
Wednesday 9th February 2022

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Peter Corbett(PC) Treasurer, Nigel Osborne (NO), Joan Brame(JB), Peter Bruce (PB) Linda Harper (LH) Secretary.

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all to the meeting

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as an accurate account, minutes to be posted on website.

3. Action

PB has contacted FAS for further information re benefits of membership, so far no reply to voice or e-mail. Ongoing

MK has still not received any reply to his request to Dwayne Gray regarding insurance cover when providing events for third party, he will chase up. Ongoing

MK still to contact Mark P to ascertain numbers of visits to website particularly in relation to Richards podcasts. Ongoing

Revisit and review existing policies and procedures still to be undertaken. Ongoing

NO reported no f2f visits to Cambridge available. Ongoing

MK still to make contact with National Trust. Ongoing

PC has been in contact with Mark P and several updates have been made to website. Complete.

4. Finance

a) Treasurers update - The general account stands at £3349, however this includes the restart grant of £2500. The situation is fairly good but there is little spare money once outgoings have been taken into account, these include rent for 2nd half of the year and insurance.

1

b) Insurance (Pli and Assets)

Due for renewal 10/03/2022, cost last year was £155

Decided that need to check what level of cover that provides ie New for Old or Market value. PC will further investigate the levels and types of cover available, will advise and decision can be made on level of risk we feel is acceptable bearing in mind the new equipment to be purchased and the value of existing equipment. (PC)

c) CAS grant money.

Can now go ahead and purchase items identified in grant application, however several items are out of stock so will need to look for suitable alternatives. Any small increase in price could be met from funds if necessary.

Financial Summary 5th February 2022

Restoration Account: £0.00 (Account closed 1/02/2022)

General Account: £3,348.95

- Balance Last Update (10/01/2022): £3,632.95
- Outgoings
 - o Whepstead Community Centre (Hire Jan - Jun 2022): £284.00
- Income
 - o (none)

Cash: £73.32

- Coffee Pot: £48.32 (see below)
- Membership: £25.00

Liabilities: £2,547.32-

- CAS* Grant – purchase equipment: £2,547.32- (based on research as at 21/09/2021)

Total: £874.95

Coffee Pot

- Balance Last Update (10/01/2022): £19.32
- Takings: £29.00

*Community Action Suffolk - Suffolk Community Restart fund

5. Committee Future

PL has notified MK that due to other commitments he is having to stand down from committee, no specific date given, but will continue to offer help and guidance for outside events such as the Star Party's.

This means that we will be 2/3 people short on committee. Discussion followed over how we can be more proactive towards recruiting new members, it was mentioned to members at the last members meeting asking if anyone interested make themselves known, this has not had any result so after discussion several individuals were identified who it was felt could be approached to see if they would be interested in joining committee.

6. Members Programme

All in place for next few weeks as has rolled on due to recent evenings spent observing. Agreed that one evening we ask members to bring their Scopes in and the meeting spent as a setting up session.

Also identified that as new members are joining the group is quite mixed with levels of knowledge and interests, ongoing programme needs to reflect this.

Once funds become more robust then we may be able to look towards getting outside speakers in to offer members a wider range of talks.

7. Events Programme

Agreed once again that we should not extend ourselves by agreeing to attend too many events.

Whit Fayre – 1 day Sunday 29th May, 10-4pm. 2 Gazebos, Table and chairs will be provided, these will be put up and taken down for us. Will need ideally 4-6 people to help out even if just for short sessions. There will be a competition for children to take part in.

Star Party in October should be possible assuming that the council are still keen to hold this event.

Still possibility of being asked to attend Food and Drink Festival, but no confirmation.

7. AOB

a) Restoration of Athenaeum Observatory – MK has met with Jo Rayner (via Zoom), he has stressed to her that unless there is a change in the licence agreement and it's requirements, then the project is unlikely to restart, but also that the council needs to show its commitment by contributing financially.

Jo will come back to MK with answers and then a final decision can be made.

b) AGM- Agreed that this will be held on Wednesday 11th May. A guest speaker will be considered. It will be a social evening as well so 'nibbles and soft drinks' will be available in addition to usual tea and biscuits.

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
25/9/21 P4	PB to look into benefits from being affiliated to known astronomical body	PB	Ongoing
25/9/21 5	MK to look into issue of insurance cover when providing event for third party	MK	Ongoing
12/1/22 P1	MK to find out how many visits to Podcast made on website.	MK	Ongoing
12/1/22 P1	Revisit and review existing policies and procedures.	All	Ongoing
12/1/22 P2	NO to continue to enquire re Visit to Cambridge Observatory.	NO	Ongoing
12/1/22 P3	MK to make contact with National Trust	MK	Ongoing
12/1/22 P4	PC to contact Mark P re updates to website.	PC	Complete
9/2/22 P2	PC to further look into insurances, what levels of cover and risk available	PC	New

