
Thursday 5th December 2019

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Richard Young (RY), James Dale (JD), Nigel Osborne (NO), Linda Harper (notetaker).

1. Welcome and apologies

Noted apologies received from Phil Leigh, Joan Brame and Peter Bruce

2. Notes from last meeting

The notes from the meeting of 7th November were accepted as an accurate account and can be uploaded to website once small amendment made to note that NO had agreed to look into the possibility of a group visit to Cambridge Observatory.

3. Actions

MK has completed the e-mail for members regarding the opportunity for members to purchase AAA merchandise. (LH to circulate to members). Complete
MK has approached supplier re purchasing hats with AAA logo on. Complete
LH has e-mailed members re attendance at last meeting of year. Complete.
MK has still to clarify the dates of Ickworth evening. Ongoing.

4. Finance

General account:

Amount as of 19th November 2019: £750.10

- Anticipated outgoings: £0.00
- Pending income: £62.50 (Badges, ticket sales, coffee takings)
- Restricted funds: £9.70 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £802.90

1

Restoration account:

- No change as of 25th October 2019: £1845.55

-
- Pending income: £234 (Ickworth, share of Star Party, talk fees)
 - Pending outgoings: £0.00 (N/A)
 - Restricted: £1000 (AC)

Funds for Observatory Project: £3079.55

5. Programme Planning

New programme still being planned but some ideas for the new year include;

Developing the 'Whats in the Sky' talk using stellarium and tie it in with monthly podcast, and ask members at each meeting what areas they would like further explanation on.

Revisiting old talks and presentations and updating them, especially with new members in mind.

Also more on Messier objects, Comets. Possibly shorter, more snap-shot type presentations. Show NASA short films to group to develop discussion on each subject.

Also suggested that each meeting RY gives members targets to try to find in the sky using naked eye/binoculars/telescope. (Homework between meetings!)

6. Events planning

Previous dates in April for Star Party clash with other event at park so new dates of 27th/28th March 2020 agreed. No Moon visible so will focus again on Planets, Deep Sky etc.

This affects the dates offered to Ickworth House for their Observing evening, MK will discuss the options with Catherine Earnshaw.

Agreed by group that we will have stand at Whitsun Fayre on 24/25th May, however there is still a need for someone to co-ordinate things. Much of the work on Risk Assessment, H&S has already been done and can be taken forward with updated dates etc. RY suggested approaching Phil L with a view to taking this on due to his experience with organising the Star Partys. RY said he will mention to Phil.

Kinetic Science – Science Week, MK replied to e-mail to say that we would be interested in taking part but requested further info on likely location and what would be required,

they replied asking for our requirements in terms of electricity, tables etc and a decision would be made during December. MK to reply requesting access to electricity so Restoration Video can run and 3 tables needed. If we are in the Athenaeum then a camera could be linked from the Observatory to the TV for a live feed.

Help will be needed and an e-mail will go out to members in the new year.

MK has also agreed to give a talk on 15/2/20. (Venue etc not known at present)

Visit to Cambridge Observatory – NO has made enquiries. The Observatory is open to the public on Wednesdays however can be booked for groups other nights. Cost £50-70 depending on numbers.

Suggested dates 5th or 12th March 2020. Will be free to members with nominal charge for other family members. NO will put out on 'Whats app' to gauge interest, e-mail will also go out in new year.

Clare Country Park – no further communication following Mks request for further info.

7. Observatory Group Update

RY updated the meeting. Tony Box has joined the group and will act as Project Manager. Roy Proctor will have a financial advisory role which will link in to Treasurer of AAA. RY will continue his role as Adviser to the group.

The priority of the group is firstly to obtain a document signed by all parties which gives the AAA the right to use the Telescope.

TB/RP will meet with Damien Parker to discuss:-

- i) Access/Permissions to use the Observatory following completion of the restoration.
- ii) Obtain a written document stating exactly the work needed to the entrance/staircase to make it safe for access of public.

It is anticipated that once restored then the Observatory would be in use once per quarter for public events but available to members for observation. Agreement document vital before the project can move forward, it appears that a Solicitor will need to be retained at some stage.

8. Outreach

RY gave talk to Thetford Cub Scouts, also a talk to the Friday Club held at the Library. This has led to a request for 2 further talks on 'Whats in the Sky' and the Restoration Project. Also the possibility of several new members to the AAA.

9. Resources

Nothing to report this meeting.

10. IT

Nil to report.

11. Marketing and publicity

PB not present so no update available.

12. AOB

MK has done further investigation on possible new sites and went through these with the group. Agreed that several are worth a visit to check parking, site as dark sky etc. These include Great Barton, Fornham All Saints and Whepstead. Other venues such as Great Whelnetham and Ingham* were discounted due to group knowledge of site. Still work to be done on this.

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
2020	2020
16 th January	9 th January
13 th February	23 rd January
12 th March	6 th February
	20 th February
	5 th March
	19 th March

Action Plan			
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	Complete
26/9/19 P3	MK to investigate possibility of hats with AAA logo for members to purchase.	MK	Ongoing
7/11/19 P2	LH to e-mail members re attendance at meeting on 12/12/19, to plan refreshments.	LH	Complete
7/11/19 P3	MK to clarify proposed March dates for Ickworth with CE, also offer date for October of 17/10/19	MK	Ongoing
7/11/19 P3	NO to investigate options for AAA outing to Cambridge Observatory	NO	Complete
5/12/19 P1	LH to circulate e-mail concerning merchandise to members	LH	New

