

## **Minutes of a Committee Meeting of SAstroS held on**

**Wednesday 7 December 2022 at 10.00 am**

### **At Nova Bistro**

Present: Anthony Beaumont (AB) (Chairman), Reg Guille (RG) (Secretary), Jo Birch (JB) (Treasurer).

1. To approve the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The Minutes were approved.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

There were no matters arising

3. Current Bank Balance.

JB reported that the current balance was approximately £6770.

4. Observatory update.

JB and RG updated the Chairman (AB) on the unfortunate event of the roof of the Observatory not being bolted and secure by a member after use. This coincided with gale force SW winds and driving rain. The roof was blown open and the open roof was reported to JB by a member of the public, probably after two days of being open to the elements. JB & RG organised a dehumidifier and oil-fired radiators from Mr Phil Godwin, who loaned them to the society at no charge.

After 10 days of drying out, and on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, a small working party consisting of Chris Blythe, Edd Stone, JB & RG put the Observatory back to rights and tested the telescope and its electronics. All was found to be in apparently good working order, despite the inundation of rain.

Whilst members are encouraged to use the Observatory on their own, it is most important that users are conversant with the opening, shutting, and securing procedures and conversant with the operation of the telescope, before being allowed to operate on their own.

5. Proposed New Telescope.

Action: AB agreed to order a new 12- inch Meade telescope, as previously agreed by members and the committee. AB would plan for the telescope to be shipped to Sark.

Upon arrival the new telescope will need to be commissioned before public use which is hoped to be before the spring season of visitors arrive in Sark.

6. AOB:

a. The visit of Paul Fellows was deemed to have been very successful (23 to 25 September), especially as he was able to get the electronics to work and the Observatory guides were able to make use of the GoTo and Track system for some autumn visitors. Paul took away with him our second GoTo handset and has managed to repair it. It will be returned to us in due course.

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b. JB and Steve Lord have worked on the Annual Report to the IDA, with much more technical information being required this year. The report will be with the IDA for the deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> January, it used to be the end of September. The IDA report, provided by JB, will be sent by RG to the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee of Chief Pleas, for inclusion in the Agenda for the Christmas Meeting being held in January.

Comment: RG said that Sark's Dark Skies belong to Sark and not to the society, we are custodians only.

c. AB will continue to try to meet up with the Secretary of the Guernsey Astronomy Society to build up a new relationship, which has lapsed with the deaths of David Le Conte and Richard Axton.

The meeting closed at 10.52 AM

