
Wednesday 29th July 2026 (Meeting held online via 'whats app')

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Peter Corbett (PC), Lillas Haye (LHe), Martina McGovern (MM), Paul Foreman (PF), Linda Harper (LH) Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all to meeting. Apologies noted from Nigel Bond and Lloyd Hughes

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as accurate account, can be posted to website.

3. Actions

LH to send PF details for Go Stargazing – agreed no further action needed. Complete

Safeguarding – MK waiting for replies to questions. Ongoing

Drop Box details circulated to committee, MK/MM can access, PC will resend to other members. Complete

Request for copy of Risk Assessment from WCA not received yet, MK will continue to request. Ongoing

10 year celebration – Ongoing

Survey re Astro Photography – PF/MM have this in place but needs revising as too involved at present, needs condensing. Ongoing

Seek agreement from WCA for plaque. Has been obtained. Complete

Gift for members for 10th anniversary, need to decide amount to be spent per person, agreed around £100 in total, bookmark preferred option. PC to look into options. (PC)

4. Finance

Good situation at present however this will not continue as expected to lose income from spring fayre.

Proposed changes include:-

Change Public Liability Insurance to FAS which will cost £50 but will not include insurance for equipment.

Committee meetings to be held online so saving made on cost of hiring room, however occasional in person meetings will be held.

Increase membership fees to £30, initial response from members about this has been positive.

Increase cost of refreshments to £2 but include re-fill of drink if wanted. To be implemented from September when membership year starts.

MK advised that this become a standing item to discuss finance each year.

MM asked if Spring Fayre definitely not likely to go ahead, MK advised within confidentiality constraints that it was highly unlikely.

Suggestion made that possibly some assets in terms of equipment could be sold to help finances.

Financial Update – 26/7/2026

General Account: £1,804.22

1. Balance Last Update (17/05/2026): £1,448.03
2. Outgoings: £671.66-
 1. Speaker (Keith Townsend): £100.00-
 2. Hall Hire – Jul to Dec 2026 (Whepstead Community Association): £490.00-
 3. Kustom Clothing – Polo Shirts x 2 + Delivery (Mike Kirkham): £36.00-
 4. Merci Chocolates for Liz Harlaar – Spring Fayre Printing (Martina McGovern): £10.00-
 5. Battery for Celestron Power Tank (Martina McGovern): £18.70-
 6. Duracell Batteries – Red Dot Finders (Peter Corbett: 000158): £5.05-
 7. UGreen USB Hub 3.0 (Peter Corbett: 000159): £6.28-
 8. Celestial Crystal Ball (Peter Corbett: 000159): £5.63-
3. Income: £1,027.85
 1. Spring Fayre (BSE BIDCO): £800.00
 2. Polo Shirts x 2 (Bob Scott): £24.00
 3. Meade Mount Sale (Paul Foreman): £24.37
 4. Bank Cash – Coffee Pot: £137.48
 5. Membership 2025/26 (4 members): £42.00

Cash: £28.25

1. Coffee Pot: £28.25 (see below)

Total: £1,832.47

Coffee Pot

1. Balance Last Update (17/05/2026): £97.14
2. Takings: £67.85
3. Re-stock: £9.26-
4. Donation (Telescope Setup): £10.00
5. Bank Cash: £137.48

5. Members Programme

Programme in place until end of year 9th December

Changes made change meeting from August 5th to 12th to be able to observe Solar Eclipse
Meeting on Oct 14th changed to 21st due to previous hall booking.

Future Programme Coordinator – as NB has decided to step back from this role need new committee member willing to take this role. Agreed does not have to have specific knowledge/interest.

Suggestion made that Julian and Alison Lisher be approached to see if they would be interested in taking on the role. MK will take forward. (MK)

Agreed need a good balance on programme, NB has good baselist of subjects that members like to revisit.

MK will liaise with NB to check if he is still able to do presentations. (MK)

6. Events/Outreach

MK advised that initial consent has been given for BSEAA to have a small presence in the apex on the 2 nights that Tim Peake is appearing.

7. Equipment

MM posts details of equipment available to borrow before each meeting. Not much uptake during this time of year. Need to encourage members to borrow.

PF raised issue of donations, people are grateful for response from us however we need to check their location and if necessary suggest a club nearer to them.

8. Celebrating 10th Anniversary

Agreement from WCA for plaque to be put up, it can be on the notice board in the hallway as a portion of this board is ours to use.

9. AOB

MK advised that WCA have now said that we can have an extra ½ hour each side of meeting times as previous, this means that the meeting will start at 7.30pm and finish at 9.30 but will allow time for set up and clearing away.

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
P1	Safeguarding issues – still awaiting replies	MK	Ongoing
P1	Risk Assessment from WCA- still awaiting response	MK	Ongoing
P1	10 year celebration -	All	Ongoing
P2	Survey re Astro-Photography	MM/PF	Ongoing
P2	Gift for member for 10 year celebration – bookmark, pc to explore options	PC	Ongoing
P2	Julian and Alison Lisher to be approached re joining Committee	MK	New
P3	MK to check with Nigel B if still happy to do presentations once steps back from committee	MK	New

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