

Minutes of Sigma Annual General Meeting Held at Birne Village Hall, 6 Jan 2006

Present:

Karen Cox (Chairman)
Ian Brantingham (Secretary)
Peter Fitch (Treasurer)
Bill Leslie (Events Co-ordinator)
Richard Green (Committee Member)
Tam Fairley (Committee Member)
Robert Roseweir (Committee Member)
Andrew Reddy (Committee Member)

James Bow	Kay Stuart	Charlotte Alldritt	Ian Lambart
Roger Williams	Anne Burgess	Christopher Jennings	Colin Smart
Alan Tough	George Morris	John Taylor	Chris Stradling
George Young	Donald Urquhart	John Watson	Cecilia Hawco
Helen Williamson	Emily Alldritt	Mandy Alldritt	Lucy Alldritt
Anne Paton			

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Karen Cox welcomed the members present to the sixth Sigma AGM.

2. Apologies

Pam Gordon Eric & Wendy Hughes Ian Shayer Angus Gallacher Keith Kingham

3. Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on 7th January 2005, and the EGM held on 5th August 2005, had been distributed to members prior to the 2006 AGM.

All members present agreed that these documents were a true representation of the two events.

4. Matters arising

The change of name from "Sigma" to "Moray's Astronomy Club, Sigma" was proposed by Bill Leslie and seconded by Mandy Alldritt. All members agreed and Constitution 1.1 will be changed accordingly to reflect the new name.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented her report on the Society's activities during the year. She outlined the year's accomplishments, paid tribute to the guest speakers, and thanked the Committee members for their help and hard work. Finally, she thanked all the members for their continuing support and help throughout the year.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

Karen Cox reported a membership of 51 for the year, with 12 brand new members joining during the year and very good meeting attendances.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts for the accounting period 1.11.2004 - 30.10.2005. Club income was £2993 with an expenditure of £3126 for the year and the balance at 30 October 2005 was £669. Membership fees for 2006 will be held at £15 for Ordinary Membership, £20 for Family Membership, and £7.50 for Student Membership. It was proposed by Richard Green and seconded by Tam Fairley that the accounts be passed. All members agreed.

8. Proposed Change to Constitution 6.1

The Treasurer proposed that the financial year be changed to the calendar year for ease of accounting. It was proposed by Peter Fitch and seconded by Richard Green, that Para 6.1 shall read "The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December." All members present agreed and 6.1 of the Constitution will be changed accordingly.

9. Proposed Change to Constitution 8.4.

The Chairman suggested that it would be better to have the AGM in June as it would not affect observing, as well as making it easier to set the membership subscriptions, prior to renewal on 1st January, to coincide with the start of the new financial year. The down-side was that the Committee would remain elected for 18 months and, unless an EGM was held in the interim, subscription rates would be held at the same level until 2008. It was proposed by Bill Leslie and seconded by Alan Tough that the AGM be moved to June, with the next AGM being June 2007. All members present agreed and 8.4 of the Constitution will be changed accordingly.

10. Election of Office Bearers

a) Chairman

Proposed by Ian Brantingham and seconded by Helen Williamson, that Karen Cox be elected as Chairman. All members present agreed.

b) Secretary

Proposed by Ian Lambart, and seconded by Bill Leslie, that Ian Brantingham be elected as Secretary. All members present agreed.

c) Treasurer

Proposed by Bill Leslie, and seconded by Anne Burgess, that Peter Fitch be elected as Treasurer. All members present agreed.

d) Committee Member

Proposed by Mandy Alldritt, and seconded by George Morris, that Bob Roseweir be elected as a Committee member. All members present agreed.

e) Committee Member

Proposed by Anne Burgess, and seconded by Christopher Jennings, that Bill Leslie be elected as a Committee member. All members present agreed.

f) Committee Member

Proposed by Bill Leslie, and seconded by Lucy Alldritt, that Alan Tough be elected as a Committee member. All members present agreed.

g) Committee Member

Proposed by Richard Green, and seconded by Charlotte Alldritt, that Andrew Reddy be elected as a Committee member. All members present agreed.

h) Committee Member

Proposed by Karen Cox, and seconded by Richard Green, that Tam Fairley be elected as a Committee member. All members present agreed.

This brings the total of committee members to 8.

11. Programme for 2006

Bill Leslie outlined the programme arranged for the first half of 2006. He exhorted members to support the Friday and Saturday observing evenings at the bothy.

12. Any Other Club Business

12.1. Club President

Helen Williamson asked why there was no Club President, and if one should be appointed. After a short discussion, it was deemed unnecessary to elect a Club President at the present time.

12.2. Investing Club Funds

Ian Lambart asked if it would be possible to invest any extra Club funds, or use higher interest rates, to create a possible income for any future projects or purchases. The Committee agreed to look into both possibilities.

12.3. Public Liability

Mandy Alldritt asked about public liability. The Secretary replied that the Federation of Astronomical Societies covers the club for £5,000,000 for third party claims as part of our membership of that Body.

12.4. Club Insurance

Charlotte Alldritt asked about insurance of Club property. The Secretary replied that cover for Club use was in place on the necessary items, however, this was costing the club £138 per year. This figure was deemed acceptable by the Committee.

12.5. Wish List

Colin Smart asked if the Club has any plans to buy new equipment. The Secretary replied that while plans were at an early stage for more equipment, it would depend on the demand by Club members, which at present was at a low level. It was also suggested that an inventory be created to inform Club members of the equipment held at the bothy and what was available for them to use. The Committee agreed to look into creating an inventory.

12.6. Book List

Ian Lambart asked if there were any books the Committee could recommend as good reading for improving astronomical knowledge. Bill Leslie agreed to supply a list of useful astronomy books.

There being no further business, the AGM was closed at 8:35pm.

Ian Brantingham
Secretary