

Apologies: Chris Dole

Minutes: Accepted

Matters Arising: Chris has not checked yet on our website to see how many people are looking at Chris Hooker's write ups from our main meeting speakers, he will work on a counter for the website.

Mark has ordered a UHF microphone to see if it works better than our existing one.

Review of last Meeting: Very good response to the speaker, comments were that it was nice to have an engineering perspective.

The extra parking was a success so we will continue with this.

Steve Harris will get the new screen from Staples.

Beginners: Richard and Steve Knight have offered to talk on UFOs at the Christmas meeting

Ann will arrange a raffle with a prize from the BAA.

Upcoming events: Christmas Dinner is proceeding well, we have 39 participants at present

No news from Waitrose, could take a while.

Village Hall Burbage 24th February - Richard has enough helpers now, there will be a couple of talks and observing if weather permits. Details from Helen. It was suggested that we could have small stalls focusing on different areas of interest.

Steve H is looking into a venue in Thatcham for an Astro Evening in the new year, date to be decided. Thatcham council are helping to arrange but we need to decide how large we want it to be. Steve will check available dates with the organisers.

Membership review: Tony has devised a mechanism to track numbers of members. We need to make sure that people are signed in at the beginning of meetings. His spreadsheet is working for a better idea of what people are doing in the way of outreach. Various ideas for the future were discussed, Tony has things to get on with and explore now.

Finance: 4 new members at last meeting, making 79 now.

Money is coming in for the Xmas meal.

Peter will be away from mid January until after the 1st meeting of February, he would like someone to replace him for this period. Alan offered.

AOB: Steve K pointed out that there are two types of observing, 1 for amateur astronomers and 1 for the public. He suggested we look for specific sites to do observing for members.

Mark Gray advised us of Hackspace: "The Hackspace was created to promote and encourage technical, scientific, creative and artistic skills through collaboration and education in Newbury and the surrounding areas." This could be a useful organisation for Tony to engage with.

Nicky - Jason is paying £10 per month for our website. She suggested we move to a cheaper host. This was agreed by the committee.

Ann is looking at next years' programme. She explained that our 7th September meeting coincides with BAA's weekend meeting, she asked if we wanted to change our date for our first meeting, it was agreed that we would not. She is looking at ideas for next summer's outing.

Kath will be away for the last meeting of the year which is the AGM. We will need a volunteer to stand in to take the minutes and to collect the keys from Mencap in the morning.

John Napper asked for a link for photos to the website, Chris Douglas will take a look at it.

Thanks were expressed to Tony for allowing his house to be used for our meeting.

The next meeting 23rd January at Ann's house.