

ABERGAVENNY ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Kings Head, Cross Street, Abergavenny at 7.30pm on 21 March 2016.

PRESENT: Nick Busby (Chairman), Gavin Creyke (Treasurer), Kevin Houston (Cosmology/Web Master), Carol Murdoch (Secretary), Mike Skidmore (Publicity), Keith Young, Stuart Keller, Simon Watson, Diana Hewett, David Longman, Philip Harvey, David South, Barry Greenwood.

APOLOGIES: Jeff Hill, Rollo Lewis, Tim von Pokorny, Graham Crawford.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the AGM were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING:

Web Site – still separate more talks with Tony Pearce to merge Abergavenny, Usk and HOV.

Treasurers report:

Gavin was concerned that the money given by Waitrose had not been spent in the way specified in the proposal. The money was in the bank and needed to be used. The Chairman pointed out that because of the change of venue the society needed a projector and screen and some money had been allocated for these purchases and it was pointless buying new equipment when he offered his equipment for outreach and society events. There was also the other issue of storage/porterage of said equipment.

CHAIRMANS REPORT:

The Chairman welcomed member and announced that the Abergavenny AAS was 5 years old last month and gave a summary of the societies work over the last year. Outlining monthly meeting and cosmology meetings.

OUT REACH events attended:

Nash Wetlands, Abergavenny & Chepstow Castles, Llandegfedd, Llangorse, etc. A question was raised by Gavin on events when donations/income was received for these events which society benefited. It was pointed out that this income would go to the society who provided the majority of support for the event, which was a fair and just way.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Presented – as report attached.
Subscriptions – £10.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Presented – as report attached.

PUBLICITY:

Mike outlined the success of the Press Releases to the local newspapers and local magazines in attracting new members. Gavin brought up about the 2 months notice for the Abergavenny Focus and that information should be updated and visitors asked to refer the the web site in the ad.

WEB MASTER:

Presented – as report attached

Kevin commented on how he has become Webmaster.

Ownership of the website now changed to Kevin Houston's name and will be invoiced in July, monies will be reclaimed from the Treasurer.

Kevin commented on:

Web site host Daily co.

Authority to post on site should have 5 names on it.

Registered subscribers: 79 had valid email address. 173 – 58 were from Russian accounts and 109 from .com accounts. Web hosts to identify issues and how attack happened.

These addresses will be deleted.

Stats: 50 web site visitors a day – 1800/year. 50-90 visits per day and sometimes up to 100-300 a day – pushes up list.

Information on TV programmes will be added to site.

COSMOLOGY:

Presented – as report attached

Total of 8 Cosmology group meetings held in 2015 together with topics covered.

Items in News will be added to group meetings.

Ideas for new topics from members always welcome together with people prepared to do presentations.

Room lay out: cinema/around table or open plan together with whether a question and answer type event is the best options were discussed.

It was agreed that around table led for a more open, friendlier and better discussions, less formal being the way forward.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

CONSTITUTION:

Should appear on website.

Have the ability to co-opt members:

Officers should be a member of the society for at least 1 year before standing for nomination or be co-opted for an Officers job.

FACEBOOK

Castle event: 4000 people registered for tickets (over subscribed) and the association holding the event charged £15 per head/a money making event. Suggest that this could be a way forward. FB had more interest from the below 35s and this could be a good way to promote the society and gain new members.

It was decided that the Society needs a FB manager for posting events/items of interest and David South said he would look into setting up a page and managing it.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

