

Thursday 11th April 2019

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Richard Young (RY), Phil Leigh (PL), Joan Brame (JB), Tom Sharman (TS), Nigel Osborne (NO), Linda Harper (notetaker).

Apologies: Mark Proctor, James Dale

2. Previous Minutes

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

3. Actions

MK in process of producing flyer (e-mail) giving members the opportunity to purchase an AAA t-shirt, Fleece or badges.

MK still to supply information to Town Council re how grant was spent.

MK has contacted organisers of Heritage Days to decline invitation to take part in this years event.

4. Finance

JD has sourced quotes for Personal Liability Insurance, can be added to PLI for £22 giving £100,000 level of cover. Agreed by all to accept this. MK to e-mail JD. (Action MK)

RY requested a copy of the new insurance schedule. JD to supply. (Action JD)

General account:

Amount as of 29th March 2019: £816.34

- Anticipated outgoings: £43.18 (e-mail, poster lamination)
- Pending income: £432.37 (membership subs, insurance from RP account, Star Party)
- Restricted funds: £100.00 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £1105.44

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Restoration account: - No new transactions

- Amount as of 29th March 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

The programme had dropped back a session but unfortunately Ruth Clarke is unable to give her presentation on Comets so the programme is back as planned.

The programme from 13/6/19 still to be planned. But in view of recent scientific developments a presentation on Black Holes to be included, possibly as part two of the presentation on Space/Time.

Other suggested subjects include different types of telescopes and binoculars and what they are best used for.

Practical Imaging by TS.

NO suggested that the topic should link to viewing where possible, especially once the darker nights are here.

6. Events planning

MK thanked PL for all his hard work in the Star Party organisation. There followed some discussion around whether there should continue to be 2 partys each year and should they remain 2 nights. Further consideration needed.

TS suggested that there need to be more hands on activities for the children.

Suggestion made as to whether if chances to observe on 1st night are poor, attendees could be given option to come 2nd night if conditions look better. PL to talk to Dwayne Gray, Head Ranger, regarding any potential limit on numbers of people we can have at such events in the walled garden.

External

Next event will be the Whitsun Fayre, TS reported all in hand at this point.

LH to send out e-mail to members asking for help over the 2 days. (Action LH)

7. Observatory Group Update

RY updated the group. Along with MK had met with officers from Town Trust, Paul Tatum, Margaret Charlesworth and John Popham. Roy Proctor also attended.

There was good discussion with one aim being to start the process of producing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two groups.

John Popham raised the question as to whether an architect should be brought in to look at the Dome and other safety issues. The committee discussed this question and felt that at this stage it was not required but would consider doing so should a need be identified. MK will respond to John Popham. (Action MK)

RY, MK and Roy Proctor have also met with Damien Parker to further discuss the length of the licence agreement.

The two years stated in the draft agreement seem to be the norm for WSC, Damien is to look again at the document wording to see if an amendment could be added which would allow a possible refund of donations should the agreement not be extended at the end of the two years.

JB raised the point that some of the donations already received from Glasswells, Centre Parks and ASDA were given on the understanding that work would begin within the year, all agreed that she will write to those who have donated as a courtesy to inform of them of the delay in starting the work. (Action JB)

RY also informed the group that following a sort out of books at the Athenaeum an Observatory Visitors book has been found, the first date in it being 1958, it gives details of how many visitors there were and how often the Observatory was used. Thought likely that there may also be earlier books, possibly in the local Archive offices.

RY also has photographs taken by Reverend Buckland in 1912 of a Solar Eclipse and the Moon, the athenaeum committee agreed that these also belong to the Observatory. RY will keep both for the present, need to investigate if they also need archiving.

8. Outreach

MK and RY giving talk to Stansfield group 12/4/19

RY gave talk to Town Guides – only 6 attended.

Talk to Greengage Beavers cancelled due to it being Easter holidays.

RY talk to Elmswell History Group on 9/5/19

9. Resources

All items identified have now been purchased except for metal storage cabinet, still being sourced.

The rechargeable red lights purchased were considered to have been very effective and it was agreed that when funds allow more will be purchased.

10. IT

Following earlier discussion the idea of allowing members of the public to purchase items such as AAA badges on-line be considered. Idea to be explored with MP as to whether could set up e-commerce site. (Action MP)

11. Publicity and Marketing

Nothing to report.

12. AOB

The search for a new venue continues. Need to look at Village Halls and suchlike where there are dark skies. NO mentioned new scout hut behind Horringer Village Hall, he will explore options further.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

Action Plan from December 2017			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
11/4/19 P1	MK to e-mail members re the opportunity to purchase an AAA t-shirt and/or Fleece	MK	Ongoing
11/4/19 P1	MK to supply supplementary information to Town Council regarding grant spending.	MK	Ongoing
14/3/19 P3	MK to contact organiser of Heritage day to decline invite to take part this year	MK	Complete
11/4/19 P1	MK to e-mail JD to agree quote for Personal Liability	MK	New
11/4/19 P1	JD to send copy of new Insurance schedule to RY	JD	New
11/4/19 P3	LH to e-mail members to ask for help at Whitsun Fayre.	LH	New
11/4/19 P3	MK to respond to John Popham re Architect.	MK	New
11/4/19 P3	JB to write to donators to advise to delay in starting work on phase 1 of restoration.	JB	New
11/4/19 P4	MP to look at option of e-commerce site for public to purchase badges etc	MP	New

