
Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Joan Brame (JB), Liliias Haye (LHe), Lloyd Hughes (LHu), Nigel Bond (NB), Nigel Osborne (NO), Paul Foreman (PF), Linda Harper (LH) Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all to meeting.

Noted apologies received from Peter Corbett

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as accurate account, can be posted to website.

3. Actions

NB to prepare draft member programme for 2025 starting from 8/2/2025. Complete

MK to contact Sue Perkins, Chair of WCA re Storage Project. Complete

4. Finance

PC has circulated latest financial update along with the accounts in preparation for AGM.

Financial Update – 26/09/ 2024

General Account: £3,351.60

- Balance Last Update (8/07/2024): £2,237.60
- Outgoings
 - Whepstead Hall Hire (Oct. to Dec. 2024 increase): £36.00-
- Income
 - Suffolk County Council (Storage Container): £800.00
 - Membership (14 x £25): £350.00

Cash: £181.40

- Coffee Pot: £81.40 (see below)
- Membership (4 x £25): £100.00

Liabilities: £800.00-

- Suffolk County Council (Storage Container): £800.00-

Total: £2,733.00

Coffee Pot

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- Balance Last Update (8/07/2024): £56.10
 - Takings: £91.50
 - Re-stock: £22.20-
 - Guests: £6.00
 - Speaker Fee (Matt Bothwell): £50.00-

5. AGM

a) General Update – All current members of committee happy to stand again with exception of JB who has decided to stand down as Member Support but will remain member of AAA

b) Vacancy – Member Support – New committee member needed, possibly to take on responsibility for Tea/Coffee club. Needs someone who will be attending most meetings, (cover provided when not able to). LHe advised that she would be prepared to take on this role if new member found will be prepared to do presentations.

c) Committee Lead on Promotional support including Social Media – need to make more use of social media, mostly facebook, need to post more information especially around presentations, guest speakers etc. PF offered to take this on for trial period. MK action to provide PF with necessary passwords.

6. Members Programme

Full programme in place to year end 2024.

23/10 trial of Zoom presentation from Phil Leigh, need to make sure someone present to help with any set up needed Whepstead end. If any problems MK will present first and Phil will come to Whepstead.

Guest speakers for 2025 include Paul Fellows (x2), Keith Townsend (x1)

Steve Richards has agreed to help NB with planning practical/observing presentations.

a) Cern presentation – approach 2 student members who recently visited Cern to give presentation.

b) Matt Bothwell – approach to see if willing to give presentation sometime in 2025, possibly included in another visit to Cambridge.

c) Visits to Cambridge, OASI, Breckland to be considered as members meetings. Maybe try again to organise visit to Radio Astronomy site, (Paul Fellows or Matt Bothwell may have contacts).

7. Events

a) Lackford Lakes 30/31st October, 4.30-7.30pm. Should have 4 volunteers available both nights. Need to check if we can store equipment in office as happened last year, important as mid week event and they will be working. Action LH

b) Lackford Lakes – Thursday 31st. 8.00 – 9.30pm. Members welcome to come along, bring scopes etc, Cafe will be open, Staff from Suffolk Wildlife trust also invited. Remind members at AGM and meeting on 23/10/24.

8. Storage Project

MK updated. Garage has been cleared, with help from AAA members.

NO advised that builder has been out to see site and given quote for work to replace lintel, repair brickwork, work to piers, ramp outside. £1300.

We do not know the state of the flat-roof, builder does not do roofing work. Some damp patches noted in garage.

Discussion followed in group, MK reported that his question regarding having a storage container in the store room was initially given a yes answer, now is not being acknowledged.

The AAA having Sole use of the garage is in debate.

Is Shipping Container still an option – WCA would prefer that this does not happen but has said it will honour original decision, query if this is so.

All agreed that a quote for any work needed to the garage roof is needed before anything progresses. Further decisions as to how project goes forward can then be made.

Issue of Sole Use of garage needs to be confirmed, preferably in some sort of contract.

MK will stay in contact with WCA for updates but is finding it difficult to get definitive answers.

9. Resources

Nothing to be discussed at this time

9. AOB

Issue was raised about the Stour Valley/Cavendish Astronomy Club. Its tag line is that they are the only Astronomy Association between Cambridge and Ipswich.

MK will e-mail the Chair of SV with regard to this, possibly offer opportunity for members to attend the other club, joint guest speakers etc.

Committee meetings 2024

Wednesday 13th November

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
10/7/24 P3	NB to prepare draft members programme for 2025 from start date of 08/01/25	NB	Complete
10/7/24 P3	MK to contact Sue Perkins – Chair of WCC to discuss project.	MK	Complete
2/10/24 P2	MK to provide necessary passwords to PF to allow access to update Social Media	MK	New
2/10/24 P3	LH to contact Lackford re storage of equipment overnight.	LH	New
2/10/24 P	MK to make contact with Chair/Committee of Stour Valley Astronomy Club	MK	New

