



Science & Technology Group

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
Monday 28th November 2022 at 10:30 am
at Greenacre, Ridge, Wareham

Attendance:

Nick Burden, John Churchill, Richard Cottrell, John Hale (Chair), Ian Mogford, Nigel Tennant

1. Welcome to New Committee Members

Richard Cottrell and Nick Burden were welcomed as new members of the Committee.

David Harris, a founder member on the Committee, was remembered for his ten years of service as Speaker Secretary. It was requested that the Chairman send a letter of thanks to his widow, Margaret, formally expressing appreciation for his work. [Done - JH]

Nick also agreed to pass on the Committee's thanks to her verbally.

2. Matter Arising from Last Year's Minutes

Item 1: It was confirmed that the H&W Brewery refund had been added to Committee Funds. It was confirmed that no deposits for the cancelled event had been taken.

Item 2 & 3: It was reported that Nick Ward and Alan Tuner had been approached to see if they wanted to join the Committee but had not responded. John C confirmed he had asked Alan Neal to join the Committee, as yet Alan was undecided.

Item 5: Nigel confirmed that he still intended to move as soon as events allowed.

The Minutes of 2nd December 2021 were agreed.

3. Past Year's Meetings - Attendance Figures

Nigel explained the figures used to be obtained by a combination of names on the tick list, head count and monitory contributions. These figures rarely tallied so he now used the tick list only. The figure for October 2022 was 28 and the figure for November was 31. Richard asked how these compared with pre-Covid figures. Nigel confirmed that the figures for pre-Covid were 35-50 depending on the talk. It was agreed to allow for more meetings before assessing the trend.

Change to Harman's Cross Hall

It was confirmed that the Science and Technology meetings were now taking place at Harman's Cross Hall. This allowed for an improvement to technology and the facility of free parking – it also means PU3A takes advantage of hire charge reduction. The only perceived disadvantage was the lack of public transport. Richard suggested that members be encouraged to car share with those members who needed help with travel. No complaints about the change of venue had been received so far.

Members who had been able to attend on Zoom during Covid but were unable to attend the Hall were being offered live-streaming via a Zoom link.

It was confirmed that the Harman's Cross Hall had been booked for 2023.

4. Future of meetings; Live-streaming meetings

John C suggested that Zoom was an added technical complication and sometimes difficult for the speaker. Nick gave an account of his experience of speaking to both a Zoom and Hall audience saying he had not found this unduly difficult. John H explained that, although there were a few technical problems with combining Zoom and Hall sound at the first session, these had now been overcome. The Zoom participants received live sound and pictures and they were also able to interconnect with the speaker for Questions. Priority would always be given to the Speaker and Hall audience. The Committee thought the Zoom service important for those physically unable to attend. It was pointed out that a Speaker could be shown to the Hall audience on screen via Zoom enabling Speakers to be obtained from out of this area. Richard pointed out that Dorchester has an S&T meeting at the same time as Purbeck. The Committee agreed to continue with both a Zoom link and live Hall presentation.

Ian raised the question of those members providing tea and coffee always missing a part of both the talk and questions. Various suggestions were put forward and it was agreed that refreshments to be served from 9.50 – 10.20 and clearing up to be done after the meeting. This to take place on a trial basis from January 2023 and the situation to be monitored.

5. Committee staff changes and timetable for leaving

Nigel confirmed he would be leaving as soon as he was able to move. The Committee thanked him for the work he had done for the Science and Technology Group.

John C confirmed he wanted to leave the Committee, as he could no longer commit to continuous attendance. He would however continue with light duties as a 'minister without portfolio'.

6. Committee Duties: Designation of duties at meetings: Refreshment duties by member volunteers, Supervised by a Committee Member

John H suggested that the members no longer varied their duties on a monthly basis but were designated with a permanent task with a stand-in Committee member for when they were on holiday or unable to attend.

Richard to contact introduces Speakers and to thank them - John H for backup.

John H - Technology - Nick for backup.

John C - Front of House. Taking the money and overseeing members completing tick list - Nick for backup. Nigel to produce tick list.

Ian, Nigel and Nick to supervise in the Kitchen. Volunteers to help.

Change of time for refreshments to be trialled from January 2023.

Nick to take over Group Accounts as Treasurer.

Nigel raised the point that varied duties were sometimes welcome. It was agreed that the system could allow for a degree of flexibility on a personal basis if tasks needed to be covered.

7. Presentation of Accounts

Nigel explained the Membership, Attendance and Finances figures:

Our membership at November 2020 was 122.

Our membership at November 2022 was 111.

Attendance for October was 28 and November 31 these figures to be amended on the list circulated for Agenda Item 3.

The balance of funds up to 16th November 2022 stood at £209.39

The Accounts up to 16th November 2023 were agreed.

Ian was to be reimbursed for the purchase of supplies for refreshment by Nick.

John C was to pass money collected from members and visitors to Nick.

8. Collecting entrance feeds; Paying Speakers; Buying and paying for catering goods

It was agreed that:

John C was to collect entrance fees.

Nick was to pay any Speakers expenses.

Nick was to reimburse Ian for any refreshments purchased.

Nick was to present Accounts to the Annual Science and Technology Group Committee Meeting.

9. Entrance Charge

After discussion it was unanimously agreed to increase the Entrance Charge from 50p to £1.00 from January 2023.

John C expressed his concern as to the fairness of Zoom participants not contributing to the payment of Speakers. It was agreed to carry on with the Hall audience paying the Entrance Charge as this fee covered the cost of refreshments while the Zoom audience provided their own. Ian suggested that the attendance figures of both the Hall and Zoom members and the cost of funds for Speakers be monitored and reviewed if necessary.

10. Committee duties and Availability Sheet

It was agreed to carry on with the Availability Sheet. John H asked members to let him know when they knew they would be away and unable to attend meetings. The Availability Sheet would be available online.

11. The new S&T Website

It was noted that the new website can now be accessed by simply typing "pu3a tech" into Google.

John H confirmed that "pu3a tech" is put on pre-meeting notices.

12. HX Hall: Standby audio & projector settings if John H unavailable

John H agreed to arrange a time for Nick to be shown the basic Hall technology for unexpected times of his non-availability.

13. Bookings for 2023

Richard said that, working from the list compiled by David Harris, he had booked Speakers up to June 2023. He had approached the Fleet Air Arm

Museum and SS Shield Hall Museum for speakers and was awaiting replies. There may be a chance of a field trip in the summer.

John C suggested Colin Divall, and Brian Cresswell from the local firm providing technology for animal tracking.

It was suggested that Richard look back through the website Past Meetings page for ideas for speakers. If anyone had any ideas for speakers please would they contact Richard.

14. Any Other Business

John H showed encouraging visitor statistics from the S&T website (Below) John C suggested that for the future Debates, Quizzes, Brains Trust, Two Short Talks per meeting and Standby Films may also be considered.

The meeting ended at 12.35pm



S&T Website – Visits in November 2022