

Thursday 13th February 2020

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

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed Lesley Bird to her first committee meeting.
Noted apologies received from Phil Leigh.

2. Notes from last meeting

The notes from the meeting of 16th January were accepted as an accurate account and can be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

Ickworth – dates now confirmed. Complete

PL to send new programme to webmaster for website (with suggestion of adding name of presenter). Ongoing

PL to confirm Star Party dates for October with Dwayne Gray. Ongoing

PB to look at use of 'Sky at Night' podcast for meetings. Ongoing

NO to look at issue of PAT testing, new venue at Whepstead, chance to have our testing done at same time as theirs taken up. Complete

NO has agreed topic of talk when visit to Cambridge Observatory takes place. Complete

MK confirmed 2nd tent will be available to us for Whitsun Fayre. Complete

4. Finance

JD reported, generally good position. PLI has to be paid, JD suggested splitting cost between both accounts, all agreed.

So far for 2020 £270 received consisting of membership subs received and refreshment monies. JD will send reminder regarding membership renewal at end of month together with reminder of imminent move to new venue.

1

As JD has given notice that he will not stand for re-election for the position of Treasurer an approach was made to Peter Corbett to see if he would be interested in taking over the

role, he has agreed in principle. From April onwards he and JD will work together to ensure a smooth transition from one to the other with Peter taking over in August.

This will mean that a new Independent Examiner will need to be identified in readiness for AGM.

General account:

Amount as of 27th January 2020: £762.73

- Anticipated outgoings: £91.53 (Christmas Party sundries, half of PLI)
- Pending income: £270.00 (membership subs, coffee takings)
- Restricted funds: £109.70 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £831.50

Restoration account:

- No change as of 24th December 2019: £2079.55
- Pending income: £0.00 (N/A)
- Pending outgoings: £73.58 (Half of PLI)
- Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £8005.97 (£2005.97 + £6000.00)

5. Programme Planning

All in hand, planned until mid July. As PL or RY not in attendance no update available.

6. Events planning

Science Festival – 1 day in Guildhall 15/2/20. MK, JB and RY will arrive early on day to unload. MK and RY will be giving talk. Other help will be provided by NO and LB together with offers to help on day from several AAA members.

Cambridge Observatory visit – agreed that the talk given will be on the ‘Big Bang’

NO will liaise with those attending to organise travel and car share arrangements where possible.

Ickworth – 1 night agreed, Friday 20th March. 3 or 4 people needed for event. PL and RY will be present. Agreed that Orangery can be used for the presentations then the scopes will be out on the lawn and easily accessible. Event should generate income of £50. PL to liaise with Catherine Earnshaw as needed.

Star Party - 27/28th March. Has been advertised. Thought to be all in hand with PL. Question asked- Is there a theme? As PL not present could not be answered.

LB wondered that as any children present tend to be taken home early could the sequence of presentations be those aimed at children/families first, then the later ones more adult focused.

LB also has some new Childrens Activity materials that can be used.

PB will update the posters used for last SP as all agreed that these are good and just need the dates altering, MK will then get them printed off for distribution. (PB/MK)

Whitsun Fayre – PL/RY organising. Theme to be ‘Time’ Moyses Hall kindly lending a Nocturnal for exhibiting on the stand along with a Sextant (OK for public to handle).

Clare Country Park – no update at present.

7. Observatory Group

RY not present so no update available. MK gave brief resume, there has been a meeting between Tony Box, the building officer for WSC, and an Architect, report that it went well and things should start to progress. A solicitor has been engaged to oversee the revised formal agreement between the AAA and WSC. A formal reply is awaited from WSC regarding progress on the proposed amendments.

8. Outreach

MK had a slot on Radio West Suffolk to talk about Astronomy – he was able to promote the AAA and the Restoration Project at the same time.

9. Resources

JD will organise and purchase the new weights for use at outdoor events. (JD)
NO will supply dark fabric/ropes to use to cover the exterior lights at Whepstead.

10. IT

Nil to report.

11. Marketing and publicity

Nil to report

12. AOB

National Astronomy Week – November. Discussed the possibility of a public event at Whepstead with Mars as the topic due to its being at its closest point to earth. Further discussion needed at a later date.

JD suggested that the AAA formally thank Realise Futures for use of the house for the last 2 years. Agreed £10-15 spend on Biscuits/Chocolates etc and Card. JD will organise. (JD)

Move to Whepstead, we have agreement from committee there to move our equipment over in the week prior to the first members meeting there. Details to be finalised at next committee.

March Committee meeting coincides with visit to Cambridge, MK asked that the meeting be rearranged as he felt that there should be a meeting to finalise move to new venue. All agreed so Wednesday 11th March date of next committee meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

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

Committee	Members
2020	2020
11 th March	5 th March
	19 th March

From 8th April meetings will be held at the new venue - Whepstead Community Centre.

15 th April	8 th April	12 th August
13 th May	22 nd April	26 th August
10 th June	6 th May	9 th September
8 th July	20 th May	23 rd September
19 th August	3 rd June	
16 th September	17 th June	
14 th October	1 st July	
11 th November	15 th July	
9 th December	29 th July	

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
7/11/19 P3	MK to clarify proposed March dates for Ickworth with CE, also offer date for October of 17/10/19	MK	Complete
16/1/20 P2	PL to send new programme to Mark P for website	PL	Ongoing
16/1/20 P2	PL to confirm dates for October Star Party with Dwayne Gray	PL	Ongoing
16/1/20 P2	PB to investigate use of Sky at Night podcast	PB	Ongoing
16/1/20 P2	NO to check on PAT testing for equipment.	NO	Complete
16/1/20 P3	NO to 'whats app' Cambridge attendees re subject choice for talk	NO	Complete
16/1/20 P3	MK to check availability of second tent for use at Whit Fayre	MK	Complete
13/2/20 P3	PB to update posters for Star Party ready for printing and distribution	PB	New
13/2/20 P4	JD to identify and purchase new weights for use at outdoor events	JD	New
13/2/20 P4	JD to purchase gift to be given to staff at Realise House as thank-you	JD	New

