

Abergavenny Astronomy Society

Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting

Held at King's Head, Cross Street, Abergavenny at 7.30pm on 12th March 2018.

Present:

Nick Busby (Chairman), Gavin Creyke, Kevin Houston, Mike Skidmore, Jeff Hill, Andrea Ellaway and Carol Murdoch

Apologies:

David South.

Minutes of previous AGM:

The minutes of the AGM 2017 were read and approved.

Proposed	Andrea
Seconded	Mike

Matters Arising:

Gavin complained about the minutes not being available earlier. It was discussed and agreed to have the draft Minutes within 4-6 weeks after meeting.

Gavin also commented that the proposed organised trip have not been arranged.

It was suggested that perhaps we could have a trip to visit an observatory. It was mentioned that Usk may like to help subsidise the trip using money received from Reach work.

Action: Kevin to organise. Nick to raise with Usk re: a joint trip.

Chairman's Report (attached):

Nick went through the report and thanked: Carol (Secretary), Andrea (Treasurer), Kevin (Cosmology & Webmaster), David (Facebook Manager) and Mike (Publicity). Nick also thanked all other members who had helped throughout the year with their contributions.

Meetings

Members asked to bring along articles for discussion.

Basic Astronomy/cosmology session – had good attendance with 15+ members.

Discussion group work continued largely by the efforts of Kevin with help from some others.

Funding

Society Funds are healthy and there is no need to increase the Annual Subscription of £10.

Christmas Dinner

Attendance was relatively low this year, probably due to insufficient notice given to Abergavenny and Usk. Will review as to what we want to do for the coming Christmas. All suggestions welcome.

Observing

Have not managed to organise Society observing. Although the Nick supported observing by other societies. Offers of help and assistance are always welcome at these events.

Kevin agreed to look into organising an event/hosting an evening at a site of Richard Lewis.

Another good venue suggested would be the Priory. Andrea to look into feasibility.

Membership

The Society continues to attract new members but also seems to lose them at a similar rate. Discussion ensued and members asked to speak up on ideas to keep the Society fresh and interesting.

Outreach

The Chairman outlined the work being undertaken and the requesting that if members are interested then please get involved.

Report accepted:

Proposed Gavin

Seconded Jeff

Matters arising out of the Chairman's report:

Discussion ensued on membership ideas of attracting and keeping same.

Gavin suggested perhaps the introduction of tea/coffee similar to that which was offered at Llangattock Rectory/Martin Griffith's talks for a £1/cup in an attempt to get people to stop and chat.

To be looked into.

Gavin also suggested that a meet and greet for new faces take place.

Kevin pointed out that this already occurs.

Treasurer's Report:

Upon presentation of the revised Accounts – it was agreed to adopt the 2017 revised accounts.

Accounts for February 2018 were presented by Andrea and received. It was noted that the income from attendance fees/subscriptions and expenditure on speaker's fee approximately balance and it was thought that the correct balance has been found.

To be noted that Kevin requires reimbursement for the website fees.

Report accepted.

Proposed Jeff
Seconded Kevin

Secretary's Report (attached)

Comments received on the Kings Head room and the ambiance/lack of space/sometimes noise levels when speakers attend.

Action: to find other suitable accommodation in June & July ready for Septembers meetings.

Late Xmas Party

Lack of members attending and negative comments on the venue were received.

Action: to look around for alternative venues together with better advertising of event in Abergavenny and Usk.

Publicity Report

Mike reported that he continued to publicise the Society in the Abergavenny Chronicle, Monmouthshire Beacon, Brecon and Radnor and Argus.

Webmaster Report (attached):

The report was read out by Kevin and he presented figures of visitors/page view/spiders/feeds in 2016/17 compared with 2017/18. Kevin mentioned the continued work with the website especially in view of all the challenges fake comments, so far only 3 genuine received. If meeting in agreement propose to turn off "Comments facility" which was AGREED. Continued problems with the automatic emailing and post updates to subscribers. Daily Co.UK were contacted each time and once one address got sorted another went down. Continuing to work on this problem.

Kevin asked for articles/news to be put on website to be forwarded to him.

Subscribers

Total of 101 email addressed registered as "Public Subscribers".

Face Book:

People "liking" the page continuing to grow with articles being posted on the site weekly to stimulate interest via FB.

Dave South manages the page.

Cosmology report:

Kevin read out the report.

Kevin is aiming to experiment more with – general interest and science news together with subject for discussion in meetings.

New subjects and presenters are always welcome – don't have to be an expert to introduce a topic – every one most welcome.

If you see anything in the media copy it and bring it along for discussion.

All Reports were accepted.

Proposed Andrea

Seconded Mike

Kevin was thanked on the web site and cosmology group.

Election of Officers

David South has stated that he wished to stand down as Facebook Manager in June. Carol and Andrea to look at managing jointly.

There were NO nominations for Officers.

It was suggested that the Officers be voted in again.

All Officers were happy to stand again.

Nick Busby	Chairman
Carol Murdoch	Secretary
Kevin Houston	Webmaster & Cosmology
Mike Skidmore	Publicity
Andrea Ellaway	Treasurer
David South	Face Book – until June '18.

Proposed Gavin

Seconded Jeff

AOB:

None

Nick thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed