

Minutes of a Committee Meeting of SAstroS held on

Monday 25th October 2021 at 11.00 pm

In AJs Cafe

Present: Annie Dachinger (AD) (Chairman/Starfleet Commander), Reg Guille (RG) (Secretary), Jo Birch (JB)(Treasurer).

1. **Apologies:** Richard Axton (RA) (Deputy Chairman).

2. **To approve the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 27th July 2021.** After two minor typographical corrections the Minutes were approved.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 27th July 2021.** The 10th Birthday party held in September was discussed. There was a low turn-out for the children and adult parties, the events were not deemed to have been a success. The Committee were disappointed at the lack of community and society support.

4. **Current Bank Balance.** The balance as at 7 October 2021 bank statement was £6,442.23. JB reported that there was some expenditure and receipts still to be shown in the account.

5. **Equipment Update.**

SkyWatcher AZ EQ5-GT EQ & Alt-Az Mount - £1,040.83 (ex. VAT) – Out of Stock

Altair 30mm ULTRAFLAT Eyepiece - Precision barrel stainless steel - £154.17 (ex. VAT), per piece – Purchased and fitted.

Altair 10x60mm RACI Finder Scope (90 deg erect image prism variable illuminator eyepiece) - £140.83 (ex. VAT). Purchased and fitted.

Moon Filters x 2. Purchased and taken into use.

Unihedron SQM-L Sky Quality Meter with Lens. Purchased and taken into use.

Comment: This instrument measures the quality of Sark's Dark Skies and it was recommended by the International Dark Sky Association that Sark should have one to enable us to keep a check on the darkness of our skies.

6. **To Consider appointing Mr Philipp Teutsch as Astronomer in Residence and Technical Advisor to the Society.** The Committee unanimously AGREED to the appointment. *Comment: Mr Teutsch (PT) had signified his agreement to this appointment prior to the meeting. The Chairman will inform PT of the decision and confirm his appointment.*

7. **Recruiting New Members.** It was agreed that the drive to recruit new and younger members should continue, new members have been added in the past year.

8. **Observatory Guides.** The Facebook campaign by AD has borne fruit and two (possibly three) new guides have come forward. One guide has started their induction into the

Observatory and its equipment, the second will follow shortly, upon return to the island after a short holiday.

9. AOB.

- a. AD purchased a folding shelf to be fitted into the telescope room, to hold equipment such as moon filters etc. to be used during stargazing sessions. Shelf has been passed to PT
- b. It was suggested that PT be invited to hold a talk in early December, on an astronomical subject of his choice. RG to approach him and to see if this was possible.
- c. AD proposed to work with the website manager (John Hunt) to make updates and improvements to our website.
- d. JB raised the issue of some form of payment being made to the Observatory Guides, as raised by a member of the society. It was decided that as the guides are volunteers and offer their services freely to benefit the Society and Sark, remuneration is not required.
- e. JB proposed that Committee Minutes be published. After a short discussion it was AGREED that Committee Minutes would be circulated to Members and also posted onto the website.

The meeting closed at 11.55 am.

