
Wednesday 10th January 2024

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Peter Corbett (PC) Treasurer, Liliya Haye (LHe), Nigel Osborne (NO), Lloyd Hughes (LHu), Linda Harper (LH) Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all

Noted apologies received from Joan Brame, Nigel Bond

MK advised meeting that for personal reasons Peter Bruce has decided to stand down from committee however he will remain a member of AAA and will help with any digital input where possible.

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as accurate account apart from mistake with Financial Summary, once amended can be posted to website.

3. Actions

MK to make enquiries re visit to Greenwich. - No further update. Ongoing

NO to update Inventory and Catalogue of Equipment. Ongoing

MK has contacted St Benedicts school, no response from them, no further follow up.

Complete

Meeting notes to be circulated to members as soon as possible following meeting to allow actions to be completed. Complete

Review of Website discussed at meeting, MK to meet with Mark P with suggestions.

Complete

4. Finance

PC had circulated latest financial update. Now have 39 paid up members for this year, 6 members did not renew membership.

Just over £2k pounds in current account. Expenses paid include Hall Rent for period Jan – June 2024. No indication from Whepstead committee as to any rent increase for this year.

Income since last meeting includes £50 received from Suffolk Wildlife Trust for Halloween event at Lackford Lake, no expenses incurred.

Financial Update – 8th January 2024

General Account: £1,647.29

- Balance Last Update (16/10/2023): £1,715.97
- Outgoings
 - o USB Hub / Presentation Clicker: £12.68-
 - o Whepstead Hall Hire (January-June 2024): £246.00-
- Income
 - o Membership (4 x £25.00): £100.00
 - o Membership (1 x £40.00): £40.00
 - o Suffolk Wildlife: £50.00

Cash: £376.82

- Coffee Pot: £26.82 (see below)
- Membership (14 x £25.00): £350.00

Liabilities: £0.00

- (none)

Total: £2,024.11

Coffee Pot

- Balance Last Update (16/10/2023): £14.62
- Takings: £53.40
- Re-stock: £26.20-
- Heating: £5.00-
- Breckland Observatory Visit (Members): £40.00
- Breckland Observatory Visit (Donation): £50.00-

5. Website Review

General discussion in group. MK had received reply to his e-mail to Mark P, Mark is happy to continue as webmaster and had made some suggestions. Agreed that we need a website but it must be relevant, uncluttered and must be kept up to date.

Notes made of items that need removing from site and where updates needed.

MK will collate all suggestions, circulate to committee for checking and will then meet with Mark P to discuss. (MK)

6. Members Programme

NB had circulated members programme so far, still some gaps for presenters to be filled so only showing up to end of February on website. MK to ask NB to send to Mark P once gaps filled. (MK)

7. Events

Spring Fayre 26/27th May 2024, the AAA has been invited once again to have a presence at the Fayre.

We will receive £800 for the 2 days.

MK advised he will not be available to attend. NO also not sure of availability.

LHe agreed to be lead co-ordinator, NO will assist with preparation prior to event. Further discussion at next meeting.

8. Resources

NO advised that there was no progress with the purchase of Laser Pointers, it is very difficult to source these within UK, noted that at Kelling Heath none were available for purchase. Can be obtained from China but concern whether they meet specification needed.

Suggestion also made for small 1 or 2 step ladder/step possibly with some form of handle/support, to be purchased to allow more members/children to be able to access eyepiece on taller scopes without having to lean on scope. (PC)

9. AOB

Shipping Container, agreed that need to start to try to move this forward, need to arrange Site Meeting to see if can make initial steps. MK will e-mail Di (Whepstead sec) to try to arrange. (MK)

Hoped that if given go ahead project could be completed 2024 but liable to slip from this. PC will look at budget to see if possible, also suggestion made that monies received from Spring Fayre be ring-fenced to go towards purchase.

MK will circulate proposal to committee detailing options so far.

As Peter B has left committee this leaves gap, discussion within group as to which members may be interested in joining committee, several suggestions made, agreed that message be put onto 'whats app' to advise members and invite those interested to speak to committee member. If not then direct approach be made to individual members. (MK)

Committee Meeting Dates for 2024

Wednesday 20th March
 15th May
 10th July
 18^h September
 13th November

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
11/1/23 P3	MK to look into cost of visit to Greenwich possibly schedule for 2024	MK	Ongoing
11/1/23 P3	NO to update Inventory and Catalogue of Equipment.	NO	Ongoing
14/6/23 P2	MK to send e-mail to representative at St Benedicts School to follow up contact from Spring Fayre	MK	Complete
18/10/23 P3	Committee to send NB suggestions for core subjects to be included in rolling members programme.	All	Complete
18/10/23 P3	Committee meeting notes to be circulated as soon as possible following meeting.	LH/MK	Complete
18/10/23	Review of website to be undertaken to see if still fit for purpose	All	Complete
10/1/24 P2	MK to collate and circulate to committee the suggestions made to improve website. Then meet with Mark P.	MK	New
10/1/24 P2	MK to ask NB to send updated Members Programme to Mark P once presenters gaps filled.	MK	New
10/1/24 P3	PC to look at purchasing small step/ladder, 1 or 2 steps possibly with handle.	PC	New
10/1/24 P3	MK to e-mail Di (Whepstead sec) to see if site meeting can be arranged to discuss moving project forward.	MK	New
10/1/24 P3	K M post message on 'whats app' group to invite any member interested in joining committee to get in touch.	MK	New

