

## **Swindon Stargazers Annual General Meeting 25 March 2022**

### **AGENDA**

**Apologies:** John Arthurs, Tony Butwell, Bob Gatton, Dennis Golding, Stephen King  
25 people attended the meeting

#### **Minutes of AGM held 19 March 2021:**

Les Higgins proposed and Terry Johnson seconded these were correct. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

#### **Appointment of officers and committee:**

All current officers and committee present indicated they would be willing to continue in their roles if no other members wished to take them on.

Equally they were happy to pass their roles on to any other member who expressed a wish to take on their position.

#### **Appointment of Chairman**

Mike Partridge proposed and Dick Wall seconded that Robin Wilkey continue as Chairman. This was agreed by the members.

#### **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

Dennis Golding had indicated he was happy to continue in this role. Hilary Wilkey proposed and Malcolm Woods seconded that Dennis continue as Vice Chairman. This was agreed by the members.

#### **Appointment of Secretary**

Robin Wilkey proposed and Les Higgins seconded that Hilary Wilkey continue as Secretary. This was agreed by the members.

#### **Appointment of Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

Robin Wilkey proposed and Richard Salt seconded that Malcolm Woods continue as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. This was agreed by the members.

#### **Appointment of Website Administrator**

Malcolm Woods proposed and Clare Salmon seconded that Robin Wilkey continue as Website Administrator. This was agreed by the members.

#### **Appointment of Committee Members**

Owen Brazell, Clare Salmon and Rob Slack (co-opted) all indicated they would be willing to continue as Committee members. This was agreed by the other members. Bob Gatton was also appointed later and in absentia.

#### **Matters arising from these appointments**

The club's constitution states an Auditor should be appointed. However as an oversight none have ever been appointed and given the simple financial state of the Club it was questioned as to whether an auditor was required. Michael

Partridge mentioned that the only benefit is that it gave some 'protection' to the Treasurer. Les Higgins proposed and Hilary Wilkey seconded that the constitution be changed so no Auditor is appointed.

This was agreed by all present. Action: Hilary

### **Report of the chairman**

Robin mentioned the success of two events during the year: on the 10 June we organised an event to watch the partial eclipse of the Sun in conjunction with the National Trust at Avebury Manor.

By far our biggest event for us in the past 12 months was the Marlborough Dark Skies Fest at the end of October, where we helped organise an event called 'Stargazing On The Common' and had display table in the Town Hall, showing off the benefits of belonging to an astronomy club - displays included meteorites and a presentation of members astronomical photos.

Robin also thanked all the officers and committee members for their input during the last year. He will pass on his thanks to Dennis Golding for setting up all the Zoom meetings held for the club in an email. Robin also thanked Sylvie Pilot for providing the refreshments and all the members for their support of the club.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Malcolm Woods summarised that the club has £721 in the bank and £21 in cash. There are 2 fixed payments to be made - one to FAS so the club is covered for Public Liability and one for the hosting of the website. The club also pays a hiring fee to Liddington Village Hall. Due to the introduction of charges the club has changed it's bank from HSBC to Metro Bank.

Malcolm indicated he was willing to keep full membership fees at £18 and half membership September - March at £10 per year.

Owen Brazell proposed and Les Higgins seconded that full membership be rounded up to £20 p.a. so the club could build up financial reserves.

This was agreed by the members. Malcolm said he will send an email out to members with the new bank details so members can pay their membership fees by bank transfer.

### **Any other business**

Members are keen for the club's ad hoc viewing group to continue.

Richard Salt volunteered to set up Clare Salmon's original proposal of a WhatsApp group for Ad Hoc Viewing with this title. Interested members then gave Richard their mobile 'phone details. Malcolm Woods will email all members to inform them of the Ad Hoc Viewing group.

A different viewing site to accommodate many members was discussed as Blakehill Farm, now requires knowing the security code for the gate.

Rob Slack reminded the members that we have permission from the National Trust to view at Avebury providing no damage is done to the site.

Paul Newton-Smith suggested a north facing site in Highworth with a car park and conveniences.

Light pollution is increasingly becoming an issue for most of our ad hoc viewing venues close to Swindon.