**NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY SOCIETY LIMITED**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes of the meeting held 12th November 2018**

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Heather Grant

1. **To approve the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting**

Approved subject to a minor amendment.

1. **To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman**

The chairman announced that the Building work for the new extensions has gone very well. Thanks were expressed to Colin Smith who came up with the contractor recommendation. A very generous grant was received from Sid Vale Association’s Keith Owen Fund of 20K. In addition to this, the NLOS have received a very substantial and generous donation of 85K from a long-standing member, Jean Edyvean who passed way last year. This is testament of how much the NLO is valued in the community and by its members.

The NLO have been selected in the next round of Co-op sponsored charities. 1% of sales of selected own brand products are allocated to their chosen charity. Members are therefore urged to use the Co-op as 1% will come to the NLO.

The new classroom will mainly be used for Astroscouts and school visits. The extra space will be able to accommodate the increased numbers in these groups. Thanks to Kathleen Dollery, Karen Williams and Andy Anning for all their hard work in running the Astroscouts.

Further thanks were expressed to Brian Ward-Smith, Allan Brittan and Pete Youd for all their hard work on getting Connaught telescope operational – which should be operational soon.

The NLO Glass Plate Archives Digitising project discussions are still in progress. The panel is due to meet in December to look at funding. These will be ranked in order of funding priority. Public engagement will be a key selling point and the possible activities benefits to the NLO, include workshops, History and Astro imaging. No funding from the NLO is required for this project and it is due to be complete in July 2022.There are talks of a screen for visitors to view the images, possibly You-tube videos with a short documentary on Lockyer’s legacy.

The Glyn Marsh telescope has been returned to the NLO but remains the property of EDDC in line with all other Historical telescopes on site. EDDC are happy to support the NLO with this project as it enhances the facilities at the NLO. The Telescope is currently planned to be installed in the new extension as a display piece.

Thanks were expressed to all those involved in running the Science Festival day and to all members that have helped run this and other events throughout the year.

Mac and Ken were thanked for their help with many open days throughout the year. Thanks were also expressed to the gardening team, Heather, Dave, Hilary and Barry for keeping the grounds in an excellent and safe condition. Further thanks were expressed to Allan Brittan for looking after the telescopes.

It was announced that due to ill health Colin Smith is retiring from his role as a Director. Thanks were expressed for his contribution to the Board and everyone from the Society wish him the very best.

Volunteers are urgently required to take over the roles of organising the Astro Fair and the Open Evening rota. Kate Nursey has agreed to carry on the Astro Fair for now, however, she is wishing to retire from this role in the future. Kate Kay is still doing to Open Evening Rota but wishes to pass this role on as soon as possible.

This year we sadly lost our founding chairman, Jack Wickings. In line with his family’s wishes his ashes were buried in the foundations of the new building, so he will always be with us.

Iain Grant asked the chairman if he could provide the AGM with justification as to why the LTC building was closed. Another member (name unknown) also raised concerns about the communications regarding the closure as this was felt to be vague with the reasons unclear.

In response the chairman provided the AGM with the following statement from the Board:

“Most of you are already aware that a decision was made by the Board in the summer to close the Radio Astronomy Group.

This was an incredibly difficult decision to make following a number of events which had taken place which meant that the group was not operating in a way which supported the friendly, inclusive and welcoming ethos of the Society, and also included a direct refusal to carry out a reasonable request by the board in the light of valid financial and safety concerns.

All members are equal members and have the right to be and should be welcomed and included in any interest group they wish. If a member or a group of members are being alienated from any interest group and they are experiencing any kind of hostility the Board will take a zero-tolerance policy to this.

The decision was made to open a new Group, the Technology Group, which is being Championed by Ken Bailey. Although not fully operational yet due to the building works. Once this interest group is up and running it will be available for any member to be part of with the fundamental aim to run a number of projects of scientific and educational interest with technological equipment of many types for members, the public, future generations and the wider science community.”

The chairman acknowledged that the communications around the closing of the LTC could have been clearer. But also pointed out the reason the building is currently closed is because it is being extended so is out of bounds for members and public alike. This was called into question during the discussion.

After much debate it was agreed by a show of hands to appoint impartial member/s to review the issues around the decision to close the LTC for the RAG to use. This motion was carried 34 for and 6 against.

1. **To receive the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018**

The Treasurer reported on the accounts and it was noted that these are similar to previous years. The building works for the extension of LTC and classroom are obviously significant sums of money, but with the grants and donations received the majority if not all of the costs will be covered for this major project. The Council offered a low interest of 50K of which, 25K has been drawn down as this was before the large donations were received, but it not expected that the final 25K will be required.

1. **To re-appoint as the Society’s auditors Easterbrook Eaton Ltd and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration**.

Proposed by Kathleen Dollery and seconded by Des Howlett.

 **6. Election of Directors:**

The following nominees were appointed as Directors onto the Board and were congratulated.

David ALEXANDER

Andrew ANNING

Des HOWLETT

David STRANGE

Hugh TAYLOR

Brian Ward-Smith, Dave Jones and David Pavey were not successful in being appointed onto the Board. They were thanked for the valuable contribution they made while they were Directors.

**7. Any other business**

AGM procedures were questioned by Iain Grant. Board members have looked at this issue and agree that the rules and the Articles of Association on this subject can be mis-interpreted. It was agreed that the Board will amend the rules to match the current procedure.

The Chairman closed the formal proceedings of the AGM and then invited Interest Groups, Sections, Members' Forum & Workgroups to share their achievement of this year.

***Sharon Jones***

NLOS Company Secretary