



Minutes of the Central Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 3 May 2022

Voting Members:

JR	Jane Ridler	Chair	Present
VW	Vanessa Wilkinson	General Secretary	Present
PA	Pat Allen	Treasurer	Absent
MA	Mike Abel	Chelmsford Trustee	Present
GM	Glenn Mayes	Maldon & Dengie Trustee	Present
SN	Simon Nicholson	Epping Forest Trustee (Minutes)	Present
CA	Chris Allen	Southend Trustee	Present
BM	Bridget Mudd	Braintree Trustee	Present
JM	Jim McNeill	Romford Trustee/Honey Show Delegate	Absent
LY	Linda Yeats	Saffron Walden Trustee	Present
AL	Andrew Linley	Colchester Trustee	Present

Officers / Members:

JS	Jean Smye	President	Present
DI	Dee Inkersole	Editor of Essex Beekeeper	Absent
RR	Richard Ridler	BBKA Delegate	Present (part)
MW	Michael Webb	Secretary of Essex Show	Present
SG	Stephanie Green	Examinations Secretary	Present
JT	Jan Tutton	Membership Secretary	Absent
GMD	Garth Milford	eR2 Implementation Manager	Absent
DG	Dave Garratt	Bee Health Officer	Absent
GC	Graeme Crook	Webmaster	Present
LC	Louise Carr	Guest (Harlow)	Present

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from, Pat Allen, Jim McNeill, Dee Inkersole and Jan Tutton.

2. Conflicts of Interest

VW introduced this new agenda item. At the previous meeting it was felt that there should be an opportunity for members to declare any conflicts of interest in any of the agenda items. None stated.

3. Minutes of CEC meeting held on 1 March 2022

Item 7: Further to the Epping Forest DVM report, where committee members expressed concerns about the conflict of interest regarding the Bees Abroad donation, SN felt that two elements had been missed off the minutes and that it would be helpful if they were included to clarify that the matter was correctly handled. Firstly that RR, on introducing the item, had clearly declared that he, JR and KL all had a conflict of interest and that JR would not be voting on the issue. Secondly, that

the proposal to donate £4500 did not come from any of the interested parties (MW confirmed that it was his proposal). The committee also felt that it was important to note that KL's governance report on the issue was available to members at the time. This was agreed. MW suggested that KL's report is attached to the March meeting Minutes.

Action: *JR to add text to minutes confirming; the notification of conflict of interest, the EBKA donation proposed by MW and the availability of KL's report at the time of discussion.*

An issue had also been raised by Epping Forest that EBKA's entry on the Charity Commission website (the Rules do not specify Essex) states that our Area of Benefit is "In practice ESSEX" and therefore Bees Abroad is outside of that. A discussion took place but is dealt with in item 10 below.

Item 12: JR pointed out that "SR" supposedly requested approval for a Ted Hooper award. There is no member with those initials and she assumes it refers to Steph Green. SG agreed.

Action: *JR Amend SR to SG*

4. Matters arising, not on Agenda/action updates

JS stated that, for personal reasons, she deeply regrets that she is unable to attend the World Bee Day celebration at the Wax Chandler's Hall in her role as President. It was agreed she would find someone in her stead and has asked VW, as one of the Officers, to represent EBKA instead. JS thanked her for taking this on in her absence.

Item 9: JR stated that the Ted Hooper lecture has sold 54 out of 80 tickets so far, and encouraged members to attend. Vince Gallo is presenting the lecture and JR has written a piece about this in the Essex Newsletter.

5. Treasurer's Report

PA had sent a Treasurer's Report and up to date accounts but was unable to attend the meeting. She had provided notes for VW to present:

i. PA hadn't received a funds request for the Bees Abroad donation yet.

ii. PA hadn't received a funds request for the Honey Show yet. MW said it is too early.

iii. The CAF bank is doing an account review and needs to note the nationality of trustees on its records. Trustees expressed some concern as to why they should need this, but on explanation, were happy to provide the information.

iv. PA is still trying to update the CAF bank contact and Bank Mandate. She has discovered people on the Bank Mandate whom should no longer be there. She is working on having them removed.

v. Beecraft AGM on 9th May 2022: we should really attend this if we can as we have a shareholder-type relationship with them. PA attended previously and has all the details. MA volunteered to go.

Action: *MA to attend Beecraft AGM and apply to PA for details*

vi. JS raised a point regarding Bees Abroad, but this is dealt with in item 10.

6. Governance Sub-Committee

i. VW stated that no meeting had taken place in April. The next meeting is on 31 May 2022, so let them know if there are any issues that need raising.

ii. MA has had his Trustee training and has signed all the documentation.

iii. The revised version of the Trustee Handbook has not been sent out yet.

iv. The handbook states that the CEC members individual emails will be made available. At the moment there is an issue with some email addresses (MW and SN), which are part of the CEC@ebka.org group email. GC will contact the website hosting company to try to fix this.

Action: *GC to contact those whose email addresses are not working on the CEC group mail.*

v. The H+S update was to be produced by this meeting, but has not happened yet.

vi. JR stated that there seemed to be Apiary updates missing from M&D100, EF, and Braintree.

Action: *GM,SN,BM to check and forward Apiary details.*

7. EBKA Officers Day

JR proposed that we hold an “Officers Day” on 30 July 2022. It would provide an opportune moment for divisional officers to meet face to face after such a long time (the last such gathering was for the beginners training group in January 2020) and would include a lunch. JR saw it as a show of thanks to those involved, to discuss roles and responsibilities at County and Divisional level, and it was also seen as an opportunity for divisions to suggest spending opportunities and other ideas for the future. The proposal was agreed.

8. Bee Health Day

DG was not available and so VW presented this item.

VW announced that Ian Nichols and Peter Davies (Essex bee inspectors) want to hold bee health days and DG is following this up with them. They’ve not come back with a date, but they prefer a mid-week day, whilst acknowledging that this might reduce the number of attendees: expecting over 30 people. BM suggested that Cressing Temple would be an ideal location as it has indoor facilities within the apiary. MA agreed to follow up this venue as a possibility

9. EBKA Conference – Copped Hall, 13th November 2022

SN reported that arrangements are confirmed and that Copped Hall is an atmospheric venue. There are 3 speakers, within an over-arching theme of “threats to bees and pollinators”:

Clive de Bruyn: Climate change and Varroa pressures

Ben Woodcock: Pollinators and the agri-environment (National Honey Monitoring Team)

Peter Kennedy: Impact of the Asian Hornet on Bees and Pollinators

Catering will include a welcome drink, a morning break of Tea/coffee and biscuits, Hot Lunch (Soup + main course + fruit). Then an afternoon break of tea/coffee and cake. A tour of the property (c 45-60 mins) will be available for an extra £5.

There will still be time for a Remembrance Day reflection, awards & honey show presentation, and the President's speech. We expect to provide a raffle and stalls depending on volunteers.

Tickets will remain at £25 with a limit of 75 attendees. We have struck good deals, and it seems that this could come within budget (including the £500 provision from EBKA). Our Eventbrite page is already set-up, and at the moment we are provisionally aiming for a July launch for ticket sales.

10. Questions arising from the DVM Reports

i) Braintree

JR reflected on the death of Stuart Mitson who had been a CEC trustee and treasurer at Braintree. She asked that his name be put forward for the book of commemoration.

There appeared to be a discrepancy in the member numbers presented (71) for Braintree Div compared with those of Jan Tutton (100). BM suggested it may be due to c35 people who have still not renewed.

ii) Honey Show – 3 September 2022

MW reported that Darrell Uden (treasurer at Southend) has joined the Honey Show Committee as treasurer. The next Honey Show committee meeting is at the end of the month.

The trustees/secretary at Orsett are ordering the marquee, it will be the same size as previously. We need to pick up after 2 years absence; eg volunteers, equipment ,exhibits and honey sales. The format will remain the same, and we hope the problem with colony losses this year won't affect the number of entries.

iii) Exams

SG said that there was little to report – around 20 people are taking the Basic Assessment. SN asked about the Basic Assessment form. SG said that this no longer exists. SG simply generates a task on ER2 that feeds into the BBKA system, which then sends all the details through direct to the applicants email address.

iv) Louise Carr

Louise was welcomed by the committee for coming and representing Harlow division. Louise detailed how difficult her task is; trying to get anybody to do anything to help run the division, and therefore having too many roles to undertake herself. Also that she has difficulty getting payments made at the moment with the transfer to Lloyds bank and unhelpful internal processes. There was also a split about how meetings should be organised – older members prefer speakers, younger ones prefer learning from other members experiences. Discussions took place on how Harlow could encourage people to specialist roles - eg advertising on "Linked-in" or "Nextdoor" for volunteers.

v) Romford – Correction

The DVM report should read 136 members (not 136 students)

vi) Epping Forest – “Area of Benefit”

The EFBKA report raised an issue with the Area of Benefit of EBKA as stated on the Charity commission website which is described as being “In Practice Essex”, and it was concerned that a donation to Bees Abroad would fall outside of this remit. BM stated that Braintree committee had also raised the donation as an issue, whilst others expressed support.

RR outlined that KL had looked into this matter as a matter of governance and that he was content it would not preclude this donation as he had stated in the March meeting. SG also made the point that we have supported research projects in the past that fell outside Essex without any concerns being raised. JS had suggested that it might help if Bees Abroad were made associates of EBKA and RR responded that Bees Abroad were already associates of the BBKA and are a well run charity based in this country.

The committee had voted in favour of the donation to Bees Abroad at the March CEC meeting. However, given the 'area of benefit' concerns expressed above, it was felt that we should write a note to the Charity Commission to inform them of our intention.

Action: VW and JS to compose a note to be sent to the Charity Commission.

11. AOB

i. GM was asked for the M&D100 DVM report.

ii. RR was asked if EBKA had made a submission to DEFRA regarding the use of pesticides in farming, as a request had been made to see the submission. RR stated that none had been made as far as he knew, although a BBKA motion had been passed in support at the BBKA ADM in January. Maybe an individual had presented something, but nobody knows.

iii. VW proposed that the next CEC meeting on 12 July 2022 should be held by Zoom. This is because we will be meeting in person at the end of the month with the Officers’ Day. Agreed.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 12 July 2022 at 7.30 pm (via Zoom)

Action date	Owner	Action	Action due date	Update	Status
6/5/21	DG	Send reminders to members to join Beebase	6/7/21		open
4/1/22	PA	Write short case supporting change of financial year	1/3/22		open
1/3/22	PA	Follow up the proposal to align the BBKA and eR2/EBKA years			open
1/3/22	PA	To organise necessary documentation for LY to become	3/5/22	In progress	open

		new signatory to authorize payments			
1/3/22	RR	Provide more information on Bees Abroad projects, including materials and to formally request PA for the funds.	3/5/22		open
1/3/22	MW	To request transfer of funds from PA for Honey Show funding	3/5/22		open
3/5/22	JR	To add text to minutes confirming; the notification of conflict of interest, the EBKA donation proposed by MW, and the availability of KLS report at the time of discussion.	12/7/22		open
3/5/22	JR	Amend minutes (item 12) SR to SG	12/7/22		open
3/5/22	MA	to attend Beecraft AGM	12/7/22		Open
3/5/22	GC	to contact those whose email addresses are not working on the CEC group mail.	12/7/22		open
3/5/22	GM, SN, BM	to check and forward Apiary details.	12/7/22		open
3/5/22	JS + VW	to compose a note to be sent to the Charity Commission.	12/7/22		open

Minutes agreed as true record of meeting:

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Jane Ridler - Chair of CEC – 12 July 2021