

## **Dorchester Men's Shed**

Minutes of a meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 ; 5pm.

Venue : Poet Laureate Inn – Poundbury

**Present : Graeme Trinder (GT), Peter Shakespeare (PS), Andrew Brindley (AB), Jack Goward (JG)**

**Ben Lewington (BL), Jason Outlaw (JO), Guy Patterson (GP), Ben Spinks (BS), Matthew Thorndale-Finn (MTF), Geoffrey Wilkinson (GW), Mike Woodbridge (MW), Brian Fowler (BF), George Vincent (GV), Greg Schaven (GS), Rob Luton (RL), Chris ???**

**This inaugural meeting began with a welcome from the initiator of this venture, Graeme Trinder, who went on to give an explanation of the background to Men's Sheds. GT further stated that there were now 15 potential members and thanked all for coming. He envisaged, as with all Men's Sheds there would be workshop area and a social area. The simple philosophy would be that of using members already acquired skills and sharing these with those who wish to gain some practical woodworking skill. There would be no structured or programmed of tasks to complete as with learning courses within training establishments. Attendance would be as the member wants and learning would be at their pace and he envisaged an opening around April/May.**

**GT encouraged those present to give a short profile of themselves and with two declaring carpentry and joinery skills in addition to GT, there was also experience of wood turning, picture framing, French polishing was mentioned, as was varnishing. JO, BL and GS explained that as established and experienced contractors they had a wide variety of timber related skills.**

**The range of experience across all the attendees covered those with long experience to those with no woodworking skills which was why they had come to the meeting.**

**GT said at this point it now required the members to form a committee. He explained that PS had agreed to stand as Chairman and asked Peter to continue. PS said although he had virtually no woodworking skills he after researching Men's Sheds on the internet was fully in support of Graeme's venture and that he could bring his experience of chairmanship to the Shed.**

**JO said that Peter was currently the Chair of a residents association and was very complimentary and confident that he was right for the position. Following a proposal, Peter was elected as Chairman.**

**GT said that there were a number of planned meetings, the Town Clerk, the tool companies Axminster and Triton, funding agencies and many others and he felt that these required the presence of the Shed secretary. A proposal was given and Graeme was elected as Secretary and fund holder.**

**Discussion took place with regard to additional committee members and the following were proposed and elected as full Committee members, Brian Fowler, Jason Outlaw and Ben Lewington.**

**GT stated that there would have to be more regular meetings until the venture was established and then the Committee could review and plan for meetings on a regular pattern.**

**Raising money was discussed and it was explained there would be opportunities to sell products made at local and county fairs and other outlets.**

**JO said that he was very experienced in raising funds through local sponsorships and would certainly assist with contacts. He also said that his contractual employer and owner of the Nursing Home may be open to sponsor discussions.**

**GP, who was a guest observer from Sherborne, where he is currently starting to initiate moves to open a Shed there, gave very good advice with regard to drawing down funding called 'Pop Fund' and said he would keep in touch with Graeme.**

**GT opened the discussion regarding joining and membership fees and he proposed a one off joining fee and then when the Shed was up and running an annual membership fee or a monthly standing order. This would be £40 with a monthly standing order of £30 or one fee of £300. Some members thought this could be a problem for incoming and potential members in that it represents a large financial outlay. A day fee was discussed and although it was felt that this could mean a day cash book and entry, money on the premises and weekly visits to the bank. This may be the**

best way to encourage membership. Caution was advised that the Shed does not create barriers to those individuals who may be on limited finances e.g. Job Seekers Allowance, Benefits, reduced income through retirement etc.

Opening times were discussed and these would be dependent on members demand and also available committee. GS said that the size of the premises would dictate the number of members and reminded all of the need to explore H&S requirements including First Aid.

There was also a reminder that all members would need to participate in an initial induction before being allowed full access to tools and equipment.

GT said he had a number of premises in mind and they would be part of the forthcoming meetings.

GS and JO both stated that there was an empty building on the left on the road into the Grove Trading Estate which was worth exploring. GT said he would ask at his meeting with the Town Clerk.

With there being no further business the date and time of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 17.30 in the Poet Laureate Inn, Poundbury.

**Peter Shakespeare**  
Chairman of Dorchester Men's Shed.

