



MEXBOROUGH & SWINTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Special General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 1st October, 2015 at 20:00

Present

Ollie Barker	Roy Gunson	Joan Launders	Mike Scollan
Alan Birch	Mike Hall	Glenn Marsden	Steve Taylor
Jo Botterill	Dave Holt	Les Marsden (Chair)	Elaine Walton
Michael Collinson	Anthony Hood	Tony Morris	Roy Wilcock
Paul D'Silva	Barry Jackson	Philip Muffett	Trevor Worrall
Alan Dibbo	Andrew Kirton-Vaughan	Michael Nicholls	
Dave Fenton		Jez Robinson	

Apologies

No Apologies were received.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 25th June, 2015 were considered and approved and duly signed as a true account.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

3. Observatory Extension Feasibility Study Report

Paul D'Silva presented the feasibility groups report on the options available to the Society for extension of the observatory facilities at Lea Brook Lane, Hooper.

During the presentation there were a number of questions and queries from the body of the membership.

"Where's the Money Coming from?"

It was thought that if the project was given to go ahead then there would be a need for £5,000 "seed" money. This would be returnable to club funds as soon as possible as it was foreseen that the bulk, if not all, the finance for the project could be obtained through grants and other donations.

"Questions were asked about the water supply"

Steve Taylor answered questions regarding the need for a water supply to the observatory – essential if a toilet is to be fitted. The "worst case" cost would be £28,000 if the whole of the water supply works is handled by Yorkshire Water. We need to pipe water from |Lea Brook Farm as we cannot encroach in any way onto the neighbouring reservoir. It should be possible to greatly reduce this cost by at least 90% of the above quoted figure, and Steve gave several options still open to the society which need further exploration. An indication of permission for the laying of a water pipe has been obtained from Wentworth Estates and the owners of Lea Brook Farm whose land would be affected.

“With regard to the possible closure of Swinton Bottom Club, where does this leave the society ?”

It was generally thought that the two situations were separate and that the funding of the observatory extension would have minimal or no effect on general club funds. It thought that it may be an idea to look at setting up a working group or similar looking at new club premises, and it was agreed that an agenda item on the Executive committee’s agenda on the search for new club premises should be included at least bi-monthly. This was a lively discussion showing a concern by many of the club members over this issue.

“What about the cost of the purchase of the observatory land?”

Paul D’Silva outlined the offer made to the society regarding the purchase of the land the observatory currently stands – on which we pay an annual rent to Yorkshire Water. At present we have no information regarding cost. After a discussion an impassioned plea was made by Mark Benton for the Society to commit to purchase of the land.

4. Vote on the proposed resolution

The meeting considered the proposal put forward by Paul D’Silva and seconded by Mick Scollan that:

“The society adopt the final report of the FSG and authorise the society to proceed to obtain necessary permissions and investigate the possible sources of funding.”

The resolution was approved by 22 votes for, 2 abstentions.

(One member having left prior to the vote)

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed.

Close 21:40