

Thaxted Astronomical Society

Committee Meeting



Wednesday 15th November 2023

Standing Agenda

**Mins from Last Meeting
Financial Report
AOBs**

Committee Meeting Of The Thaxted Astronomical Society

Attendees

Steve Evers
Rocky Grant
Paul Wilkins
Ray Williams
Graham Young

Apologies

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Committee Meeting Of The Thaxted Astronomical Society

1 Committee Meetings

- 1.1 Committee Meetings will be held at least four times a year.
- 1.2 A quorum shall be three members of the Committee to make the proceedings of that meeting valid.
- 1.3 Minutes shall be kept of the meeting of the Committee and the minutes of each meeting shall be read as the first business of the next ensuing meeting.
- 1.4 Committee Meetings to normally be held on a Wednesday evening, Ideally before the commencement of the ordinary Meeting, and again ideally prior to, but as close as possible to, the following dates so as to be ahead of the commencement of the next quarterly subscription period.
 - 1st January
 - 1st April
 - 1st July
 - 1st October > This Meeting > Delayed to the 15th November 2023
- 1.5 Each AOB is to be >
 - Uniquely numbered starting from 001 onwards
 - Placed within the minutes in its most logical location with respect to its neighbouring AOBs
- 1.6 These Mins of this specific meeting are based upon both the discussions held and conclusions reach during this meeting itself along with the information contained within the following supporting Presentation

TAS >

Thaxted Astronomical Society

Committee
Meetings

CT0003

Wed 15th Nov 2023

2 Mins From Last Meeting

2.1 Mins CT0001 17th July 2023 > Approved.

3 Financial Report

- 3.1 Current projected Ongoing Annual running costs are £150
- 3.2 Current Bank Balance is £371
- 3.3 RG presented, ahead of the committee meeting, an initial DRAFT financial statement for review and discussion
- 3.4 Action RG > to finalise this statement

4 AOB 002 Child Protection Policy CLOSED

- 4.1 Lorraine Bright has kindly agreed to step up in to the role of TAS Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)
- 4.2 Document *Thaxted AS Child Protection Policy 231002 V01r01* has now been unanimously approved, as being fit for purpose, by both the TAS DSO and all of the TAS Committee Members
- 4.3 This document *Thaxted AS Child Protection Policy 231002 V01r01* to now be immediately implemented and adhered to within TAS by all TAS members
- 4.4 AOB 002 Closed > CT0003 > 231115

5 AOB 015 Child Protection Policy Adherence

- 5.1 Action SE > To now progress with each club member that
 - A. They confirm that they have read, in full, this version of the TAS Child Protection Policy
 - B. That they also confirm that they will adhere, in full, with the contains of this document

6 AOB 005 Club Planetarium SUSPENDED

- 6.1 SE looking to make use of the Pavilion on the Rec to demonstrate the Planetarium
- 6.2 Still awaiting for Thaxted Rangers to investigate and confirm with the Fire Brigade the max capacity of persons allowed within the pavilion at the same time

7 AOB 003 Young Astronomers Club

- 7.1 With the Approval of the TAS Child Protection Policy SE to now start to progress the introduction of A TAS Led Young Astronomers Club
- 7.2 Action SE > Formulate a more detailed Plan of Approach

8 AOB 016 Out Reaching > Thaxted Primary School

- 8.1 SE has been made aware that the Head of Thaxted Primary School would like to meet with TAS with a view of arranging a mid-week after school Sky Watching Event for their Pupils
- 8.2 Action SE To arrange meeting

9 AOB 004 Out Reaching > Scouting Association

- 9.1 There are currently approx. 160 children registered with the Thaxted Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Rovers, each wanting to undertake their relevant Astronomy Badge
- 9.2 Still waiting for Rory to process SE DBS and registration as a Skills Instructor
- 9.3 With all of SEs own focus being directed towards gaining approval for the TAS Child Protection Policy, unfortunately we have made no further progress in this matter.
- 9.4 Action SE > Having now gained approval of the TAS Child Protection Policy SE will now look to engage again with local representation from the Girl Guiding and Scouting Associations

10 AOB 008 CM Agreements > CLOSED

- 10.1 Whilst discussing any topic it seems clear to me that amongst the five members of the Committee we have numbers of differences of personal opinions for reaching a conclusion to the topic
- 10.2 To finalise a TAS agreement I am proposing that we should first identify all of the options available.
- 10.3 Typically each CM should, if they wish, put forward their own personal favourite option
- 10.4 We should then hold a series of votes to determine the most favourable option
- 10.5 If there are 3 or more options then each Committee member will be allocated 2 votes to vote for their preferred and most favourable alternative option
- 10.6 Majority of votes to carry the decision
- 10.7 In case of a tie, the chair will cast the deciding vote
- 10.8 AOB 008 Closed > CT0003 > 231115

11 AOB 009 Collecting Membership Fees

- 11.1 Current Membership fees are £20 per household per year
- 11.2 Based upon current membership, current projected total membership fees pa is £560
- 11.3 It was unanimously agreed by the CM that the club needs to retain / hold a minimum of £200 club funds to meet any unexpected costs
- 11.4 Current projected Ongoing Annual running costs are now £150
- 11.5 Options discussed for 2024 included
 - C. Retaining Club Membership fees as is
 - D. Reducing Club Membership fees
- 11.6 It was unanimously agreed that we need to be clearer to the Members regarding the purpose behind for collecting subscriptions
- 11.7 Action GY > To draft a proposal regarding society's driving objectives and hence the purpose behind collecting subscriptions

12 AOB 010 Spending Membership Fees

- 12.1 Assuming that we were to continue to collect Membership fees, as a non-profit organisation how would we look to spend the funds?
- 12.2 Options discussed included
 - A. Purchasing more equipment
 - B. Paying for guest speakers
 - C. Subsidising Club Outings
- 12.3 With the addition of the Celestron NexStar 130mm Telescope recently donated to the club through Freecycle, It was unanimously agreed that at this time we have no further need to purchase another Club Telescope

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- 12.4 At this time, to facilitate further discussions, SE own personal preference would be to
- A. Purchase any additional components required to enable the new Celestron NexStar 130mm Club Telescope to be fit for loan to the members including a carry bag and local power source
 - B. Purchase a tripod to support the Dwarf2 Telescope
 - C. Purchase a banner to display TAS's presence at other events
- 12.5 Now awaiting on a decision to be made regarding > AOB 009 Collecting Membership Fees

13 AOB 012 Additional Lens > CLOSED

- 13.1 The Club Telescope CT0001 Celestron's Astro Fi 127 was supplied with two eyepieces (25mm and 10mm)
- 13.2 RG wondered if it would be beneficial to increase the range of Lens or even purchase better quality Lens to provide for a better quality view?
- 13.3 RG has now donated a 6.5mm eyepiece and a 2 x Barlow Lens to the Club Telescope CT0001
- 13.4 AOB 012 Closed > CT0003 > 231115

14 Appendix 1 > Key Agreements & Decisions

- 14.1 Action RG > To provide a financial statement ahead of each committee meeting
- 14.2 Financials > It was unanimously agreed by the CM that the club needs to retain / hold a minimum of £200 club funds to meet any unexpected costs
- 14.3 AOB 007 Membership Limitations
 - ✓ Max No of persons permitting within the Morris room at the same time is 22 seated plus a further 18 standing equating to a total of 40 persons
 - ✓ For now, limit Membership of TAS to 50 persons