VW

3. Matters arising not on agenda/action updates

Item 3 There is one outstanding signed Trustee Responsibility document to be returned. PA attended the Beecraft AGM, all seems to be very satisfactory. She also attended the BDI AGM and reported that the new advice on whole apiary shook swarms in case of EFB is very effective but not well received by beekeepers. If this becomes policy next year, BDI premiums may increase.

No update on the contacts list.

Update on Maldon and Dengie 100 (from meeting on 7 July). GM reported that M&D Division had accepted the CEC's decision concerning reference to MAD beekeepers and the strapline has been removed from the website although it may sometimes appear on defaults. AGM reports, one still outstanding (Southend), one on the way (Epping) and one received (Colchester).

JR will remind officers and Trustees that they can and should nominate a proxy for CEC meetings.

Item 12 DG is asked to send a note to all EBKA members reminding them to register with Beebase.

JM reported that there was a missing zero from their bank balance in their AGM report and that the division had not taken a cruise.

Action VW to take action on contacts list

4. EBKA Annual report This is ready for submission to the Charity Commission.

Proposed by JR that this should be uploaded by JR to the Charity Commission, seconded by CA and carried unanimously.

Action JR to upload report

5. Treasurer's report

It is suggested that the EBKA subscription year be amended to match eR2 and the BBKA year which close on Sept 30th. This would be convenient for claiming GiftAid and would regularise the position of members joining in October. KL observed that many other BKAs followed this practice. This should be considered and return as an item on the September agenda.

PA suggested that the EBKA capitation be reduced by £2 to offset the BBKA increase for full members and by £1 for partner members. No change is suggested for other categories of membership. CA observed that it would help reduce the high level of funds held in relation to charity status. PA observed that GiftAid makes a significant contribution to funds and needs to be spent appropriately. NH asked if divisional subs could also be reduced.

It was agreed that subs should remain the same for 2022 and that the EBKA capitation be reduced to compensate for the BBKA rise in capitation as JA had proposed.

PA proposed that trustees take back to their divisions the suggestion that divisional subs could also be reduced. This was seconded by NH and carried unanimously.

PA also proposed an increase in awards given for qualifications achieved as follows:

Miss Avey, Basic Assessment Distinction £50

Ted Hooper Module Distinction £50

New Awards

General Husbandry £80

Advanced Husbandry £100

Discussion followed as to whether this would be an effective way of raising standards of beekeeping. Subsidising fees for successful candidates or providing Basic Assessment guides were also suggested and could be given further consideration.

The awards increase was proposed by JR seconded by AL and carried unanimously.

PA's suggestions on the Education and Research funds will be considered at the next meeting.

Action Trustees to ask divisions if Divisional subscriptions could be reduced.

6. EBKA Trading and implications.

PA confirmed that VAT registration is not needed unless trading total exceeds £85,000. Her concern is that this could inadvertently be exceeded by the independent actions of divisions. JS explained that this concern had arisen before and is the reason that jar sales are run through an individual bank account and it is planned that this will continue. She also explained that this concern had arisen before and had led to a proposal to set up a trading arm. This was rejected at an AGM. At this point, JR voiced the gratitude of EBKA to Jean's work on jar orders over the years. Jar costs average about £15000, this year £22000 and are liable for VAT. Apikel costs are up to £15000 pa. LY explained that the effects of the changes arising as a result of Brexit lead to delivery problems this year and may cause a steep rise in price next year so the future of this scheme is uncertain. NH thought? we had approached the limit on occasion and PA reported that other divisions had in the past had big one off purchases. KL reported that the Small Trading Tax Exemption limit for us would be in the order of £50,000. However he subsequently reported that in fact EBKA falls within the 25% limit of turnover for the small trading tax exemption limit.

Establishing a trading arm would have practical disadvantages in the work needed to set it up and the increased need for running accounts to be maintained. PA observed that a new treasurer would also be needed.

JR observed that EBKA would not want to register for VAT and suggested the need for more frequent exchange of information from divisions on any trading including smaller expenditure on foundation, treatments etc. She proposed that from September, divisional

reps should include this information in their reports. This was agreed unanimously. It was observed that it was not clear exactly what was covered by the term trading.

Action future divisional reports should include information on proposed trading activities

7 4th Generation EARS proposal (discussed on 7July).

It was noted that the new proposal is very relevant to practical beekeeping. Feedback has been satisfactory this year. Divisions could be asked if they wanted to make individual contributions.

It was proposed that for 2022, the contribution be increased to £2000 from £1000 but with no ongoing commitment to the new level. This was agreed unanimously.

Action JR to respond to EARS and PA to arrange payment

8 Governance Subcommittee

KL presented a report on options for insurance and confirmed a new quotation of £904.40 to cover all divisional apiaries. This would have a £250 excess for all claims covering everything except the bees including flood, fire and theft. Equipment in transit would not be covered.

It was proposed by JR and seconded by GM that Trustees were adequately covered through BBKA membership. Carried unanimously.

Cover for members' hives on divisional apiaries must be adequate and their insured total must include them. JT will investigate the mechanism for insuring division owned colonies in divisional apiaries. Discussion followed on the choice between the policy described above to be funded by EBKA or individual associations through risk reduction procedures taking their own risk. The latter would include the possibility of applying to EBKA in case of exceptional losses. There was unanimous support for this approach. KL will send insurance details to the divisions who have insured their apiaries in the past and to EBKA. KL was thanked for his hard work on this item.

Action KL to let interested parties know of insurance quote. JT to investigate how divisional hives can best be included on BDI policy

The meeting was suspended at this point and reconvened on July 7

The review of leases is ongoing. Updated information is still awaited for Harlow, Braintree and Colchester.

Action Divisions to ensure JR has up to date information on divisional apiaries.

9 Honey Show.

MW reported that the Orsett show having been cancelled and because of the difficulties due to current uncertainties, he had contacted the show committee proposing that the county show for 2021 be cancelled in favour of local shows. This option was supported by the majority of members. Divisions would be responsible for ensuring the safety of members through rigorous risk assessments. They should also make every effort to help newer members understand the requirements and standards expected for the county show. This was agreed unanimously.

10 Ted Hooper Lecture.

Giles Budge is happy to give a Zoom lecture.

Action VW is asked to fix a date with him, either 6/7 or 27/28 November.

11 Venue for CEC meetings.

Gridserve is not suitable so the Margaretting Village Hall is under consideration. Committee members expressed a preference for the next meeting to be on Zoom. Chelmsford Division will hold a meeting at Margaretting on Tuesday 20 July and would welcome CEC members wanting to look at the venue.

It was unanimously agreed that the next 3 meetings would be via Zoom.

12 Questions arising from Divisional reports and Secretaries reports.

The CEC guidance previously issued for face to face meetings still stands in the light of continuing change. Caution is advised because of the demographic of our members. A record of attendees is needed and we were reminded that there seems to be increasing resistance to compliance.

The proposal from the Bee Health Officer was discussed. There was unanimous support for the proposal of a questionnaire to identify experience of bee disease in Essex and to use this to produce a risk assessment and inform training. It was agreed that promoting rearing of gentle queens to better facilitate disease inspection was a good idea but in practice, there had been an underwhelming response to previous initiatives in the area. Nevertheless, divisions should be encouraged to persevere.

Action Bee Health team to circulate and analyse outcomes of questionnaire

13 Chelmsford skep making course

Chelmsford Division were looking for someone to give a skep making session. Chris Parkes was suggested or Clive de Bruyn might be able to advise.

AOB RR asked for consideration of motions for the BBKA meeting in January 2021

Next Meeting Tuesday 7 September 19.30 via Zoom

Action date	Owner	Action	Action due date	Update	Status
3/3/20	Trustees	Ensure that their committees have elected Safety Officers to cover Risk Assessments for all events, and the CEC Event Safety Officers to cover all County events.	30/3/20		Open

16/3/21	PA	Address of issue of Education and Research funds	30/4/21		open
16/3/21	MW	Suggest Accounts Examiner for 2021	30/4/21		open
16/3/21	NH	Contact MW with name of the upcoming Presiding Officer	20/3/21		open
6/5/21	VW	Feedback whether HSOs should be included on Officers List	6/7/21		open
6/5/21	DG	Send reminders to members to join BeeBase	6/7/21		open
6/7/21	JR	Upload Charity Commission report	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	Trustees	<i>Ask divisions if Divisional subscriptions could be reduced</i>	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	Trustees	<i>Include information on proposed trading activities in Divisional reports</i>	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	JR/PA	<i>Respond to EARS about research funding and arrange payment</i>	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	KL/JT	<i>KL to let interested parties know of insurance quote. JT to investigate how divisional hives can best be included on BDI policy</i>	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	Trustees	<i>Ensure JR has up to date information on Divisional apiaries</i>	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	VW	<i>Ask Giles Budge to give Zoom Lecture 6/7 or 27/28 Nov</i>	1/9/21		open
6/7/21	DG	<i>Circulate questionnaire about bee disease.</i>	1/9/21		open

Minutes agreed as true record of meeting:

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Jane Ridler - Chair of CEC – 7 Sept 2021