

## **Minutes of a SAstroS Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 5.30 pm in the Sunflower Café – Island Hall**

Present: Annie Dachinger (AD) (Chair), Reg Guille (RG)(Secretary), Jo Birch (JB)(Treasurer), Richard Axton (RA) (Deputy Chair), Arthur Rolfe (AR), Wendy Guille (WG) and Oliver Dachinger (AD).

1. **Apologies** Susan Synnott, Lucy Belfield, Jan Guy, Katie Hamon and Hazel Fry.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of last Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017:** Accepted on a show of hands.
3. **Matters Arising:** None.
4. **Funds Update from the Treasurer:** JB handed out a Financial Report which showed an excess of income over expenditure for the period 9/6/2016 to 18/07/2017 of £1319.76. She added that there was new income to be added and some recent expenditure to come out, with some further expenditure required for the expenses of Professor David Hughes for the Autumn Starfest. The funds were in a healthy position with a Balance of £3586.83 at 07/09/2017.
5. **Sark's IDA Dark Skies Status Report for 2017.** JB confirmed that this year's report had been submitted and had been acknowledged by the IDA. The report is on the website. JB was thanked for compiling and submitting the report.
6. **Visit by Professor David Hughes D Phil - Emeritus Chair of the University of Sheffield for Autumn Starfest:** David Hughes who is staying with JB is to be met by AD and RA. RA passed around a copy of the Poster advertising the Starfest and informed the meeting that they were up around the village. The poster will appear on the website.
  - a. **Fri 29 Sep - Talk at 5.30pm, followed by Fish & Chip supper, followed by Observatory Session – All open to the public.** The arrangements were confirmed.
  - b. **Sat 30 Sep - Possible supper at Le Vieux Clos followed by Observatory Session for SAstroS Members only.** It was agreed that the supper would be held at Le Vieux Clos at 7.30 pm to host David Hughes. RG agreed to inform members about the meal and ask members to give their names to RA if they wished to attend by not later than Friday (22<sup>nd</sup>), Members' guests would be welcome to attend the meal and observatory session.
7. **Update on New Website – Chairman:** AD informed the meeting that the new website was up and running and many of the features from the website run by Mandy Grey had been retained albeit in a different format. RG urged Members to be proactive in getting information to John Hunt, the website manager. New ideas would be welcomed and considered by the Committee.

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Secretary: [regguille@cwgsy.net](mailto:regguille@cwgsy.net) Treasurer (and Membership): [jo.birch@cwgsy.net](mailto:jo.birch@cwgsy.net)

## 8. Any Other Business:

a. RG raised the issue of involving the children of the island. Various ideas were discussed but without conclusion. It was proposed by AD that we should try to get the children to observatory sessions over the winter, in the hope that the weather might be kinder to us than in the spring when both planned sessions had to be cancelled due to clouds.

b. 1<sup>st</sup> European Dark Sky Places Conference 20-22 Sep 2017. No feed-back had been received from the conference organisers to our earlier contact. N.B. No one from SAstroS had been able to attend.

c. AD reported that the ITV visit was hard work. However, those present felt that the result was a good advert for Sark's Dark Skies and a boost for SAstroS. RA reported that the Country Life journalists had enjoyed their observatory session and hoped that our Dark Skies would get a good mention along with the remainder of their article on La Seigneurie Gardens and Sark in general.

d. JB reported that the Roots Festival Moon Walk was called off on the Friday evening due to cloud but that a successful evening was had on the Saturday. She was assisted by Lucy Belfield and JB informed the meeting that monies had been collected on the night and were to be banked shortly.

e. RA reported on the damage to the observatory, caused when the roof was shut with the side bolt extended. This will be repaired by Sam La Trobe-Bateman in due course. Meanwhile RA urged users to be very careful when opening and closing the roof to ensure that all bolts and hinges are in the correct position for the operation to be conducted.

f. AD raised the issue of access and the holes and ruts near the entrances. RA agreed to discuss the matter with Chris Nightingale, the farmer, and to contact Kevin Adams to have hardcore put down (to be paid for out of funds) at the church entrance end of the path.

g. It was agreed that a list of members would be attached to the Minutes, names but no other details.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** To be arranged early in the New Year of 2018. Date etc. to be notified in due course.

Meeting closed at 6.20 pm.



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