
Wednesday 13th November 2024

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Peter Corbett, Liliya 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.

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as accurate account, can be posted to website.

3. Actions

MK has provided necessary passwords to PF to allow updating of social media. Complete

LH has contacted Lackford. Complete

MK has been in contact with Chairman of Stour Astronomy Club. Complete

4. Finance

PC updated meeting – currently 35 paid up members for 2024/5. (6 children included)

Currently £3000 in account, £800 of this ringfenced as grant for container project.

Discussion followed as to how we can grow/retain membership. Potential new members attend meeting but do not return. Need to make meetings more visual, display posters to act as focus for discussion etc. (NO will look out display boards and repair as necessary)

PC to send current membership list to LH and MK. LH to check paid members against attendance record, notify PC of any members who have not yet paid membership for year.(LH)

Also agreed that any previous members that have not renewed will have their contact details removed from 'whats app' group from start of New Year.

Financial Update – 07/11/ 2024

General Account: £3,764.60

- Balance Last Update (26/09/2024): £3,351.60
- Outgoings
 - Quiz Prizes – Sky Guide Books x 4 (Mike Kirkham): £24.00-
AAA, Whepstead Community Centre, Bury Road, Whepstead IP29 4TA
e-mail: secretary@3a.org.uk W: www.3a.org.uk

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- Income
 - Membership (15 x £25): £375.00
 - Suffolk Wildlife (Halloween at Lackford): £50.00
 - Coffee Pot: £12.00

Cash: £36.28

- Coffee Pot: £36.28 (see below)

Liabilities: £800.00-

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

Total: £3,000.88

Coffee Pot

- Balance Last Update (26/09/2024): £81.40
- Takings: £29.00
- Re-stock: £17.12-
- Bank: £12.00-
- Flowers for Joan Brame (Linda Harper): £45.00-

5. Members Programme

NB updated meeting. For various reasons he has had to make several changes to the programme recently owing to cancellations/illness etc but programme now in place up until April 2025 but if Observing nights possible the will be pushed back.

Mixture of presentations from Guest speakers and members. Also as have new members join opportunity to revisit some old topics.

No response so far regarding visit to Mullard Radio Observatory in Cambridge.

MK has been in contact with Chair of Stour Astronomy Club, they agreed that it would be good to have a get together to see how groups could work together, possibly share speakers/presentations.

NB to send updated programme to Mark P for website. (NB)

6. Presentations – file format on club laptop

There was discussion on using club laptop and problems presenters sometimes had with opening presentations.

Agreed that Power Point can be opened for any presentations.

7. Events

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a) Lackford Lakes 30/31st October, 4.30-7.30pm. Both evenings excellent weather conditions for Observing, able to show attendees Saturn, Jupiter, Pleiades. First night well attended, second less so but this could be due to it actually being Halloween. A number of staff and volunteers stayed after event closed, able to use scopes and lots of discussion. Also several AAA members came along to take advantage of observing. Agreed will attend again if asked,

b) Stanton Primary School – 17/1/2025

We have been invited back to the school which MK and Stephen R attended last year. MK will inform members and invite any offers of help. (MK)

8. Storage Project

MK advised meeting that he had received a response from WCA Chair regarding the storage proposals. They have agreed to 5 year sole use of garage on the basis that AAA take over full responsibility for the garage and its upkeep. A contract would also be in place.

Further discussion around this and it was agreed that it was not something that we would wish to take further.

A proposal was put forward that following a full inventory of equipment individual committee members would each take a Scope/Tripod home and take responsibility for it, bring it to meetings etc. Vote taken – all in agreement. Noted that club insurance covers equipment for wherever it is stored.

a) Need full inventory completed, NO to undertake, PC to supply him with assets list. (NO/PC)

b) NO to look into portable storage carriers for scopes.(NO)

Suggested that as 4/12/24 meeting has no speaker then it be used to carry out inventory, get all members involved, chance for them to see what equipment club has.

MK will speak with SCC regarding the £800 grant and advise them that we are not in a position to proceed with the original proposal. Will put forward alternate proposal to see if all or some of grant could be used to purchase new/extra equipment. (MK)

MK will continue to liaise with WCA.

9. Resources

As per recent proposal NO to look into portable storage options for Scopes. Once full inventory is completed, hopefully on 4/12/24, will identify what new equipment is required. Already identified label machine to mark scopes, Dew shields.

10. AOB

MK raised matter of AAA branding and is there a need to update this on Website, Logo's and Facebook. Further work needed on this as all agreed it to be necessary.

Committee meetings 2025

Wednesday 15th January

Wednesday 12th March

Wednesday 21st May

Wednesday 16th July

Wednesday 10th September

Wednesday 19th November

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
2/10/24 P2	MK to provide necessary passwords to PF to allow access to update Social Media	MK	Complete
2/10/24 P3	LH to contact Lackford re storage of equipment overnight.	LH	Complete
2/10/24 P3	MK to make contact with Chair/Committee of Stour Valley Astronomy Club	MK	Complete
7/11/24 P1	LH to check list of attendees against paid up members and pass details to PC	LH	New
7/11/24 P2	NB to send updated members programme to Mark P for website.	NB	New
7/11/24 P3	MK to invite offers of help from members for event at Stanton PS on 17/1/25	MK	New
7/11/24 P3	MK to advise SCC regarding grant to see if alternate proposal possible	MK	New

