

Thaxted Astronomical Society

Committee Meeting



Wednesday 19th July 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

These Mins of this specific meeting are based upon both the discussions held and conclusions reach along with the following supporting Presentation

TAS >

Thaxted Astronomical Society

Committee
Meetings

CT0002

Wed 19th Jul 2023

1 Mins From Last Meeting

1.1 Mins CT0001 16th May 2023 > Approved.

2 Financial Report

- 2.1 TAS have now finalised opening a Business Acct. with Lloyds Banking
- 2.2 SE has now transfer all of the existing club funds of £464 out of his own personal account into the TAS Acct
- 2.3 SE has also now paid in a cheque for £299 from the Thaxted Youth Centre in payment for the Planetarium.
- 2.4 SE has also paid in to the account a cheque for 219.31, the takings from the recent quiz night
- 2.5 That brought the balance of the TAS bank to £982.60
- 2.6 TAS then reimbursed SE £255 personal loan that was used to part fund the purchase of the new DWARF2 Telescope
- 2.7 TAS also reimbursed SE £299 personal loan that was used to fund the purchase of the Planetarium
- 2.8 TAS also reimbursed SE £27.50 for Quiz night Bolford St Hall Hire 2nd balance
- 2.9 TAS also reimbursed SE £21 for Quiz night Temp Events Drinks Licence (TENS)
- 2.10 SE has also paid in £30 for various new members cash payments membership fees
- 2.11 This bring the current balance of the TAS account to £411.33
- 2.12 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
- 2.13 Therefore, this bring the adjusted current balance of available funding down to £211.33
- 2.14 Current projected Ongoing Annual running costs are £100
- 2.15 Based upon current membership, current projected total membership fees pa is £560
- 2.16 Going forward, RG to provide a financial statement ahead of each committee meeting

3 AOB 001 Public Liability Insurances > CLOSED

- 3.1 TAS has now acquired PLI through FAS
- 3.2 The PLI does NOT cover personal Injury
- 3.3 Conclusion > to continue with the TAS Insurance Wavier declaration to overcome this limitation
- 3.4 AOB 001 Closed > CT0002 > 230719

4 AOB 002 Child Protection Policy

- 4.1 SE has now drafted a proposed Child Protection Policy (CPP), sent to the CM for Review
- 4.2 Consensus amongst the CM is that the document needs to be further reviewed by someone more knowledgeable in aspects relating to Safeguarding
- 4.3 SE to forward the document on to FAS and in particular their own Safeguarding team for them to conduct their own review of the suitability of the document

5 AOB 003 Young Astronomers Club > SUSPENDED

- 5.1 SE unwilling to progress this further until TAS has an approved CPP

6 AOB 004 Out Reaching > Scouting Association

- 6.1 There are currently approx. 160 children registered with the Thaxted Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Rovers, each wanting to undertake their relevant Astronomy Bade
- 6.2 Still waiting for Rory to process SE DBS and registration as a Skills Instructor
- 6.3 Conclusion > SE to chase up Rory

7 AOB 005 Club Planetarium

- 7.1 SE looking to make use of the Pavilion on the Rec to demonstrate the Planetarium
- 7.2 Currently 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

8 AOB 006 Quiz Night 24th May CLOSED

- 8.1 A seemingly successful night
- 8.2 We needed to sell 18 tickets to break even on costs
- 8.3 We sold a total of 39 tickets
- 8.4 Taking into consideration all upfront costs we ended up with a final profit of £155.81
- 8.5 AOB 006 Closed > CT0002 > 230719

9 New AOBs CT0002 230719

- 9.1 Utilising my own role as Chairman of TAS, the following Items reflect my own personal view and/or understanding of the discussions that took place at the last Committee Meeting

10 AOB 007 Membership Limitations > AGREED

- 10.1 Taking into consideration the following aspects
 - Due to Fire Regulations the maximum number 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
 - Club Membership currently stands at 37 members

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- Of these 37 Members 10 of them could be considered to be infrequent attendees
- Whilst the usage of the Swan Morris room is offered to us free of charge, moving to another venue would incorporate cost to hire that venue

10.2 The Conclusions reached were >

- ✓ Continue for now utilising The Swan Morris Room to hold our Club Meetings
- ✓ For now, limit Membership of TAS to 50 persons
- ✓ For now, any additional enquires would be placed on to a waiting list (1 Out / 1 In)

10.3 AOB 007 Closed > CT0002 > 230719

11 AOB 008 CM Agreements > PROPOSED

- 11.1 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
- 11.2 To finalise a TAS agreement I am proposing that we should first identify all of the options available.
- 11.3 Typically each CM should, if they wish, put forward their own personal favourite option
- 11.4 We should then hold a series of votes to determine the most favourable option
- 11.5 To overcome the issue of each CM just voting for their own proposed option, each CM will be allocated 2 votes to be utilised against 2 of the options, such as your own favourite option and most acceptable alternative option
- 11.6 Utilising the Chairman's prerogative and ahead of the next committee meeting, I now propose to take this conversation out of these mins and continue this discussion, in the near future, through a focused email thread
- 11.7 To Be Discussed further at our next CM

12 AOB 009 Collecting Membership Fees > PROPOSED

- 12.1 Current Membership fees are £20 per household per year
- 12.2 Based upon current membership, current projected total membership fees pa is £560
- 12.3 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
- 12.4 Current projected Ongoing Annual running costs are £100
- 12.5 Options discussed on the night included
 - A. Retaining Club Membership fees as is
 - B. Reducing Club Membership fees
- 12.6 To facilitate further discussions, my own personal option would be
 - ❖ To retain membership's fees as is for the next year 2024
- 12.7 By paying membership fees members are demonstrating their commitment to the club.
- 12.8 Typically with 20 planned club meetings per year, at £20 pa this equates to £1 per meeting. Plus free access to Members Star Party's and funding for both the club web site and FAS membership and PLI costs.
- 12.9 Personally I feel that this is good value and offset's the time and effort involved in the administrative running of the club
- 12.10 To Be Discussed further at our next CM

13 AOB 010 Spending Membership Fees > PROPOSED

- 13.1 Assuming that we were to continue to collect Membership fees, as a non-profit organisation how would we look to spend the funds?
- 13.2 Options discussed on the night included
 - A. Purchasing more equipment

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B. Paying for guest speakers

C. Subsidising Club Outings

13.3 Taking into consideration the following aspects

- Many members already own their own Telescope.
- The purpose of buying the first Club Telescope, the Celestron's Astro Fi 127 was to provide an opportunity for the other members to be able to sample the positives of owning their own Telescope
- The purpose of buying the second Club Telescope, the DWARF2, was to provide members with the opportunity of capturing their own Images of Deep Sky Objects. Very few of our members have high imaging cameras attached to their own Telescopes, most of our members rely upon smart phones to capture their images

13.4 To facilitate further discussions, my own personal option would be

- ❖ To both purchase more equipment and also to invite (i.e. pay) for guest speakers

13.5 Utilising the Chairman's prerogative and ahead of the next committee meeting, I now propose to take this conversation out of these mins and continue this discussion, in the near future, through a focused email thread

14 AOB 011 Web Site Management > AGREED

14.1 SE highlighted that the current contracted Web Site storage is almost fully utilised

14.2 A discussion took place amongst the CM regarding web site management including such options as

- A. Reducing the quantity of information held within the Document Repository
- B. Moving the Web Site to a different provider

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C. Purchasing more storage from a third party to hold the back-up raw documents

14.3 Taking into consideration the following aspects

- We are 2 years into a 3 year commitment to our Web Site provider WIX
- That it took SE just over a year to develop and build the existing site
- That moving the WIX Propriety built web site to another vendor would require the paid services of a 3rd party Web Site developer

14.4 The Conclusions reached were >

- ✓ Continue as now utilising WIX to host our TAS Web Site
- ✓ Purchase more storage from WIX

14.5 We currently pay £50 pa for WIX to host our web site, this includes up to 10Meg of Storage.

14.6 WIX offer a storage upgrade to 200 Meg for an additional £50 pa. Although this is far more storage than we could possibly require for the next few years, this option offered the easiest way forward to resolve our immediate issue of having no further storage available to upload any further documents

15 AOB 012 Additional Lens > PROPOSED

15.1 The Club Telescope CT0001 Celestron's Astro Fi 127 was supplied with two eyepieces (25mm and 10mm)

15.2 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?

15.3 The Conclusion reached was >

- ✓ At the first opportunity to test the Telescope using other members Lens, such as Wayne who is known to utilise better quality Lens
- ✓ Should this testing prove to be beneficial then we would review further our next steps