

**Suffolk Coastal Beekeepers Association**  
AGM Saturday 6th February 2021, 16.00 (via Zoom)

**Participating**

Chris Poupard  
Frank Burton  
Penny Robertson and Linda Serpell  
Mark Butt  
Sandy Sutch  
John Symes  
Judith Raven  
David Burns  
Chris Ray  
John and Lindy Mackinnon  
Martin and Pauline Quinn  
Laurie Wiseman  
Garry Savege  
Alison Mudd  
Richard Court  
Anne Oldham  
Kirsty Blades and partner

**Apologies**

Dilys Hall  
Julian Fox  
Ralph Butcher

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed participants at 16.05

**2. Reports** - all reports had been previously circulated

**Chairman's report (CP)** – there were no questions

**Membership (PR):** 2021 Fee waiver expires at today's date. Members registering after today will have to pay full membership fees.

**Education (PR):** Penny Robertson will arrange a Zoom meeting for those who have expressed an interest in joining our 2021 beginners' course

**Shows (SS):** None in 2020. The following shows for 2021 have already been cancelled: Suffolk Show and School, Farm and Country Fair. Heveningham Hall Country Fair TBC  
National Honey Show proposing to run in 2021 with, for the first year, classes for Suffolk associations

**Apiary (LS):** there were no questions

**Stock(LS):** There is still some stock available for sale to members. Updated list to be circulated.

**Treasurer (SS):** There were no questions on the accounts. The need for an independent auditor was stressed. SS suggested a candidate for consideration – see item below.

**3. Election of Officers**

**(Frank Burton officiating)**

**Chair**

Chris Poupard kindly agreed to re-stand, no other nominations. FB proposed, PR seconded. CP elected by unanimous vote.

**(Chris Poupard officiating)**

**Vice Chair**

FB kindly agreed to re-stand, no other nominations. FB elected by unanimous vote.

**Officers**

All agreed to stand, no other nominations received. All were re-elected by unanimous vote.

**Secretary**

The post of secretary remains open following the resignation of Gabrielle and members are to be asked again for a volunteer. Sandy Sutch reminded the meeting that funds are available to meet all expenses, but expressed concern that payment e.g. an honorarium, which had been suggested, may not be sustainable long-term.

**4. Election of Committee**

Elizabeth Poupard had stood down from the Committee. The remaining members, Peter Girling, John Symes, David Burns, Mark Butt and Judith Raven all agreed to stand. All were re-elected by unanimous vote. Additionally, Julian Fox has expressed his willingness to join the committee. He was elected by unanimous vote.

**5. Auditor**

SS proposed Robert Digbey of Robert Digbey Associates. His appointment was approved unanimously, subject to the agreement of a suitably modest fee.

**6. Programme for 2021**

PR. Taking into consideration the views expressed by members there are three main areas of interest:

- a. Queens and bees for sale to members, advice about swarm management and queen rearing.
- b. Mentoring. There have been 20 offers so far from potential mentors and 26 requests for mentoring. It was felt that it should be possible to match these offers and requests with thought to their geographical distribution.
- c. On-line resources during pandemic restrictions
  - BIBBA webinars
  - [norfolk-honey.co.uk](http://norfolk-honey.co.uk)
  - Other links to be circulated (PR)

**7. Questions from members and AOB (none had been advised in advance)**

John MacKinnon requested that the association write to DEFRA expressing concern at importation of honeybees in the context of petitions circulating on social media.

Anne Oldham, a new beekeeper asked when she might be able to obtain bees and from where. Her name and those of other members needing bees will be added to a list for later in the year when swarms and queens become available.

Kirsty Blades asked whether partners required separate membership. She was reassured that her individual membership allowed both she and her partner to attend apiary events

Martin Quinn and John Mackinnon agreed to continue to maintain the association website. The Chairman thanked them both for their sterling work.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 17.00 with thanks to MB for Zoom hosting and thanks to all those participating.