

Thursday 16th January 2020

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

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all to first meeting of new year.

2. Notes from last meeting

The notes from the meeting of 5th December were accepted as an accurate account and can be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

MK has e-mailed C Earnshaw re dates for Ickworth evening suggesting 1 day only but asking if Sundays an option. Awaiting reply. Ongoing

4. Finance

JD updated the meeting, at the end of December the general account stood at £641.96p with the restoration account unchanged since last month at £2079.55p plus £6000 restricted funds.

JD has also received invoice from Realise Futures for rent in advance up until the end of May 2020. In view of potential move to new venue suggested that we pay 3 months in advance and then negotiate on a monthly basis once more is known about a move.

Financial summary:

General account:

Amount as of 24th December 2019: £799.60

- Anticipated outgoings: £47.94 (Christmas Party sundries)
- Pending income: £0.00 (N/A)
- Restricted funds: £109.70 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £641.96

Restoration account:

- No change as of 24th December 2019: £2079.55

- Pending income: £0.00 (N/A)
- Pending outgoings: £0.00 (N/A)
- Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £8079.55 (£2079.55 + £6000.00)

5. Programme Planning

Now planned up until mid July. Includes revisiting some topics in view of new members but also new subject such as Nocteluscent clouds and Aurora.

RY has identified topics using 'Whats up' but feel that we need further visual imagery to back it up and hopefully generate more discussion on the subject at meetings.

The idea was raised of seeing if the Sky at Night podcast could be used in conjunction with Stellarium to raise the visual impact. PB to look into possibilities. (PB)

RY will trial new delivery style for 'Whats up' to include targets for members to identify for themselves between meetings. There was further general discussion on how we could engage the members during meetings.

PL to send programme to Mark P for website. (PL)

6. Events planning

Science Festival – agreed to do 1 day – Saturday 15th February, we will be in the Guildhall.

Need 3-4 members to assist, MK,RY and JB available at present. Also need to get equipment PAT tested where required. NO to take this forward. (NO)

Also asked by Kinetic Science if AAA would be interested in being involved with a Star gazing evening at Needham Lakes, general agreement was no.

Star Party – confirmed as 27th/28th March. Is advertised in 'Whats on West Suffolk'

October dates confirmed 23rd/24th. 1st quarter moon visible. PL to confirm with Dwayne Gray. (PL)

Ickworth – Still waiting for reply on dates, on 29th March will have 18% moon. Do they still want 2 nights and/or is Sunday an option. The 17th October requested also by Ickworth no moon visible so MK to advise that if moon wanted then they need to offer us another date.

Whitsun Fayre – 24th/25th May – AAA to receive £400. PL has agreed (tentatively) to take on the role of co-ordinator.

Discussion on ways to better secure the display units in case of adverse weather conditions ie high winds. May need to purchase new weights.

MK to check if an additional tent to be provided as per last year. (MK)

Visit to Cambridge – 19 replies so far. Cost to AAA £50. We have a choice of topics to choose from for the talk these include 'Big Bang', Early Galaxies, Exoplanets. NO to put on 'whats app' for members choice. (NO)

Clare Country Park- MK received reply but not enough details supplied. RY indicated he was happy to act as link.

7. Observatory Group

RY reported. Things are going well. Tony Box has met with Damien Parker and there is another meeting planned for next week to include Mr Leeks the Building Officer for WSC, they will look at what work needs to be carried out to the entrance to satisfy all parties and meet requirements.

Other work is being carried out on the licence agreement.

RY has been asked in his adviser role what will be the requirements for use by the AAA once restoration complete, it is anticipated that there will be 4 Moon Nights over the year plus Astronomy and Heritage days when the public can get to see the Observatory.

8. Outreach

RY has given 2 talks to the Wednesday group at the Library as a result of his previous talk to the Friday Club and the interest generated.

9. Resources

Possible need to purchase further weights for use at events and maybe new banners to advertise AAA

10. IT

Dealt with under programme planning.

11. Marketing and publicity

Nil to report

12. AOB

New venues – MK updated, 4 sites were worthy of further investigation.

Great Barton – Unsuitable due to dog fouling on field and the car park – low tree line.

Fornham All Saints – Too much light pollution

Whepstead- Good viewing, good parking, keen to have AAA there but Thursday not available, Weds and Fridays are so Wednesday agreed as option. Can accommodate storage cabinets. Cost £18ph but contact coming back to NO with possible reduction.

Ixworth – Considered unsuitable due to security lighting on nearby houses.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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

Committee 2020	Members 2020
13 th February	6 th February
12 th March	20 th February
	5 th March
	19 th March

4

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status

26/9/19 P3	MK to investigate possibility of hats with AAA logo for members to purchase.	MK	Complete
7/11/19 P3	MK to clarify proposed March dates for Ickworth with CE, also offer date for October of 17/10/19	MK	Ongoing
5/12/19 P1	LH to circulate e-mail concerning merchandise to members	LH	Complete
16/1/20 P2	PL to send new programme to Mark P for website	PL	New
16/1/20 P2	PL to confirm dates for October Star Party with Dwayne Gray	PL	New
16/1/20 P2	PB to investigate use of Sky at Night podcast	PB	New
16/1/20 P2	NO to check on PAT testing for equipment.	NO	New
16/1/20 P3	NO to 'whats app' Cambridge attendees re subject choice for talk	NO	New
16/1/20 P3	MK to check availability of second tent for use at Whit Fayre	MK	New

