

CHESHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
The Annual General Meeting of Stockport Beekeepers at Woodford
Community Centre on February 11, 2026, starting at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES of the MEETING

Present from the committee were: Peter Carefoot (Chairperson and minute taker), David Lilley, Alistair Taylor, Dermot Carty, Amanda Dixon, Sue McGuinness, Sue Payne, Alan Towse, Brian Hoy, Liz Sparkes, Jeni Whyatt.

1. Opening remarks from the Chair.

Good evening. I hope you've read the 2025 Branch Report, so I won't dwell on last year. I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported and helped us in so many ways. Our committee is brimming with energy, and we're entering 2026 with both challenges and exciting ideas.

The yellow-legged hornet is here to stay, and there's also a concern about other diseases. Jeni Whyatt has been appointed as our Pest and Disease Manager, and we're planning to support Stockport Beekeepers in their fight against the YLH.

A Biodiversity Day is scheduled for May at the Woodbank Centre with the involvement of eco groups, schools, and local wildlife groups. We're also in the early stages of developing a children's bee club, which will be a challenging but rewarding enterprise requiring specialist help.

The Honey Show will move from Woodford to Woodbank in October and will feature demonstrations and opportunities for local schools and groups to get involved.

We'll also be looking at ways to improve our beginner's classes, as there aren't enough places to meet demand. We'll focus on developing the best beekeepers possible.

Margaret has created a full and promising year of talks, and Alan will introduce bees to three schools, including the Special Needs High Peak School.

We hosted a Barclays bank team at the apairy in exchange for financial support. This growing interest from companies keen to associate with beekeeping is creating sponsorship opportunities.

We have a busy year ahead, and to deliver this, we need more volunteers to lend their hands and support our existing helpers. You can contact any committee member to find out how you can support SBKA.

Thank you.

2. Apologies for absence.

Paul Wheeldon, Margaret Charlton, Fran Cox

3. The minutes of the last AGM on February 12, 2025.

These were circulated by email and made available on the website. Members present accepted these as an accurate record of the events.

Proposed by Alan Towse

Seconded by Graham Royle

4. Matters arising from these minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM.

5. Adoption of Branch reports.

These were circulated by email and made available on the website. The reports were accepted by the members present.

Proposed by Alan Towse

Seconded by Graham Royle

6. Adoption of the Branch accounts and the Treasurer's report.

These were circulated by email and made available on the website. Alistair presented the accounts in detail, and they were accepted as accurate records of the financial situation.

Proposed by Graham Royle

Seconded by Dermot Carty

7. Election of Branch Officers.

Paul Wheeldon is stepping down from the committee and vice-chair after many years of service to the branch.

Margaret Charlton is stepping down as Events Manager but will remain as an advisor to her replacement.

Amanda Dixon and Sue McGuinness will manage all events outside of the regular monthly meetings.

The role of Branch Secretary is vacant.

The role of Vice-chairperson is vacant.

The role of Librarian is redundant and subject to a review of a new library lending process.

There are no proposals for positions on the branch committee.

The following officers were re-elected, en bloc, to the committee:

Apiary Manager, David Lilley
Treasurer, Alistair Taylor,
Honey Show Manager, Francesca Pilkington,
Schools Liaison Secretary, Alan Towse,
Education Secretary, Liz Sparkes.
Pest and Diseases Manager, Jeni Whyatt
Chairperson and acting Secretary, Peter Carefoot

Proposed by Andrew Lewis

Seconded by Pat Booth

8. Election of other members of the Committee.

Brian Hoy, Mark Davis, Assistant Apiary Manager Dermot Carty, Amanda Dixon, Sue McGuinness, and Sue Payne were unanimously re-elected, en bloc, for 2026.

Proposed by Alan Towse

Seconded by Pat Booth

9. Election of the Accounts Examiner for 2026

Ann Longmate was unanimously re-elected as the Accounts Examiner. Peter thanked her for her work in 2025.

Proposed by Amanda Dixon

Seconded by Alistair Taylor

10. Propositions and questions

No propositions or questions have been made in advance to the Chairperson.

11. Presentation of Jim Tucker Salver for services to Stockport Beekeepers.

This was made to Paul Wheeldon for his outstanding contribution to apiary management and general SBKA matters, over many years.

12. Closing remarks from the Chair.

Peter thanked everyone for attending and hoped everyone had a safe journey home and a peaceful night.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m. and was followed by light refreshments and a Question and Answer session.