

Notes from Observatory Group Meeting 12/10/2018

Present :- Richard Young, Joan Brame, Roy Proctor, Phil Leigh, Lloyd Hughes,
Linda Harper (notetaker)

1. Welcome and Introduction

RY welcomed everyone and introduced RP to Lloyd Hughes.

2. Notes from last meeting 31-08-18

All had received copy of notes from previous meeting.

3. Matters arising (other than agenda item)

No matters arising from previous notes but as a follow on from the AAA AGM that Ob Gp meeting notes should be available on the website for members to view, all agreed that LH will forward draft notes to RY for approval and will then distribute to group and send to AAA webmaster to be uploaded to website.

4. Feedback about start of phase 1

Discussion with Damian Parker- RY has spoken with Damian and has established that the Borough will be invoiced for the work done and they will pay it and the AAA/Obs Group will contribute towards it.

Attempts to contact Kevin Chapman – RY has e-mailed and phoned Kevin but he has either been on holiday or on sick-leave. He wants to meet with him at the Observatory to look at the proposed works to be done. Hopefully they will meet on a Wednesday when RY can take him up to the Observatory.

PL asked whether the issue of Asbestos has been raised, are the borough aware of any within the building structure and where it is, (is there a register?). Will it impact on the work to be done.

Update on funding – Currently the account has £1558 balance. Plus another £1000 to come from the Athenaeum Club. RY received another £50 donation from a talk he recently gave. He expects to receive another £50 for his talk at Probus and possibly £25 from Stonham Aspal Guides when he visits them.

5. Feed back on visit of Millwrights

The Dome – The Millwrights turned the dome through a full 360 degrees twice, there was one area where it jammed as one of the wheels was out of alignment but this was considered a simple problem to fix.

The Hatch – is difficult to open, suggested that a winding screw mechanism be used to open the hatch and it would then secure the hatch in an open position.

Overview – generally considered that the structure in in good condition, there is no wood-worm and the work to be done to the dome and hatch are relatively simple. The Millwrights have been asked to supply a written quotation for the work that needs doing.

6. Funding for phase 2

RY has met with Peter Riddington (Chairman of Town Trust) to see if he would be interested in the idea of the AAA Restoration Project being 'piggybacked' onto another project of theirs.

He and RP have subsequently met with Peter and Margaret Charlesworth (trustee of the Town Trust. Margaret would come onto the Obs Group as liaison between the TT and the AAA, she does not want to be involved in any other way.

Once this is in place then Sarah Grieveson the professional fundraiser is happy to take things forward.

The project remains fully that of the AAA Observatory Group.

We now need to obtain written quotations for all the works to be done for phase 2 including the work to the structure, telescope restoration and any Audio/Visual links for future use.

Also there needs to be added into these the ongoing maintenance and support costs, it was suggested that 5 years costs be requested.

7. AOB

PL asked has any consideration been given as to how once the restoration is completed it could be made to generate money to cover ongoing costs.

RY gave several ideas including – Telescope nights with a live link down to the reading room.

Small group visits (2-3) to the Observatory.

Teaching people to use the Setting Circles.

The Time Trail – using Observatory – Sundial in Abbey Gardens and the Gersham Parkington Collection in Moyses Hall.

Also the idea of remote talks with a link to someone in the Observatory and members giving a talk elsewhere.

8. Date of next meeting

16th November 2018 at 7.30pm