

Thursday 18th July 2019

Present:- Richard Young (RY) Vice Chair , James Dale (JD), Phil Leigh (PL) Joan Brame (JB), Nigel Osborne (NO), Linda Harper (notetaker). Mike Kirkham (MK) joined meeting at 7.50pm

1. Welcome

RY welcomed all, advised that MK would be arriving late so he will chair the meeting until MK arrives.

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from meeting on Thursday 20th June agreed as a full and accurate account. To be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

MK actions 1 and 2 from 11/4/19 still ongoing due to work commitments.

MK to produce e-mail for members to invite interest in becoming committee member. Complete.

LH to send list of meeting dates to Julie Sidney of Realise Futures. Complete

JD to explore with Mark P if website costs can be paid directly from AAA funds. Ongoing

LH to circulate documents to Observatory Group from RY. Complete

MK to investigate possible publicity through 'We love BSE website' Complete

NO to investigate new display boards, A-frame etc, existing frame repaired, display banner undergoing repair. Complete

4. Finance

JD reported on current financial situation, all good at present.

Only major outgoing until year end will be 6 months room rental and purchase of e-mail accounts.

Realise Futures have increased cost of room rent from £15 to £17, all agreed that this was acceptable, but we still need to continue to look for a new, bigger venue for meetings.

Financial summary

General account:

Amount as of 28th June 2019: £1491.57

- Anticipated outgoings: £314.25 (e-mail, insurance, rent)
- Pending income: £0.00 (none)
- Restricted funds: £100.00 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £1077.32

Restoration account:

- Amount as of 28th June 2019: £1845.55
- Pending income: £100 (Ickworth)
- Pending outgoings: £0.00 (N/A)
- Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £2945.55

5. Programme Planning

The programme is planned up until 22nd August, after this the nights should be getting darker so more Observation will be possible.

Nick Szymanek is available for a talk on 1st or 8th November. Venue being sought, the Hyndeman Centre is unavailable, Horringer Village Hall is available at a cost of £54 for the evening.

The Quaker Meeting Hall is available at a cost of £34.50p plus £6 for use of kitchen. We can use it from 6-10pm. Hall holds 50 people. All agreed that PL will confirm date and book both venue and speaker.

2 members of AAA have been in Florida, Cape Canaveral, for the Apollo 11 anniversary, suggestion to approach them re short presentation at a members meeting.

6. Events planning

The next Star Party is to be held 25/26th October. The moon will not be visible so observation targets will need to concentrate on Galaxies and Star Clusters. Need to check if any Planets will be visible.

Heritage Weekend - RY has been asked by the organiser, if the AAA will have some banners in place outside the Observatory in the Athenaeum over this week-end. Agreed by all present but will need to obtain permission from Sodexo/WSC

No other events planned at present.

7. Observatory Group Update

RY updated the group on progress to date. He has finally managed to contact Damien Parker and has spoken to him about the issues with the licence agreement. Damien has now asked that we formally write to him giving details of what changes we would want to see in the agreement.

At the recent meeting of the Observatory Group, members were joined by Peter Riddington, Chairman of Bury Town Trust. This led to some interesting discussion regarding the restoration and the licence agreement especially in terms of its length. As a result RY will forward a letter to John Popham (BTT) for advice on an appropriate form of words that can be used to ask for an extension of the licence following completion of the restoration.

Other discussion took place around possible alternative sources of funding for the project, these included the District Council Community Chest but it was felt that the project would be unlikely to qualify for this. However councillors locality budgets could be investigated. MK has spoken with Jo Rayner and she will speak with Damien Parker re moving the project on. He will leave it a couple of weeks then follow up with her.

RY advised the meeting that for personal reasons he would like to step back from leading on the Restoration project. This was formally acknowledged by MK. Discussion followed on how this could be managed as at present no other members of Observatory group are in a position to take this on. Possibly once the 2 unfilled committee places are filled then one of these could become a shadowing role to RY with a view to taking over in the future.

8. Outreach

RY has booked November 18th to give a talk to a seniors group at the library.

9. Resources

NO has to apply final paint spray to new metal cabinet then it will be ready for use. The magnetic board damaged at the Whit Fayre has been repaired and should be stronger than original.

NO will check on banner also damaged at Fayre and make necessary repairs.

A key to the cupboard under the stairs has been given to Realise Futures.

10. IT

Nothing to report.

11. Marketing and publicity

MK has spoken with James Sheen from 'we love BSE', some publicity may be possible through them for a small payment, (£25 possibly). All agreed that this would be worthwhile and should be followed up. MK will speak further with James Sheen. (MK)

12. AOB

MK has been doing some research regarding possible new venues and has found a website which details all local venues along with costs etc. Need to be within 5 mile radius of BSE.

Members come from a wide area so whatever location we decide on is likely to have a knock on effect on attendance, as a new venue may be closer for some but further away for others.

RY raised the issue of current attendance at meetings, it has fallen recently but all felt that this was due to the time of year, family/work commitments and some members only attending when Observation is possible.

4

Once details confirmed we need to publicise the Talk from Nick Szymanek. Through event-brite, nominal cost of £2-3 per person. Also charging for refreshments. Members will be given priority on tickets then open to general public.

The date was agreed for this years AGM – Thursday 3rd October 2019. Details still to be confirmed, but once done details will be circulated to members.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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

Committee	Members	
15 th August 2019	25 th July 2019	17 th October 2019
12 th September 2019	8 th August 2019	31 st October 2019
10 th October 2019	22 ⁿ August 2019	14 th November 2019
7 th November 2019	5 th September 2019	28 th November 2019
5 th December 2019	19 th September 2019	12 th December 2019
	3 rd October 2019	

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
9/5/19 P4	MK to draft e-mail to members inviting interest in joining committee	MK	Complete
20/6/19 P1	LH to send list of room use dates until year end to J Sidney, Realise Futures	LH	Complete
20/6/19 P1	JD to explore with Mark P if he is able to pay website costs direct from AAA funds.	JD	Ongoing
20/6/19 P3	LH to circulate documents re Restoration project to AAA/Obs group members once received from RY	LH	Complete
20/6/19 P4	MK to investigate possible publicity options through the 'we love Bury St Edmunds' website.	MK	Complete
20/6/19 P4	NO investigate new display boards, A-frame boards and new ideas for displaying poster.	NO	Complete
18/7/19 P2	PL to book Venue and Nick Szymanek for talk on Nov 8th	PL	New
18/7/19 P4	MK to follow up with James Sheen re publicity through 'we love BSE'	MK	New

