



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 30th January 2019 at 7.30pm at Guildford Institute, Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH

1. Present:

Nick Tanton (NT) President, Gordon Ebbon (GE) Health & Safety, Matthew Mallinson (MM) Library, Jo Weight (JW) Secretary, Tim Ellison (TE) Training Liaison, John Evans (JE) Dark Skies Coordinator, Martin Baker (MB) Webmaster.

Apologies from Pam Noon (PN), Tony (TQ) for their absence.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by all as an accurate record of the meeting with some minor corrections.

3. President's comments

Colin McGill's talks went down well and sparked a lot of interest.

4. Secretary's report

Nothing to report

5. Treasurer's report

PN absent.

Current bank balance healthy.

Encouraged eye pieces to be purchased before year end and consider a project that may run into the next financial year.

144 members currently

6. Outreach report

GJ absent.

Julia had had a good response to request for help with outreach at December meeting.

CA had organised a Geminid watching session but weather confounded it. TE had organised a lunar eclipse viewing session; viewing conditions were very location dependent but he had had good viewing at Beachy Head.

7. Webmasters report

Currently looking into finding a new calendar for the GAS website.

8. Observing report

CA absent.

9. OMT report

GO1 issues discussed. Images showing the current condition of the lower opening were shown and potential solutions, materials and costs discussed. NT asked the committee to agree that it needs fixing and suggested that the estimated cost would be £800 or so. NT read out an email from PN agreeing that it should be repaired at such a cost and after some discussion the committee agreed that the repairs should go ahead.

10. Library report

Lending has improved – averages at 5 per session.

John Cossins has even more books to give GAS via MM.

Astrofest second weekend of February, informal meal planned after.

Equinox meal date and possible venues discussed.

Next Mole Valley Geological Society talk of particular interest to GAS members is in May – on Mercury.

11. Health & Safety

Confirmation from UoS received that asbestos issues at UoS have been resolved.

12. Dark Skies

AaA – Received enquiries re eclipse and telescopes.

Dark Skies – JE has had fruitful meetings with representatives of The Surrey Hills AONB, National Trust Surrey, RSPB Surrey, Surrey CPRE and Surrey University. All have responded positively and there is real, shared interest in getting something done to curb the spread of light pollution and to protect and promote dark sky localities.

13. Wisley Report

NT showed the committee a map of where the sky watching event will likely be. Moon phase was discussed – the optimum/least worst autumn weekend dates appear to be 6th/7th December. Help to be asked for nearer the time and Farnham & Ewell ASs and “The Baker Street Irregulars” may be invited to participate.

14. AOB

TE – Inreach/telescope training refresher ongoing. To be mentioned at next meeting before coffee and email out to gauge interest.

Change of venue suggested for pub after talk – Britannia suggested as alternative.

MB – Survey should be concluded with feedback at one of the monthly meetings –

March suggested.

15. Dates of upcoming meetings:

10th April 2019

22nd May 2019

24th July 2019

Next meeting: Wednesday 10th April at the Guildford Institute.