

Thursday 14th March 2019

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Richard Young (RY), James Dale (JD), Phil Leigh (PL), Joan Brame (JB), Tom Sharman (TS), Linda Harper (notetaker).

Apologies: Mark Proctor, Nigel Osborne.

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from meeting on Thursday 14th February agreed as a full and accurate account. To be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

The meeting with the Town Trust has still not been arranged due to workload of trust members. Will meet when time/commitments allow. Complete.

MK has e-mailed Peter Bruce re help. Complete.

NO has purchased red lights for use at Star Party. Complete.

MK e-mailed Town Council to notify them of what items have been purchased through the grant given last year. They have asked for supplementary information on how the items have been used. MK will provide. Ongoing. Action MK.

David Murton has accepted Honorary membership for the year. Complete.

MK still to e-mail members re the opportunity to purchase AAA Fleece. Ongoing.

4. Finance

JD presented summary of current financial position. Overall good both General and Restoration accounts.

Public Liability Insurance has been purchased.

The decision had been made by the committee that the AAA would not renew its insurance through FAS as it was a higher cost and offered little extra benefit to the AAA.

The issue of Personal Liability Insurance was raised especially for those members who would be signing the Licence Agreement for the Observatory. Agreed that further investigation needed.

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Financial Summary:-

General account:

Amount as of 26th February 2019: £789.17

- Anticipated outgoings: £115.12 (badges, e-mails, poster, lamination)
- Pending income: £177.37 (membership subs, insurance from RP account)
- Restricted funds: £142.34 (remaining TC grant)
- Unrestricted funds: £609.08

Restoration account: - No new transactions

- Amount as of 22nd February 2019: £1723.19
- Pending income: £10 (NP donation)
- Pending outgoings: £62.37 (PLI insurance to AAA account)
- Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £2670.82

5. Programme Planning

Programme planned up until June.

Paul Fellowes (Chair of Cambridge Astronomy Group) has notified the group of his charges for providing a talk - £61 in total. (Fee and mileage). He has also provided a list of topics he covers, RY and PL have these and will contact him to arrange a date. This evening may be open to non-members but an alternate venue will need to be found to allow for increased numbers.

Ruth Clarke is to give a talk on Comets and David Murton will be asked to do a presentation but it was felt that we need to encourage more members to give presentations on areas of interest to them, as we rely heavily on the same people to provide talks and presentations.

6. Events planning

Star Party:

PL advised planning coming along well. He has still to finalise the running order of the presentations.

Friday presentations will be from RY, MK, PL and Peter Bruce. Saturday presentations will be from RY, MK, Peter B and Brian Shepherd.

In the activity area there will be the gazebo showing a 3D Moon projection, Lloyd Hughes will have an activity table - 'How far is..'. There will be a TV showing the video of the Restoration project. Plus all the usual Childrens Activities.

Outside the telescopes/binoculars will be on the grassed area, TS will be doing some Astro-Photography weather permitting. (RY will recap the targets visible at Thursdays members meeting).

As ticket sales are low at present MK will ask MP to put mention on Facebook/Twitter to try to increase sales.

External

Whitsun Fayre - TS has spoken to Hubert Kerry regarding what needs to be in place for this event. The Health and Safety document and Risk Assessment can be found in drop-box.

General feeling that there need to be additional activities as having the TV showing videos did not work well last time also not certain that there will be power laid on.

National Trust – Confirmed 2 nights as 31/5/19 and 1/6/19. Volunteers needed but not many as only 20 participants on each night.

If weather permits there will be scopes for observing the skies, but if not PL suggested using 'QuickMap Moon' and Stellarium as there should be internet access in the room.

Heritage day – There was discussion as to whether we should be involved in this event this year as the subject is 'People Power'. This theme would be difficult to link astronomy to so it was agreed by all present to decline this years invite but make sure we are contacted for next year. (MK to contact Gill Rogers to give AAA apologies).

7. Observatory Group Update

RY updated the group.

Phase 1 on hold at present as RY has not met with Damien Parker yet to discuss the points raised in the licence document. (Hold up probably due to the changes happening to the council on 1/4/19)

PL is working on a Risk Assessment for the Dome and Entrance. Need H&S specification for the same.

Also need to decide on what Audio/Visual equipment is required to allow streaming to the Reading Room within the Athenaeum. Possibly Camera and Lap-top for the dome, a Wi Fi network or routers and Projector for the Reading Room. This needs to be agreed and costed to give to Sarah Williams the fund-raiser.

A written quote has not yet been received from the Mill Wrights – Roy Proctor will chase. The screw fitment for the dome hatch has not been sourced yet.

The question of Asbestos was raised, as some work on the entrance has already been done then there should be a copy of any survey carried out.

8. Outreach

RY has talks planned – 3/4/19 Bury Town Guides
10/4/19 Greengage Beavers
12/4/19 Stansfield Talks (with MK)
9/5/19 Elmswell History Group

9. Resources

NO has purchased the Planispheres, Collimator, Red lights (exterior for Star Party) and extension cable.

MK and RY will meet and look at all AAA equipment, scopes and lenses. They can then produce list which can be used to start loan scheme for members.

TS suggested purchasing a pair of small binoculars when funds allow.

10. IT

Nothing to report.

11. Publicity and Marketing

Nothing to report.

12. AOB

MK raised the issue of finding a new venue for meetings as with the increase in member numbers we are outgrowing the room available in Realise House. Agreed by all that it needs further research, possibly finding a village hall within an agreed radius of BSE that would be accessible for all members where-ever they travel from.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

Committee	Members	
11 th April 2019		
9 th May 20 19	4 th April 2019	5 th September 2019
20 th June 2019	18 th April 2019	19 th September 2019
18 th July 2019	2 nd May 2019	3 rd October 2019
15 th August 2019	16 th May 2019	17 th October 2019
12 th September	30 th May 2019	31 st October 2019
10 th October 2019	13 th June 2019	14 th November 2019
7 th November 2019	27 th June 2019	28 th November 2019
5 th December 2019	11 th July 2019	12 th December 2019
	25 th July 2019	
	8 th August 2019	
	22 nd August 2019	

Action Plan from December 2017			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
17/12/18 P4	RY to arrange meeting between AAA officers and Town Trust members	RY	Complete
17/1/19 P4	Investigate options and costings for red outdoor lighting for use at Star Party.	NO	Complete
14/2/19 P1	MK to e-mail Town Council to advise on what has been bought using the grant given last year.	MK	Complete
14/2/19 P2	MK to write to David Murton to offer honorary membership of AAA for help given.	MK	Complete
14/2/19 P3	LH to send e-mail to members asking for help and availability at Star Partys.	LH	Complete
14/2/19 P4	MK to e-mail members re the opportunity to purchase an AAA t-shirt and/or Fleece	MK	Ongoing
14/3/19 P1	MK to supply supplementary information to Town Council regarding grant spending.	MK	New
14/3/19 P3	MK to contact organiser of Heritage day to decline invite to take part this year	MK	New

