

Minutes of Moray Beekeepers' Association (MBA) Committee Meeting held at Baxters, Fochabers, on Tuesday 1st May 2012, commenced 6.30pm.

1. Committee Members Present.

A. Tassell (in Chair), D. Clark, D. Vincent, G. Thompson, A. Watson, A. Black & T. Harris. Apologies: R. Clark.

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting. The minutes of meeting held on 13.03.12 were accepted as a true record. Proposed G.T. Seconded A.W. CARRIED

3. Matters Arising.

T.H. had written to Bro Benedict offering Life Membership to 'Pluscarden Abbey' and it had been gratefully accepted.

4. Treasurer's Report.

D.C. reported a balance of £845.18. Approximately £700 had been paid out recently for the bulk purchase of jars while £180 had been received from the Basic Beemaster course.

The accounts have been submitted to the Office of Scottish Charities Register (OSCR) and the application to HMRC for the Gift Aid scheme had been submitted.

5. SBA Pilot (Communication)

T.H. reported that Scottish Beekeepers Association (SBA) Executive member A. Joyce was running a pilot study to improve communication between the SBA Executive and Local Associations and he had asked if MBA would participate. A.W. agreed to be the MBA representative in the study. ACTION: A. WATSON

6. Moray Leader Funding Application

D.C. facilitated a discussion and powerpoint presentation on MBA's application to Moray Leader to fund the 'Bee Aware in Moray' project. A full discussion took place and a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Strengths) analysis was completed. T.H. outlined a draft timetable of events.

It was agreed that we continue with the application process but look into the possibility of including funding for a part time job so the project can be implemented in full.

A.B. agreed to research and write up an Equal Opportunities Policy for the next meeting ACTION Anne Black

The next meeting with Leader is on Wednesday 16th May at 2.00pm and G.T. agreed to accompany T.H.

7. Beekeeping Courses/Apiary Sessions 2012

The diary for volunteers still hasn't been filled for the courses and sessions. Members of the Committee agreed to check diaries and inform T.H. of dates they could fill. ACTION: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

8. MBA Presence at Summer Shows 2012

It was agreed that MBA would only consider attendance at Summer Shows in 2012 if invitations were received.

9. MBA Honey Show 2012

It was agreed to have a talk in October at Elgin Library on the theme of 'preparing exhibits for the show bench'. Each member of the Committee will bring at least 2 jars of honey and other exhibits and Les Webster (MBA member and Honey Judge) will be invited to judge the exhibits and give a talk to the meeting.

ACTION: A. TASSELL to invite

10. MBA Library

T.H. agreed to physically hand over the library to A.B. who will price up covers for the books and report back to the Committee.

It was decided that the antique books need to be protected and not lent out to members. Current prints of these antique books will be purchased and the Librarian will be allocated £20 a month to update the Library with books and DVDs.

ACTION: A. BLACK

11. Winter Programme: the following was agreed

October 'Preparing Exhibits for the Honey Bench' Invite Les Webster

November Invite Stephen Palmer to give a talk, in conjunction with oxalic acid demonstration

January A.G.M.

February A lecture (details to be arranged later)

12. SBA Centenary 15th/16th September

This event will be widely publicised in MBA. Any member wishing to attend, however, must book tickets and organise travel arrangements themselves.

13. Any Other Business

A.T. reminded the meeting of the Beekeeping Auction on 5th May

Travelling expenses: Most charities pay between 40p and 45p a mile for necessary expenses. MBA has a policy of paying 30p/mile but only for events that raise funds for the organisation.

It was proposed T.H. Seconded A.T. that the amount per mile be increased to 40p/mile and that if the Leader funding application is successful the MBA policy on travel expenses be reviewed. CARRIED

It was agreed to buy 2 small hammers for Birnie so that frames can be made up there. ACTION: R. CLARK

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29th May

There being no other business the chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.55hrs