

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all and thanked for agreeing to rearranged meeting date.

2. Notes from last meeting

The notes from the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> February were accepted as an accurate account and can be uploaded to website.

3. Actions

PL to send new programme to webmaster for website (with suggestion of adding name of presenter). Complete

PL to confirm Star Party dates for October with Dwayne Gray. Complete

PB to look at use of 'Sky at Night' podcast for meetings. Ongoing

PB updated posters advertising Star Party. Complete

JD has purchased new weights for use on displays at outdoor events. Complete

JD has purchased gift for staff at Realise House as 'thank you'. Complete

4. Finance

JD reported generally good position overall.

Membership for current year – previously 49 registered members which included couples and under 18s – 38 paying fees. This year to date 18 paid up memberships so far.

This has implications for ongoing costs at new venue if more membership fees not renewed, MK asked JD to do risk analysis of the effect on finances should planned events be cancelled (in view of current situation) and the loss of income. (JD)

General account:

Amount as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020: £1081.21

- Anticipated outgoings: £153.78 (Rent for 1H'20, RF leaving gift)
- Pending income: £0.00 (membership subs, coffee takings)
- Restricted funds: £109.70 (speaker funds)
- Unrestricted funds: £818.73

Restoration account:

- No change as of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020: £2005.97
- Pending income: £0.00 (N/A)
- Pending outgoings: £0.00 (N/A)
- Restricted: £6000 (AC, Bury Town Trust)

Funds for Observatory Project: £8005.97 (£2005.97 + £6000.00)

## 5. Programme Planning

Planned until end August, has been extended due to recent meetings being spent with actual Observation, as a result some topics may be taken out to allow programme to keep to plan.

PB asked if at some stage he could repeat his previous but now updated presentations, PL will work into programme.

## 6. Events planning

Due to the current Covid-19 situation this section required considerable discussion which as a result led to agreement by all present that any AAA involvement in upcoming events be cancelled. This included the events at Ickworth Park on 20/3/20 and the Star Party on 27/28<sup>th</sup> March.

MK will liaise with Catherine Earnshaw at Ickworth Park, he will also notify in person Ian Clarke, manager at the Apex of cancellation of Star Party. (MK)

PL with liaison with Dwayne Gray and Jean Pickering – park rangers to notify of Star Party cancellation. (PL)

At present the Whitsun Fayre is going ahead but this may change in line with advice.

No further contact from Clare Country Park.

Go-Stargazing website – need to notify about change of venue and cancellation of events.

PL will do so. (PL)

Upcoming members meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March – still to go ahead? May need to be cancelled at last minute, can be done via e-mail and ‘whats app’

NO has received notification from Cambridge Observatory this evening that the planned visit to the Observatory for 12/3/20 has been postponed. Message to go out on ‘whats app’ and via e-mail to members to notify them. (NO and LH)

Also agreed that a statement would be added to the website regarding the AAA position on Covid-19 and future events.

## 7. Observatory Group

Tony Box is liaising with the council and things are moving forward. The solicitors have seen the proposed agreement and it is also with WSC solicitors.

RY has had an e-mail from Chris Roper, the telescope restorer. He has time available and could begin work on restoring the scope, RY asked was there any chance the scope could be removed and restoration begun. MK felt that at this stage with the project not yet agreed that we could end up paying money for the scope but the whole project could be delayed or even scrapped if the licence cannot be agreed. A lot more reassurances are needed with regard to the licence document.

Fund raising has not yet started but the point at which it can be, has been identified.

MK has a document from the Solicitors detailing fees for services - £1750-2000+vat however it is not clear what exactly this covers ie hours of work. As this amount would take all available funds so there needs to be some control in place.

Suggested that a rider be added to the reply to state that once ' \* hours of work are completed we need to know how many more would be needed' or something similar.

MK will have to sign the document on behalf of AAA as commissioning body. He will speak with Tony B.

#### 8. Outreach

RY has 2 more talks planned at the Library for the Friday group, they will be a repeat of those given to the Wednesday group.

#### 9. Resources

NO is working on display boards to make them more stable, making a bracket that will also allow them to be used in a pyramid shape.

NO also asked re the possibility of purchasing a small toolkit for use at outdoor events, Screwfix have these for £15 approx. All present agreed, so will be purchased. (NO)

#### 10. IT

Nil to report.

#### 11. Marketing and publicity

MK contacted Helen Sharmans office to ask about the possibility of her becoming patron of the AAA Restoration, he received an e-mail in return declining the offer but with a note that she could possibly be contacted again with a request to open the restored Observatory once complete. ( May be explored again at later date).

#### 12. AOB

The members meeting of 19/3/20 will be the last at the current venue therefore arrangements need to be in place for co-ordinating the move of our equipment to the new venue at Whepstead. PL and NO will lead on this and advise as necessary.

Suggestion made that for the first meeting at Whepstead cake there should be some sort of acknowledgement of the AAAs new future and plans – cake was suggested, PL and LB agreed to provide

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

From 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 meetings will be held at the new venue - Whepstead Community Centre.

Committee	Members	
15 <sup>th</sup> April	8 <sup>th</sup> April	12 <sup>th</sup> August
13 <sup>th</sup> May	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	26 <sup>th</sup> August
10 <sup>th</sup> June	6 <sup>th</sup> May	9 <sup>th</sup> September
8 <sup>th</sup> July	20 <sup>th</sup> May	23 <sup>rd</sup> September
19 <sup>th</sup> August	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	7 <sup>th</sup> October
16 <sup>th</sup> September	17 <sup>th</sup> June	21 <sup>st</sup> October
14 <sup>th</sup> October	1 <sup>st</sup> July	4 <sup>th</sup> November
11 <sup>th</sup> November	15 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> November
9 <sup>th</sup> December	29 <sup>th</sup> July	2 <sup>nd</sup> December
		16 <sup>th</sup> December

Action Plan				
Page/Item		Action		Status
			Action by	
16/1/20 P2		PL to send new programme to Mark P for website	PL	Complete
16/1/20 P2		PL to confirm dates for October Star Party with Dwayne Gray	PL	Complete
16/1/20 P2		PB to investigate use of Sky at Night podcast	PB	Ongoing
13/2/20 P3		PB to update posters for Star Party ready for printing and distribution	PB	Complete
13/2/20 P4		JD to identify and purchase new weights for use at outdoor events	JD	Complete
13/2/20 P4		JD to purchase gift to be given to staff at Realise House as thank-you	JD	Complete
11/3/20 P1		JD to undertake risk analysis of finance situation using current membership and possible income loss	JD	New
11/3/20 P2		MK to notify Catherine Earnshaw and Ian Clarke of decision to cancel Ickworth and Star Party	MK	New
11/3/20 P2		PL to notify Dwaine Gray/Jean Pickering on cancellation of Star Party. Also Go-Stargazing website.	PL	New
11/3/20 P3		NO to purchase small toolkit for use at events.	NO	New

