

## **Dorchester Men's Shed**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2016 at 5:30pm.**

**Venue: Poet Laureate Inn – Poundbury**

Present: Graeme Trinder, Peter Shakespeare, Brian Fowler, Jeff Wilkinson, David Jupp, Vin Sootarsing, Angela Woodhouse.

Apologies : Jason Outlaw, Ben Lewington, Stuart Smith, Martin Borberg, Adrian Wood, Tony Bevins and Kelvin Biles.

Graeme welcomed a new Shed member, Angela Woodhouse, whose specialist skill is stained glass. He also stated that there were three more paid up new members, Kevin Biles, Stuart Darley and Michael Harden.

With departures and incomings the Shed membership now stands at 23.

It was good to see Brian Fowler back with us after his long period of absence due to family illness.

GT also said that December was the first month that the Shed was in the Black for finance. This was due in the main to the monies received from a number of projects, in particular the Dolls House saw a donation of £275 and the Boat has already brought an initial donation of £100 to get the project underway.

Attendance money is understood to be a problem, together with lack of confidence in using the machines, the small number of members coming to the workshop.

Comment from the floor was that for some members, getting to the workshop is the problem as it is not within walking distance and there are no buses.

Graeme said that Future Roots had a new manager and he was reorganising their community schedules for their Thursday's Countryman's Club. This could mean an opportunity to utilise their mini-bus collection points and times.

Graeme T. offered up car sharing as a possibility.

Brian F. also pointed out that he thought that members coming to the workshop, paying their £5 for their morning or afternoon session then being expected to help work on a 'project' seemed to be an expensive outlay.

Peter S. asked for this matter to be deferred to AOB.

Graeme T. said that Shed awareness was growing and he had recently had two slots on Radio Solent albeit early mornings.

Angie W. raised the possibility of attending the Dorset Art & Craft's Association's Exhibition on July 29th at Wareham School and showcase what we do. This would cost us £20 for 5 days.

Peter S. said we could offer the Portland and Poole Sheds an opportunity to join forces for the exhibition.

Brian F. and David Jupp both said that they felt there was a need for further training sessions to ensure members had the confidence and competence to operate the equipment.

It was agreed that a programme of training should be created eg. using chisels, changing blades, sander belts, types of joints etc.

David J. went further and said there is a need for another induction session for machine operating but this needed to be a hands-on comprehensive session with the member being able to produce something from this training.

Graeme T. said the Nativity Figures were well thought of and were handed over to the Mayor and were the background to Poundbury Carol Service.

Manning the Shed was still an issue and this has fallen mainly to Graeme. He stated the need to establish a definitive list of members who would be able to open up the workshop on Session days and act as 'supervisor' for the Session.

Access to the Keys would be arranged.

He will make this request to members through e-mail.

There is now an opportunity to help refurbish the Boat, replacing timbers, stripping old varnish off, probable caulking and of course finishing varnish.

Another project is creating a model Spitfire for the Spitfire Hall.

This raised comments with regard to who does what. Peter S. pointed out there was now a couple of 'Project' books and these could be used to identify what needed to be done, what had been done perhaps identifying who work on the project.

This again raised the session fee structure, and Peter S. moved the agenda to AOB. David J. again reiterated the need for structured training with a positive outcome in the form of the member producing something that would confirm their competency. He also felt that these training sessions should be paid for by the members.

Peter S. said that he supported Brian F's point regarding the session fees in that he felt that £5 per am session and £5 per pm session may be considered a bit expensive. Especially if a member wants to spend a Tuesday and a Thursday at the workshop. Graeme said there may be different ways to do this, a monthly fee, a one off payment giving each member unlimited access and he would review this.

There being no further business the date of the next meeting was agreed as end of February with the date to be confirmed in due course.

Peter Shakespeare

Chairman Mens Shed.