

Thursday 15th November 2018

Present:- James Dale (JD) Chair, Richard Young (RY), Joan Brame (JB) , Phil Leigh, Mark Proctor (MP), Nigel Osborne (NO), Tom Sharman (TS), Linda Harper(LH) notetaker

Apologies: Mike Kirkham

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from meeting on Tuesday 9th October agreed as a full and accurate account. To be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

MK has forwarded the agreement to RY.

RY has had 2 additional keys cut for main gate, he has also found that he had a spare.

MK and PL will have these new keys. (LH may hold spare).

JD is updating and checking members list for mail chimp.

HK has been reimbursed for purchase of Moon globe, and second globe has been purchased.

Request by TS for Astrophotos for use at Star Party – several received from members.

Educational posters, TS has ordered one of the Moon, will wait to see quality before purchasing more.

Following on from AGM – MK has written to Daniel Foulsham to thank him for his gift and to send him his complimentary AAA t-shirt.

4. Finance

JD reported on the current financial position. All very positive to year end.

General account:

Amount as of 24th October 2018: £486.38

- Anticipated outgoings (est. to year end): £231.00

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- Pending income (est. to year end): £380.80 (Star party, T-shirts, membership subs...)

Projected balance at year end (est. to 31st Dec 2018): £636.08

- Restricted funds: £329.29 (remaining TC grant, plus £60 donation from D.F.)
- Unrestricted funds: £306.79

Restoration account: - No new transactions

- Amount as of 23rd October 2018: £1608.19
- Pending income: £55 (R.Y. talk fee, observatory visit, RY donation)
- Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £2653.19

We therefore have £329.29 to spend on AAA equipment and resources before the end of March next year.

5. Programme and Planning update

The programme is now planned up until 21/2/2018 and can be found on website.

Other subjects suggested for later dates include practice on the use of finder scopes. Revisit the Celestial Sphere. Also PL will send copy of his presentation on Equatorial Mounts for circulating to members. (PL)

6. Events Planning group

Star Partys – The dates for the next 2 parties in 2019 agreed after discussion to be:

29th/30th March 2019

25th/26th October 2019

For both dates the Moon will be in the last quarter and will not be visible until later in the evening when the star party will be over, so observation needs to centre around other objects of interest such as Planets, Star Clusters etc.

There was discussion on how the events could improve, suggestions included having more scopes available but also not allowing access to the scopes/binoculars until all attendees have been to the welcome/introduction and safety talk.

Also a suggestion that members of AAA have badges so that public can identify them. NO thinks he will be able to source reflective material to use to make these.

All agreed that David Murtons input at recent Star party was excellent both in the talk he gave the first night and with the public/observation on the second night. Agreed that MK will write and thank him. (MK)

External Events:-

The Giant Moon and Museum of the Moon will be at the Apex from 20/2/19 as part of Science fayre. Organised by Kinetic Science so MK will contact Deborah Ball to offer AAA help particularly with the Moon.

Several members visited St Benedicts to see their 12" reflector telescope. All considered it a good scope that gave very good detail despite bad light pollution. All hope for invite back and the opportunity to help them with any relevant events.

MK has contacted the National Trust by e-mail but has received no reply so far, he will try to contact again by telephone. (MK).

7. Restoration Project group update

RY gave update. He and Roy Proctor have met with the Town Trust to discuss their possible help with the project and they have agreed, they will be the charity so that Sarah Grieveson the professional fundraiser will be able to start work.

Margaret Charlesworth will join the Observatory Group as the liaison between the Trust and the AAA

The Town Trust have confirmed that they do not wish to take any credit towards the project.

RY has met with Brems builders and agreed the works that need to be done for phase one. However it transpires that the proposal must now go to Mr Leeks and/or Mr Samson the Building Officers for SEBC and the Athenaeum for them to look at and agree that the Heritage of the building (Athenaeum) is not compromised. RY will arrange meeting with them and Brems to discuss. If not agreed then Conservation/Heritage Officer for SEBC will need to be involved.

The question raised previously at Committee re an Agreement between all parties to clarify responsibilities is to be discussed at the Observatory Group meeting on 16/11/18.

The insurance for the telescope when moved off site needs to be followed up as to who is responsible, it is thought that SEBC are responsible for contents in the Athenaeum.

Plans for Publicity/Media input need to be prepared in readiness for the work on phase 1 starting. Also, a record of the work as it is done either Video or Photographic.

8. Outreach

RY has given talks to Horringer Beavers and Fordham Guides, the later being invited to the Star Party free of charge, a small group attended.

Probus 2 gave a cheque for £60 for the talk given by RY.

RY also has talks booked for-

Town Guides 3/4/19

Elmswell History Group 9/5/19

Bury Beavers 16/1/19 (not confirmed).

MK will visit Moreton Hall WI on 9/1/19 and has asked for volunteers to go with him, RY offered to attend. Will also ask at members meeting. (MK)

9. Resources

MP advised that his neighbour has a 130 Celestron Telescope for sale at £60. It was suggested that this would be a good addition to resources, all agreed that as funds available and if scope still available it should be purchased.

Ongoing wish list of items (appendix 1) RY suggested that we need to look at all the scopes and eyepieces that AAA owns to see exactly what we have and what else may be worth purchasing so as not to duplicate.

10. IT

MP reported there is a steady stream of new visitors to the website daily. However we are not generating much new content. It was suggested that a link to the resources section be set up to advertise previous outreach work and to showcase presentations given at the Star Partys.

Suggestion made that a strategy for the use/purpose of the website be explored, such as is it to increase membership? Or contact point for Talks/Presentations. Depending on what we want it to achieve will dictate future development needs of the website.

11. Publicity and Marketing

Nothing to report.

12. AOB

JD is still exploring the issue of insurance for the resources we store in the cupboard in Realise House, so far he has been unable to find company willing to do this. He will continue to look into options. (JD)

Following on from this, the option of purchasing a more secure cabinet for the valuable items was considered. It would need to fit underneath the existing cupboard due to the space available. NO will see what may be available. (NO)

JB raised the question of the vacant post of Vice Chairman, this needs further consideration.

TS asked whether the idea of an 'A' frame board could be considered to stand outside such as the Athenaeum to advertise the AAA, it could include a QR code that could be scanned and lead to website. Further discussion needed.

Next Committee meeting 13/12/18, RY advised this is first night of Geminid Meteor Shower so it may be a good observing opportunity.

Xmas meeting on 20/12/18 -

TS unable to attend but will provide activity. PL will do Astronomy Quiz. Prizes such as laptop lights to be purchased.

JB/LH to organise refreshments.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 08.55pm.

Date and time of next meetings: All Thursdays. 7.30 start for members. 7.00 for Committee.

Committee

13th December 2018
17th January 2019
14th February 2019
14th March 2019
11th April 2019
9th May
6th June

Members

6th December 2018
20th December 2018
10th January 2019
24th January 2019
7th February 2019
21st February 2019
7th March 2019
21st March 2019

| Action Plan from December 2017 | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|
| Page/Item | Action | Action by | Status |
| 9/10/18 P1 | Check any opt-outs and deselect from list on mailchimp | JD | Ongoing |
| 9/10/18 P1 | HK needs to be reimbursed for purchase of 1 st moon globe. All agreed that we should purchase 2 nd globe | JD | Complete |
| 9/10/18 P3 | E-mail members on behalf of TS – astrophotos. | LH | Complete |
| 9/10/18 P4 | Send copy of signed agreement with Borough Council to RY | MK | Complete |
| 9/10/18 P5 | RY has only key for padlock at main gate, he will get 2 additional keys cut | RY | Complete |
| 9/10/18 P5 | Research and purchase A1 size educational posters - (Moon/Sun/Planets) | TS | Ongoing |
| 15/11/18 P2 | PL to send presentation notes on Equatorial Mounts to sec for circulating to members | PL | New |
| 15/11/18 P3 | MK to write to thank David Murton for his work at Star Party | MK | New |
| 15/11/18 P3 | MK to phone Ickworth NT for further information on their request. | MK | New |
| 15/11/18 P5 | MK to ask members for volunteers to help with his talk to WI on 9/1/19 | MK | New |

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|----------------|--|----|---------|
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| 15/11/18 P4 | MP to follow up purchase of telescope from neighbour | MP | New |
| 15/11/18 P5 | Continue to explore Insurance options for resources | JD | Ongoing |

Appendix 1 Pending resources.

5.5.1 Prospective purchases for the AAA

(To be kept as a rolling list on the agenda will need costings for each at some point)

- Telescope eye pieces
- Three types of lenses
- Barlow 2x

