

Notes from Observatory Group Meeting 16/11/2018

Present :- Richard Young, Joan Brame, Roy Proctor, Phil Leigh, Margaret Charlesworth, Linda Harper (notetaker)

1. Welcome and Introduction

RY welcomed everyone and introduced Margaret Charlesworth from the Town Trust to those present who had not met her.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Lloyd Hughes

3. Notes from last meeting 12-10-18

RY had distributed the notes from previous meeting to group. Agreed as accurate account and can be posted on website.

4. Matters arising (other than agenda item)

RY and RP have met with Kevin Chapman from Breams builders. They agreed on the works to be done for phase 1 of the project, they spoke to Damian Parker who informed that the proposal needs referring on to Mr Leeks – Building Officer for SEBC or Mr Samson who has direct responsibility for the Athenaeum building in order for them to check that the works do not compromise the Heritage of the building. It was felt that another site meeting was indicated to show Mr Leeks and/or Mr Samson the exact works needed. RY will arrange and RP will also attend.

If they are unable to agree that the work can go ahead then Heritage will need to be involved. MC suggested that Christine Leveson – Conservation Officer for SEBC be contacted for her input.

5. Working with the Town Trust

The Town Trust have agreed to work with us, they consider it a worthy project and are happy to acting as the conduit to making it happen.

RP has met with Paul Tatum (Treasurer) of the Town Trust for further discussion. There needs to be an agreement drawn up between the 3 parties concerned namely AAA/Town Trust and SEBC to clearly clarify where the responsibilities of each lie.

6. Fundraising the next move

Need to obtain final quotes for work from the Millwrights, for the work to be done to the Telescope and for any Audio/Visual equipment. PL suggested that those members of the AAA with necessary knowledge be asked to put together a proposal for the A/V equipment that would be required.

It was also agreed that on-costs need to be anticipated and 5 years worth should be added to the funding request.

Possible on-costs could possibly be the Hire of the Reading Room for lectures, employing a manager to be on site for event nights (programmes will need to be planned well in advance to allow this.)

Once these figures are in place the RP will contact Sarah Grieveson (fundraiser) who will take things forward.

7. Update on Phase 1

The funding for Phase 1 has now been exceeded through fundraising, the donation pending from the Athenaeum Club once work has begun and talks given to various groups.

See also under Matters Arising.

8. Update on Phase 2

See previous notes. An agreement needs to be in place between AAA/TT and SEBC MC suggested that this is vital as when councils change/officers change then history can be lost. Need agreement on paper to hold 'In perpetuity'

A Risk Assessment and Protocol needs to be written before the work is completed.

9. AOB

The question was raised and needs clarification as to whether SEBC insurance will cover the telescope when it goes off site for restoration.

As previously agreed a meeting is to be arranged between AAA Committee and all members of the Observatory Group. RY will take forward.

Date of next meeting:- Friday 18th January 2019

