

Minutes Of Moray Beekeeper's Association Committee Meeting held at Baxter's, Tuesday 23rd April at 7pm.

1. Apologies: Ron Clark

2. Present: Yvonne Stuart (Secretary), Donna Clark (Treasurer), Davie Stuart, Tony Harris, Anne Black, Mike Collins, Ian Mcandie, Joy Malcolm, Bob Malcolm (chair), Andy Watson.

3. Approval of Minutes of last meeting: proposed by Anne Black, second Davie Stuart.

4. Matter's Arising: The proposed site at Aberlour has been approved by all committee members, this site is available as from now if you wish to put hives on this site please contact Yvonne Stuart (secretary) MBKA. (carried)

5. Insurance: Joy & Yvonne to source quotes from insurance companies, also to contact other Associations regarding how or if they have insurance at their sites.

Calcots Apiary site is NOT going ahead, a resident of the area had made a complaint to both the Council and our Secretary. This was due to the safety of the Bee's and the equipment which would have been stored there. (carried)

6. Opening Ceremony: Catering: Anne Black has organised all the catering with members of the Committee and MBKA member's.

STV & BBC Scotland have been invited to the opening ceremony.

Mr Richard Lohead, MSP & Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & the Environment will open the newly re-furbished site at Birnie.

Pupils from Mosstodloch Primary are also attending and are giving a presentation to all the VIP guests on the importance of Bee's in the environment.

7. Work at Birnie: the Apiary is just about finished there are still a few odds & ends to do, painting the outer cabin and flooring still to be laid in the main cabin.

8. Beam Report: Tony has done 70hrs for April, & 41 miles plus 204 miles to Edinburgh for the Microscopy Course, Tony has claimed 40 hrs for the month of April.

Beam continued: Committee to source a Marquee/Tent to be purchased for the Apiary as a permanent fixture, this is for bad weather days. (Proposed Tony Harris). All committee members agreed Andy to send Donna the link for purchasing. (carried).

9. A.O.B: Sunday refreshments: it was proposed that we start charging for refreshments on our Sunday meetings and to stop selling raffle tickets. After discussions with the committee it was decided to carry on as before, no charge for refreshments and to continue with our much wanted raffle. (carried).

First Aiders: these are to be present at Apiary sessions, Mike Collins is available for this, Davie & Yvonne are both First Aiders, if there any more please let us know.

Fire alarms & Extinguisher to be placed at the Apiary, Simon Tucker has kindly given the Apiary smoke alarms.

Gordonstoun talk, this went very well Kerri & Iain delivered the talk to 105 pupils plus teachers. We had 30mins to do our talk plus questions & answers at the end, we could have done with an hour. We had taken an empty hive and described what each part of the hive was for, I have to say that all the pupils & teachers were really interested that they now want to get their hives up and running again which MBKA will assist.

Alan Riach is adapting the Basic Bee Master Exam for our Junior members, which will take place this coming year, so far we have two candidates for this course.

Keith Show 11th & 12th August, MBKA will have a stall at the event selling honey.

Meeting closed at 8.45

Mosstodloch School are looking for funding of £95.00 towards costs of the bus to the opening ceremony at the Apiary on the 26th April. It was agreed that the funds would be offered to Mosstodloch School. (carried)

10. Beam project: The last work party went very well, all the slabs are now laid, many thanks to those strong men. All 105 trees have been planted and staked up, well done Davie Stuart who planted most of them. Costing of new flooring to the cabin at the Apiary to be sourced before the opening ceremony. Another work party to be organised to finish off all last minute works. Plenty of helper's for this please.

Moray College Science Festival, very few visits from members of the public visited the display stand although my 4yr old niece was very impressed with Donna's talk my niece would now like to see a "real" Bee close up... a visit to the hive is in order.

11. Treasurers Report: Donna has made 6 visits to the leader office and has now submitted our first claim of £11200.00 well done Donna, and many thanks. The Other expenditure arising Electrician to be paid, 5 candidates from MBKA to attend a Microscopy Course in Edinburgh. Memberships total is £620. A full report is available from the treasurer.

12. MBKA Events: Tony Harris has revised copies of upcoming events for this year which includes monthly meetings and apiary sessions, put these dates in your diaries.

13. Insurance: Now that there is a lot of expensive equipment at our Apiary we need to look at suitable insurance to cover the costs of theft/damage at the site, all the hives are insured through the SBA.

14. OSCR : Letter of Complaint. An unfounded complaint has been replied to by the Chairman. OSCR declared no case to answer.

The Trustee's Annual Return was approved & Anthony Harris, was authorised to submit it to OSCR.

15. Opening Ceremony at Birnie: Pupils from Mosstodloch School are going to present a presentation on Bees and their importance to the environment.

All committee members are to wear ID badges on the day of the ceremony Tony will organise these for all members attending. Diana has kindly agreed to make her amazing honey cake for the opening.

16. Calcots Apiary Site: This is to be a back up site in case we may need to move from Birnie, this will be on a trial basis as we have a 12month lease after that initial trial a long term lease will be available, the cost of the is £50.00 per year. We are looking to place at least 2 hives at this site to see how it all goes.

17. Moray Leader: A transition trip to Sweden is available for 2 members & those who will be attending are Donna Clark & Tony Harris, (good luck), they will depart on the 14th May for a two day trip.

18. A.O.B: Gordonstoun Junior Highland Games: this is to take place on 27th April the MBKA will be hosting a display stall with the sale of honey and conservation packs will also be handed out.

Aberlour House has asked members of the MBKA to do a talk on Bee's Kerri & Iain are going to hold a presentation at Aberlour House with an audience of 105 pupils & staff, and will explain "How Bees are Important to the Environment". A little practice for Kerri for when she does a presentation for the Opening Ceremony.

RAF open day 22nd June: volunteers needed for this event. We intend to hold a display stand inside the hanger (where it will be dry if it rains), with a power point presentation, Anne Black is going to submit a form for the event.

Meeting Closed at 8.35pm

Date of next meeting 23/04/13

