

## **Abergavenny Astronomy Society**

### **Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Held at King's Head, Cross Street, Abergavenny at 7.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### **Present:**

Nick Busby (Chairman), Gavin Creyke, Mike Skidmore (Publicity), Jeff Hill, Andrea Ellaway (Treasurer) Carol Murdoch (Secretary) Stanley Batchelor, Stephen Methuen & Ray Methuen

#### **Apologies:**

Kevin Houston

#### **Minutes of previous AGM:**

The minutes of the AGM 2018 were read and approved.  
Minutes approved: Proposed Andrea: Seconded Jeff.

#### **Matters Arising:**

**Trips:** Jodrell Bank, trip organised by Usk, members from Usk and Abergavenny attended, 2 mini buses. Trip went very well and was subsidised by Usk.

**Refreshments:** Gavin brought up about coffee & tea being available at meetings. Carol replied by saying that this was tried in the December meeting with refreshments and mince pies however because of the cost of £55 made it prohibitive and can only be done on special occasions and not every meeting.

**Minutes:** Gavin brought up again about the minutes being available. It was pointed out that the Agenda, Minutes and Nomination Forms were available/circulated at meetings before the AGM.

Outreach work was mentioned, the Chairman answered saying in the past Abergavenny had done some Outreach work at Abergavenny Castle and received payment for this even though we used Usk equipment, exhibits and some members. This year no Outreach has been done in Abergavenny.

Outreach is done in Usk all the time, visiting Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers etc. At paying events when Usk use their own equipment, exhibits and members they receive payment for this work which then can be used to subsidise other events and has been used to subsidise events.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Nick thanked the officers for the sterling work done by them over the last 12 months. Nick reported on the trips to Jodrell Bank and the International Astronomy Festival at Lemington Spa.

Nick thanked the Speakers for attending at Abergavenny AS and giving their time and expertise so freely. Pointing out that Celebrity Speakers tended to pull in more membership.

Average attendance for visiting speakers was 16 – 18. Nick encouraged more members to attend the Cosmology discussion group. Pointing out that the format has changed to more broad and varied subjects on astronomy/cosmology for discussion. The group is running very well and membership are enjoying the change.

The Christmas meal did not happen this year. In December everyone has something on and it is suggested that people prefer January for an event which can be looked into again.

Proposed Andrea: Seconded Mike

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Eventually after numerous visits to the Bank the formalities have been sorted out and the past Secretary of approx. 7 years ago eventually being removed from the system.

It was noted that the major amount of expenditure was for:

£129.65 for the Web Site.

£85.00 for refreshments and Speakers fee

£35.00 for a Meal and small gift for David South

The rest of the expenditure being for speaker expenses, the most expensive being £56.00 claimed.

There was no major change in Finances.

Membership and Fees agreed to remain the same.

Fees from Membership was down from the year before with only 9 having paid.

It was agreed that more diligent efforts be taken to seek membership.

It was agreed that if a prospective member wants to join ½ way through the year consequently ½ fee would be paid.

It was pointed out that Attendance Fee (for paid up members) is £1.

Attendance Fee for non paid up members is £2.

It was mentioned whether to get membership cards issued. This was to be considered.

It was considered to produce an attendance sheet with names of paid members and columns for the attendance fees to be paid. Thus membership can be aware of their membership status.

Proposed Nick: Seconded Mike.

### **SECRETARY/SPEAKERS REPORT**

Carol gave details of previous speakers together with a Prospective Programme for Winter 2019 September to December.

It was pointed out that we had some really outstanding talks and Bepi Columbo and the Mercury Mission inspired members.

Proposed Gavin: Seconded Andrea.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**Publicity:** Mike gave a brief report on his efforts to get press releases published and the difficulties involved.

**Web Master:** Kevin's report was received. Nick pointed out that Kevin was working very hard on the web site because of it coming under attack from "Spiders" and URLs. GDPR is being applied on the site.

The discussion page has been disabled because of the spurious messages received. Adjustments to the Wordpress settings have now reduced the number of spam comments which automatically now go to the Bin.

**Cosmology Group:** Mentioned in Chairmans Report emphasising if anyone has any topics/ideas to submit to Kevin for discussion. Gavin pointed out that Kevin was working very hard for the group.

It was mentioned perhaps there could be a link to Usk, Hovas and Abergavenny sites.

**Face Book:** First time information was available.

Followers of page: 98. Post engagements were 366 up 87%. Average of 50+ postings per month. Posts from Astro Magazine, Dark Sky Wales, Cosmo Knowledge etc also advertising forthcoming events such as meetings and speakers. It was pointed out that the site was still developing.

Gavin brought up about plagiarism etc. and it was pointed out that this information is on the web and readily available and therefore all ok to be published. Carol also commented that permission from DSW was always sort and they are always amenable. Proposed Nick: Seconded Gavin.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

As no nominations were received for Officers. It was agreed that the Officers be voted in again. All Officers were happy to stand.

Proposed Gavin: Seconded Jeff.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Stanley brought up that we should explore using the "Abergavenny Voice" for events/publicity. Carol to liaise over.

Delayed Christmas meal – the Chairman said there was a lack of interest this year and it did not happen. Will look into advertising better this year with Usk & HOVAS to try to get an event organised. Carol plus help to explore organising.

Nick thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.