

Thursday 15th August 2019

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

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies received from James Dale

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from meeting on Thursday 18th July 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.

There have been no expressions of interest received regarding the unfilled Committee places, MK with agreement of committee will contact members directly. (MK)

JD to explore with Mark P if website costs can be paid directly from AAA funds. Ongoing
PL has booked Speaker and Venue for 8/11/19. (Nick Szymanek at Quaker Meeting House). Complete.

MK has been in contact with James Sheen and had discussion regarding how his website would be able to help with publicity for the AAA and AAA events. Complete

4. Finance

In absence of JD, MK gave update on current financial position. All good at present.

Payment from National Trust for the 2 evening presentations still pending. JD is chasing.

NO has 2 invoices for consumables used in renovating the new metal cabinet. These along with payment to Quaker Meeting House for 8/11/19 are the only outgoings at present.

Financial summary

General account:

Amount as of 9th July 2019: £1197.59

- Anticipated outgoings: £20.27 (indemnity insurance)
- Pending income: £.25.00 (membership)
- Restricted funds: £100.00 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £1102.32

Restoration account:

- No change 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

Planned programme runs out on 22/8/19, RY and PL are working towards a new programme for the next few months.

On 5/9/19 Lesley and Antony will give a presentation on their recent visit to Cape Canaveral for the Apollo 11 Anniversary. 19/9/19 a presentation on Gravitational Sling Shots will be given by PL.

Setting up an Equatorial Mount will be worked into the programme and NO said he is now in a position to do his presentation on Comets so this will also go into programme.

6. Events planning

Nick Szymanek has been booked for the talk at Quaker Meeting House on 8/11/19, MK/LH will sign cheque and send to QMH in payment for hire of venue along with kitchen facilities.

Tickets will be available to members at a cost of £2.50 initially then sales will be open to public through 'ticket source' at £2.50 plus booking fee. Agreed that this will be brought

to the attention of members at next meeting who should let LH know how many tickets they would like.

Star Party:- As there will be no moon visible the emphasis will be on Deep Sky Objects. There was some discussion on ways of engaging the attendees to this subject. Agreed that one of the presentations should be 'Whats in the Night Sky' using Stellarium.

PL will check levels of badges and re-order as necessary. (PL)

MK will send the dates of the SP to James Sheen for the Our Bury St Edmunds website and to Ian Clarke, Manager of the Apex for the 'Whats on in West Suffolk' website. (MK)

RY needs a display for the Heritage Weekend 14/9/19, to show the Observatory Restoration, he will use the photos that we already have. MK can supply display boards if required.

Future event at Ickworth – they are keen to have another event but around when the moon will be visible, they have suggested dates for March 2020 and it was agreed that AAA could offer 28th/29th March. We should expect some income from this, also suggestion to ask if the Orangery could be used for presentations as easy access to viewing area.

7. Observatory Group Update

RY updated the group. He has been in contact with Damien Parker to ask for a copy of the Athenaeum evacuation plan. Damien has responded to say that he will forward on the parts of said document that may be relevant to the Observatory but cannot forward full document as this belongs to Sodexo.

RY also asked about the mapping of the roof space at the Athenaeum, Andrew Sansom is in charge of this, agreed that a meeting with him may be beneficial

There was more discussion within the group regarding the possibility of bringing in an Architect to look at the work needed to be done to the Entrance and Dome.

Roy Proctor has produced a letter for RY/MK reference the possibility of approaching the Bury Society (Dr Rae fund) for a donation towards the restoration. MK given copy by RY.

RY and MK have arranged a meeting between themselves and John Popham from Bury Town Trust to look at the way forward for the Observatory post restoration. How it will be used, its Community and Educational benefits for the local community.

MK has not received any further communication from Jo Rayner regarding his previous request for information, he will follow this up and ask for a meeting with her. (MK)

8. Outreach

RY has booked November 18th to give a talk to a seniors group at the library.
No requests for talks received recently.

9. Resources

MK thanked NO for his work on the new metal storage cupboard.
PL asked that since we now have a good range of scopes would it be a good time to invest in a webcam? It could be used at Star Partys and also for future events around the Observatory. All agreed good idea. PL will explore possible options and advise group.
(PL)

10. IT

Nothing to report.

11. Marketing and publicity

See ongoing action. MK

12. AOB

NO has carried out inventory of all the scopes, binoculars etc owned by AAA, they now need to be photographed and a file produced with details of loan arrangements so that members can start to borrow equipment. MK, RY and NO will do this Tuesday 20/8/19.

NO has carried out some remedial work on a recently donated scope with good results.

MK has list of possible new meeting venues which he will send to group members for information and comment. (MK)

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	
12 th September 2019	5 th September 2019	14 th November 2019
10 th October 2019	19 th September 2019	28 th November 2019
7 th November 2019	3 rd October 2019	12 th December 2019
5 th December 2019	17 th October 2019	
	31 st October 2019	

Action Plan			
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
20/6/19 P1	JD to explore with Mark P if he is able to pay website costs direct from AAA funds.	JD	Ongoing
18/7/19 P2	PL to book Venue and Nick Szymanek for talk on Nov 8th	PL	Complete
18/7/19 P4	MK to follow up with James Sheen re publicity through 'we love BSE'	MK	Complete
15/8/19 P1	MK to contact agreed members directly to gauge interest in joining committee	MK	New
15/8/19 P3	PL to re-order badges as required.	PL	New
15/8/19 P3	MK to advise dates of October Star Party to James Sheen for Our BSE and Ian Clarke, Manager of Apex for Whats on West Suffolk website	MK	New
15/8/19 P4	MK to contact Jo Rayner and ask for meeting to discuss progress of Restoration.	MK	New
15/8/19 P4	PL to investigate options for purchase of a Webcam	PL	New
15/8/19 P4	MK to circulate initial list of possible new venues for information/discussion	MK	New

