

Thursday 26th September 2019

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Richard Young (RY) , Phil Leigh (PL), Joan Brame (JB), Nigel Osborne (NO), Peter Bruce (PB), Linda Harper (notetaker).

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed Peter Bruce to his first meeting as member of committee.

Noted apologies received from James Dale

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August agreed as a full and accurate account. To be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

MK actions 1 still ongoing, action 2 the Town Council do not require any further information so complete. Complete

JD to explore with Mark P if website costs can be paid directly from AAA funds. Ongoing  
MK still to speak with Lesley and Antony re their possible interest in a committee role. Ongoing.

PL advised no need for any further purchase of badges at present. Complete

MK and PL have advised James Sheen and Ian Clarke of Star Party dates. Complete

MK has spoken briefly to Jo Rayner, no further action at present.

PL has purchased Webcam for use at Star Partys and Observatory. Cost £88. Complete  
MK still to circulate list of possible new venues. Ongoing.

4. Finance

In absence of JD, MK gave update on current financial position. All good at present.

JD has supplied all necessary documents to Peter Corbett (Independent Examiner) in preparation for the AGM, Peter raised several points and these have been rectified.

Financial Summary

General account:

Amount as of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019: £1222.59

- Anticipated outgoings: £132.20 (Rent, WiFi webcam)
- Pending income: £.36.00 (membership, coffee)
- Restricted funds: £59.70 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £1066.69

Restoration account:

- No change as of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019: £1845.55
- Pending income: £100 (Ickworth)
- Pending outgoings: £0.00 (N/A)
- Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £2945.55

## 5. Programme Planning

The programme is planned up until 12/12/19, last meeting of the year, the details can all be found on the website. RY and PL are working on the programme for the New Year when several subjects will be revisited for new members and revision for others.

## 6. Events planning

Response for tickets for Nik Szymanek talk slow, only 19 tickets reserved so far, LH to email members to remind of last chance to reserve tickets before go to general sale via website. (LH)

PB will produce A4 and A5 posters and flyers to advertise the Star Party nights and Nik S's talk. Once approved he will get them printed and they can be distributed to venues to help increase interest. (PB)

Agreed that on the night of Nik S's talk there will be a members table to advertise the AAA for any non-members who are attending. Also refreshments will be on sale, hot/cold drinks and biscuits.

## Star Party -

Antony and Lesley have agreed to repeat their presentation on recent visit to Kennedy Space Centre. Lloyd Hughes will do a 'Pub Quiz' on things Astronomical. PL is working on a Telescope workshop to show attendees how different lenses work, there will be a continuous presentation running on 'Whats in the Night Sky' - Solar system, Milky Way and Galaxies. There will be the usual Childrens Activities as well.

In addition more is to be made of the Restoration project so rather than having a video running the idea is to have 2 members in period costume as Lord Bristol and George Biddle-Airey walking around discussing the Observatory so attendees will be able to listen and ask questions. PL and PB to be in costume, RY to provide script to work from.

Costumes can be hired from company in Earl Stonham for £30pw, all present agreed to this as good idea.

PB indicated that he could supply further red lights for outside use on night. Also suggested that David Murton be invited to attend.

MK raised the issue of safeguarding and how attendees can identify AAA members, name badges already available, hi-vis jackets suggested. AAA t-shirts/fleeces although these likely to be covered by coats. RY suggested beanie-hats with AAA logo – MK will investigate. (MK)

## 7. Observatory Group Update

RY gave brief update as Observatory group meeting next night. RY and Roy Proctor have met with John Popham and discussed the revised Project document, as a result of the meeting several points were identified, RY has revised the document and distributed it to Observatory group and MK as Chair of AAA.

Roy Proctor has produced a new Project Plan, however the main sticking point remains that of the length of the lease with the borough. A longer lease is needed before the project can move forward and requests for funding can begin. Ideally would like 20 year lease, this is very unlikely but gives flexibility to negotiate down to acceptable length.

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Roy Proctor has introduced Tony Box to the Obs Group as a possible Project Manager RY will remain as Director/Advisor to the project.

## 8. Outreach

.AAA, The Athenaeum, Athenaeum Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1LY  
e-mail: [secretary@3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@3a.org.uk)W: [www.3a.org.uk](http://www.3a.org.uk)

RY has talk to Seniors Group at library on 18/11/19 and Theford Cubs on 7/11/19.

The Heritage day at the Athenaeum went well, the Observatory was incorporated into the Town Guide talks, they could see the display at the entrance to the Observatory and RY was present to answer any questions, he reported that public interest was very good.

NO was asked by Horringer Scouts to help with their Astronomy badges, PL has agreed to help out as well, this takes place 16/10/19.

#### 9. Resources

A 3" Reflector telescope has been donated to the AAA, it is of Russian design and will be ideal for Children to use. (it comes with tripod).

PL has purchased webcam for AAA, it connects to an app on iPhone or Android, also generates its own wi-fi signal so will be used at Star Party but also ideal when Observatory restoration complete.

PB can supply further red lights for outside use at events.

NO has acquired 3 panel, double sided display boards, these are ideal for indoor use and will be available for use at Star Party. He also has a deep wooden box which he thinks will be ideal to store Telescopes in.

#### 10. IT

PB asked if he could have account access to be able to post on Facebook and Twitter, MK will supply necessary passwords etc. (MK)

#### 11. Marketing and publicity

PB as part of his committee role will take over 'The Extra Celestial' which will go out to members on a quarterly basis. MK will forward his details onto Mark Proctor (webmaster)

#### 12. AOB



3/10/19 AGM, MK will give Chairmans report, JD will send treasurers report which MK will give in the absence of JD.

There has been no response to e-mail asking for nominations to Committee.

Agreed that another e-mail goes out to remind members of AGM. (LH)

Date of next meeting as planned falls 10/10/19, all agreed that this is too soon, one month from tonight will be night before Star Party so agreed by all that there will not be a committee meeting in October and will meet again as per schedule on 7/11/19

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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

Committee	Members
10 <sup>th</sup> October- cancelled	3 <sup>rd</sup> October
7 <sup>th</sup> November	17 <sup>th</sup> October
5 <sup>th</sup> December	31 <sup>st</sup> October
	14 <sup>th</sup> November
	28 <sup>th</sup> November
	12 <sup>th</sup> December

Action Plan
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Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
11/4/19 P1	MK to e-mail members re the opportunity to purchase an AAA t-shirt and/or Fleece	MK	Ongoing
11/4/19 P1	MK to supply supplementary information to Town Council regarding grant spending.	MK	Complete
20/6/19 P1	JD to explore with Mark P if he is able to pay website costs direct from AAA funds.	JD	Ongoing
15/8/19 P1	MK to contact agreed members directly to gauge interest in joining committee	MK	Ongoing
15/8/19 P3	PL to re-order badges as required.	PL	Complete
15/8/19 P3	MK to advise dates of October Star Party to James Sheen for Our BSE and Ian Clarke, Manager of Apex for Whats on West Suffolk website	MK	Complete
15/8/19 P4	MK to contact Jo Rayner and ask for meeting to discuss progress of Restoration.	MK	Complete
15/8/19 P4	PL to investigate options for purchase of a Webcam	PL	Complete
15/8/19 P4	MK to circulate initial list of possible new venues for information/discussion	MK	Ongoing
26/9/19 P2	LH to e-mail members re last chance to reserve tickets for Nik Szymanek talk	LH	New
26/9/19 P2	PB to produce A4/A5 posters and flyers for Star Party and Nik S's talk	PB	New
26/9/19 P3	MK to investigate possibility of hats with AAA logo for members to purchase.	MK	New
26/9/19 P4	MK to supply PB with access details for Twitter/Facebook and pass his details to Mark Proctor	MK	New
26/9/19 P5	LH to e-mail members to remind of AGM	LH	New

