

Observatory Group Meeting

16-08-2019

Present :- Richard Young (RY), Joan Brame (JB), Phil Leigh (PL), Linda Harper (notetaker)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

RY welcomed everyone and noted apologies received from Lloyd Hughes, Margaret Charlesworth and Roy Proctor.

2. Notes from last meeting 12/07/19

Agreed as an accurate account. To be uploaded to website.

Post script note, following an e-mail from Margaret Charlesworth identifying an omission from the minutes regarding a letter from Obs Group to the Conservation Officer of WSC, it was considered a good idea and there was discussion as to how it would best be worded.

Agreed that letter should be worded such that 'although the AAA has consent 'in principal' for the proposed changes to the entrance and does not have to notify the Conservation Officer as work is carried out', they will in practice do so as a courtesy.

3. Matters arising other than those on Agenda

Roy Proctor has produced a proposal for funding to go to Bury Society (Dr Rae fund). A copy has been given to Mike Kirkham, Chair of AAA.

4. Bury Town Trust

RY has spoken with John Popham and has supplied John P with the requested documents.

RY, Roy Proctor, Mike Kirkham and John Popham are meeting on 19th August. John P proposes writing an over-arching document to inform all interested parties what the AAA/Observatory will offer post restoration and what is needed to achieve this. It can then be used to support future communications with the council.

5. Communications with Damien Parker

Damien Parker has responded to RY regarding the Athenaeum Evacuation Plan, the plan is the property of Sodexo thus he cannot give us the full document, however he will look at the plan and send on those parts that may be relevant to the restoration project.

This procedure must be factored into the Observatory Evacuation Plan.

Damien will look to organise a meeting between himself, AAA(Obs Gp), and Andrew Sansom, to try to agree what work is needed to be done to the entrance of the Observatory and will meet Mr Sansoms requirements.

6. Observatory Post Restoration

There was discussion within the group looking at various aspects of the project post restoration which RY can take to meeting with John Popham.

These included such as the Telescope itself and accompanying equipment – mount, motor, eye-pieces, filters

Interested Parties- General Public, Educational- schools, colleges, Library, Scout/Guide groups and many others identified.

Part played in History of Victorian Astronomy(1st salaried Astonomer Royal)

Issue of dark skies.

Telescope Events/Open nights (various topics identified)

Mental Health and Body Clocks (seasonal affective disorder)

IT use with Telescope

Astrophotography

History of Telescope

Spectroscopy

What is needed to be able to achieve all this:-

Access day and night to Observatory

Use of Reading Room/Lounge

Funding:- Purchase IT equipment, Insurance, Maintenance, Replacement of equipment as it deteriorates with age.

(The items/ideas listed on minutes not a full record of all discussed as RY will include full list when he meets with John Popham)

7. AOB

Nil

Date and time of next meeting:- Friday 27th September at 7.30pm

