
Wednesday 8th March 2023

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Peter Corbett (PC) Treasurer, Nigel Bond (NB), Joan Brame (JB), Lillas Haye (LHe), Linda Harper (LH) Secretary.

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all

Noted apologies received from Lloyd Hughes, Nigel Osborne and Peter Bruce

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as an accurate account and can be posted on website.

3. Actions

MK to invite members from CAS to meeting when have guest speaker. Still to do but no rush at present. Complete

NO to make enquiries re visit to Cambridge Radio Astronomy site. Reply from Mullard Observatory, no visits at present but possibly in future. Complete

MK to make enquiries re visit to Greenwich. - Update, no special visits for Astronomy Groups. MK will put together options for visit in summer. Ongoing

NO to update Inventory and Catalogue of Equipment- no work on this at present. Ongoing

PB has circulated latest copy of video to committee for comment – Ongoing

Lhu has produced revised documents and draft new Constitution. MK will circulate to committee for comment. Ongoing (MK)

PC to investigate costs of guest speaker and advise at next meeting. See under finance. Complete

MK to forward Invite from Breckland Astronomy Group to NB. Done. Complete

NO to check if AAA electrical equipment can be PAT tested along with Whepstead items, all items checked in October 2022 so in date and can be used at Spring Fayre. Complete

NO to look into cost of purchasing Laser Pointers. Ongoing

MK to submit draft shipping container proposal to Whepstead Committee. Done. Complete

4. Finance

PC updated meeting on current position. Generally good. £1199 in account, still cheque for rent to Whepstead to be cashed. 2 new members paid up, membership now at 35.

Successful visit to OASI, small amount from funds to meet cost, £11.

Insurance due for renewal 14/3/23. (see discussion under AOB)

Cost of guest speakers for this year – 9 speakers booked at costs between £50 and £100, cost for year £560. 3 speakers so far this year at cost of £150.

Financial Update - 4th March 2023

General Account: £1,202.61

- Balance Last Update (6/02/2023): £1,233.60
- Outgoings
 - o Cable Reel Extension Lead – 25 metres (Peter Corbett): £30.99-
- Income
 - o (none)

Cash: £105.22

- Coffee Pot: £50.22 (see below)
- Membership (1 x £25.00): £25.00
- Membership (2 x £15.00): £30.00

Liabilities: £108.00-

- Hawstead Hall Hire (19/10, 2/11 & 9/11): £108.00-

Total: £1,199.83

Coffee Pot

- Balance Last Update (6/02/2023): £52.52
- Takings: £22.30
- Hall Heating: £6.00-
- Re-stock: £7.60-
- OASI Visit (£3 fee per member): £49.00
- OASI Visit (Donation): £60.00

5. Members Programme

NB circulated updated members programme with presenters and guest speakers, this is now complete until end July 2023. There was further discussion on possible presenters for topics later in the year and suggestions made for members to approach to help.

Visit to Breckland Astronomy group – NB has this in hand and will allocate date later in year to coincide with normal member meeting.

Visit to ROG – MK will put together options for visit, costings etc.

6. Events

a) SpringFayre - LHu happy to deal with Childrens Activities. LHe will work with NO on organisation. MK advised that he will be available to help on Monday 29th May.

LHe will collate names of helpers for both days.

As agreed that anyone helping at event should wear AAA polo shirt members will be asked at next meeting on 15th for any orders. NB already has some requests for shirts.

7. Resources

No update available as NO not able to be at meeting. The proposal regarding the shipping container will go before the Whepstead Committee at the end of the month, once the decision is known further discussion can take place and the project moved forward.

8. AOB

PC raised the issue of insurance which is due 14/3/23, current policy with Unity and renewal price is £215 which includes PLI and £9000 for equipment. Insurance could be taken out through FAS but will not include cover for equipment which will need to be sourced elsewhere, PC has spoken with broker from Wilson Organisation (name given by FAS) and is waiting to hear regarding equipment premium. Insurance runs out 13/3/23 and renewal of FAS membership not renewed until end of month so will be 2 week gap which we are not covered.

Agreed for this year to remain with Unity due to time element, but if broker comes back with premium a lot cheaper then we can consider moving insurance to them next year, through FAS.

Some discussion also about what we actually get by being affiliated to FAS, it was felt that at present no real benefit. All agreed appropriate not to renew membership for coming year. MK will review benefits offered by other astronomical bodies such as RAS and BAA

Committee Meeting Dates for 2023

Wednesday 19th April
17th May
14th June
12th July
23rd August
20th September
18th October
15th November

No meeting in December.

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
11/1/23 P1	MK to invite members to CAS group to meeting when have guest speaker	MK	Complete
11/1/23 P2	NO to make enquiries about possible visit to Cambridge Radio Astronomy site	NO	Complete
11/1/23 P3	MK to look into cost of visit to Greenwich later in 2023	MK	Ongoing
11/1/23 P3	NO to update Inventory and Catalogue of Equipment.	NO	Ongoing
11/1/23 P3	PB to circulate latest copy of promotional video to committee members for comment/suggestion.	PB	Ongoing
11/1/23 P4	LHu to undertake review and update of all AAA Policies and procedures.	LHu	Complete
8/2/23 P2	PC to look at costs for Guest Speakers and advise at next meeting.	PC	Complete
8/2/23 P2	MK to forward details of Breckland Observatory invite to NB	MK	Complete
8/2/23 P3	NO to check if AAA electrical equipment can be PAT tested along with Whepstead items.	NO	Complete
8/2/23 P3	NO to look into cost and requirements of Laser Pointers	NO	Ongoing
8/2/23 P3	MK to submit shipping container proposal to Whepstead CC Committee	MK	Complete
8/3/23 P1	MK to circulate revised policys, procedures and draft new constitution to committee members	MK	New
8/3/23 P3	MK to check what benefits other Astronomy Associations offer to members. RAS, BAA	MK	New

