



Thursday 7th November 2019

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, James Dale (JD), Joan Brame (JB), Nigel Osborne (NO), Peter Bruce (PB), Linda Harper (notetaker).

1. Welcome and apologies

Noted apologies received from Richard Young and Phil Leigh

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from meeting on Thursday 26th September agreed as a full and accurate account. To be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

MK actions 1 still ongoing.

Issue 2 will prove too problematic so will be left as is. Complete

MK has e-mailed Lesley and Antony re their possible interest in a committee role. Complete.

MK to circulate list of possible new venues, will be dealt with under AOB. Complete.

MK has no further info regarding possibility of hats with logo, he will chase. Ongoing.

PB now has necessary passwords for Twitter/Facebook. Complete.

4. Finance

JD reported, generally all good. Payment has now been received from NT-Ickworth.

The fee from Ickworth is currently being held in the general account. It was agreed that the Star Party ticket sales (£199) should be split across both accounts. A total of £199 will be paid into the restoration account to cover the Ickworth fee and share of ticket sales from the general account.

There was discussion regarding membership fees for coming year, agreed by all that they should remain at present level.

Point was made that donations for refreshments must be encouraged with a 50p suggestion for a drink and biscuits.

1

General account:

Amount as of 25th October 2019: £892.89

- Anticipated outgoings: £115.29 (AGM sundries, hardware supplies, jackets)
- Pending income: £10.00 (badge sales)
- Restricted funds: £59.70 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £727.90

Restoration account:

- No change as of 25th October 2019: £1845.55
- Pending income: £100 (Ickworth, via general account)
- Pending outgoings: £0.00 (N/A)
- Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £2945.55

5. Programme Planning

As RY and PL were not present there was no update available. 12th December is the last meeting of the year, it will be a social event with refreshments provided, NO will prepare a quiz, PB will look at a possible interactive type activity. There will be small prizes.

LH to e-mail members to gauge attendance. (LH)

6. Events planning

Dates for next Star Party agreed as 3rd/4th April 2020 when there will be first quarter moon. Mark P to be asked to add to website.

Ickworth event to be March 28th/29th, some confusion as these dates are Saturday/Sunday, MK to check/clarify dates with Catherine Earnshaw at Ickworth. (MK).

They have also asked for another night in October, agreed in principle but needs to fit in with October Star Party. (17th October suggested). (MK)

Deborah Ball from Kinetic Science has asked if AAA would be interested in taking part in next years Science Festival. It runs in February and will encompass General Science on



15/16th Feb and an Engineering day on 19th Feb. Agreed to offer full day on Gen Science day Saturday 15th. MK will also offer to give talk on another day.

Clare Country Park – in response to their e-mail to ask if the AAA could provide an event there, MK has replied asking for further information as to what they are wanting.

Since Tom S had to resign from Committee there is no-one to take the lead on external events, there was discussion on how/who could take this on, further discussion needed.

7. Observatory Group Update

RY not present at meeting so no update available. MK did advise that an e-mail will be sent to Damien Parker for update regarding the issues of the length of the licence agreement and the three month termination notice.

8. Outreach

MK gave talk to Ixworth Cubs.

NO and PL helped Horringer Scouts with Astronomy badge.

RY talking to Thetford Cubs tonight.

Request from Clare Country Park for Astronomy event. (No details)

1 request following Star Party for a talk to Beaver Group, (no details of which group provided).

9. Resources

We have a good range of resources at present, including financial. There was discussion in group as to what new resources would be beneficial but also the possibility of a visit to somewhere of interest, possibly Cambridge Observatory. (NO to investigate options).

Agreed we also need to investigate new resources for Childrens Activities at our events.

10. IT

Nil to report.

11. Marketing and publicity



PB has begun work on Extra Celestial, first edition hopeful early in New Year.

12. AOB

First meeting date of New Year, all agreed that 9th January 2020 most appropriate.

NO asked about the Telescope at St Benedicts School as there has been no further communication from them after the visit last year. MK will investigate if his contact Elspeth is still there but it is thought there have been changes at the school so possibly not.

Possible new venues, MK advised group on his work so far, based around what we currently pay up to maximum of £55pm, using Athenaeum as centre and an 8 mile radius he looked at amongst other issues the size of venue, car-parking, dark sky site. He identified several possible sites but during discussion some of these were discounted through group knowledge of the site. He will continue to work on list and circulate to committee with a view to possible site visits in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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

Committee	Members
5 th December	28 th November 12 th December
2020	2020
16 th January	9 th January
13 th February	23 rd January
12 th March	6 th February 20 th February 5 th March 19 th March

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
20/6/19 P1	JD to explore with Mark P if he is able to pay website costs direct from AAA funds.	JD	Complete
15/8/19 P1	MK to contact agreed members directly to gauge interest in joining committee	MK	Complete
15/8/19 P4	MK to circulate initial list of possible new venues for information/discussion	MK	Complete
26/9/19 P2	LH to e-mail members re last chance to reserve tickets for Nik Szymanek talk	LH	Complete
26/9/19 P2	PB to produce A4/A5 posters and flyers for Star Party and Nik S's talk	PB	Complete
26/9/19 P3	MK to investigate possibility of hats with AAA logo for members to purchase.	MK	Ongoing
26/9/19 P4	MK to supply PB with access details for Twitter/Facebook and pass his details to Mark Proctor	MK	Complete
26/9/19 P5	LH to e-mail members to remind of AGM	LH	Complete
7/11/19 P2	LH to e-mail members re attendance at meeting on 12/12/19, to plan refreshments.	LH	New
7/11/19 P3	MK to clarify proposed March dates for Ickworth with CE, also offer date for October of 17/10/19	MK	New
7/11/19 P3	NO to investigate options for AAA outing to Cambridge Observatory	NO	New

