

Minutes of the AGM of Abergavenny Astronomy Society held in the Hen and Chickens , 26th January 2026

Apologies

The following member tendered apologies before the meeting

Tony Parton-Frost, Brian Wigglesworth, Gavin Creyke

There were nine members present so the meeting was quorate

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were presented but there were no comments to be recorded and no ongoing actions and the minutes were accepted

Report of officers

Chairman's report

The Society has not held an AGM since 2020. In the first instance this was caused by the COVID pandemic when the Society joined Usk Astronomical Society for online meetings.

After the pandemic the Society had to find a new meeting place due to long term renovations at the King's Head. The Society is very grateful to the King's Head pub for the years that they supported the Society. The upstairs room in the Hen and Chickens has recently been renovated so the Society once again returned there for meetings on the third Monday of the month.

As the Society slowly started up again, many old members returned, some we did not see again and thankfully we have picked up some new members along the way.

Before the long break it was normal to have visiting speakers, mostly arranged by our then secretary Carol Murdoch, many thanks for the sterling work she did over many years. Carol Murdoch is no longer active in the Society and most meetings have been presented by Kevin Houston or Nick Busby. This is not a stable long-term solution and one of the agenda items is the format of the meetings going forward.

We have also not had a treasurer since before the 2020 so Nick Busby has also been acting in that role, again a longer-term solution is required.

We have returned to a state where we have around 15 attendees at meetings, which is pleasing to see and close to the numbers we had traditionally.

It has been decided that now the Society is back on its feet the time has come to resume normal administration activities such as an AGM and election of officers.

Secretary's report

There was no report from the Secretary as the incumbent had not attended the Society for some time, please see the Chairman's report for details of the Society.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report was presented by N Busby as the existing Treasurer had not been active in the Society for a long time and the Chairman had been handling the few financial transactions that there had been. Prior to the pandemic the society charged a membership fee and a fee at each meeting. This money mostly went towards external speaker's expenses. As we have not been using external speakers it has not been necessary to make any charges for membership.

The Society has little by way of physical assets, an old projector and a screen. The bank balance as of January 2026 stands at **£2563.49**. There was a £10 donation in 2026 but apart from that there has been no change to the balance since the last AGM.

Election of officers

Chairman – Kevin Houston was elected Chairman unopposed, proposer Nick Busby, seconder Keith Williams – elected unopposed

Vice Chairman–Bob Lambert was elected Vice Chairman unopposed, propose Kevin Houston, seconder Nick Busby

Secretary –Phil Howell was elected unopposed, proposer Nick Busby, seconder Keith Williams

Treasurer – Nick Busby was elected unopposed, proposer Kevin Houston, seconder Keith Williams

AOB

There was a discussion on the format of meeting going forward. In the past the Society had had regular external speakers but for the past few years most talks had been given by Kevin Houston and Nick Busby. It was felt that the time had come to spread the load more and a number of members were receptive to this suggestion and offered suggestions which the new Chairman recorded for future use.