

## Dorchester Men's Shed

Minutes of a meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 ; 5:30pm.

Venue : Poet Laureate Inn – Poundbury

**Present :** Graeme Trinder, Peter Shakespeare, Vin Sootaring, Tony Bevins, Brian Sheppard, Stuart Smith, Jeff Wilkinson, Adrian Wood.

**Apologies :** David Jupp, Rory Wilkinson, Jeff Wilson, Ken Marlow, Michael Harden, Ed Mitchell. Martin Borberg arrived to discuss a matter with the Secretary and left with apologies prior to the start.

The meeting commenced with the Chairman welcoming a new member, Adrian Wood and then summarising the meeting notes of 29<sup>th</sup> April. There being no matters arising from that meeting, Peter S. signed off the minutes and handed over to Graeme T.

**Finance:** Graeme gave an overview of the Shed's current finances in that the Bank Account held £3,437 and that included a recent donation of £500 from the Car Boot Fund however full expenditure is expected with an itemised list otherwise the excess must be returned.

**Membership:** Following recent e-mails sent out by the Secretary and after collating the responses, the membership is currently 18.

**Matters Arising:** The Band Saw is now fully operational, its failure was due to a faulty micro-switch. The Shed has invested in a small belt sander and a palm-sander. There was discussion with regard to member's personal tools and Peter S. agreed there was a need for a secure and lockable steel cabinet for all members.

Some disappointment was expressed with the overall attendance down at the Shed. It was suggested that this might just be the nature of circumstances in that it is the first summer for the Shed, there will be Sheddies who are on holiday, looking after grandchildren during school holidays etc. and inevitably just enjoying outings during the fine fine weather. It was felt that once the nights lengthen and winter beckons then we should see a rise in attendance.

We are aware that the Shed is not in its most easily accessible location and should weekly sessions show a regular cohort of attendees then the Committee would be talking to those organisations with people carriers to help with transport to and from the Shed.

**Current and Future Projects:** Graeme stated that we have two projects in the pipeline with one already completed.

1. To produce Nativity figures for Poundbury ... four sheets of chipboard have been given and it was agreed that Martin Borberg would lead on this. It is expected that the background painting will be done by Future Roots attendees. A suggestion was given by Vin to talk to B&Q who he felt would help and maybe provide display huts for the figures.
2. Simon Conibear, the Duchy Estate manager has offered a clinker boat for renovation, the boat dates from 1912 and is approx. 2.5m long.
3. The Judge Jeffreys sign which hung above the Prezzo restaurant in High West Street, Dorchester was offered as a project together with a donation of £100 for materials. This was to remove the rotting frame and replace without any damage to the painted Judge. This was accomplished through Graeme and the Shed received good publicity on the rehang of the sign with the Echo in attendance taking pictures.
4. Brian Sheppard has a dolls house requiring a full restoration with the owner providing funds up to £300 for materials. He also has an 'order' for a rocking horse similar to the one currently residing down the Shed.  
Brian stated he is also looking for members interested in taking this forward under his tutorage. He explained that to make a rocking horse from start to finish takes approx. 350 hours.

Peter S. suggested a 'Wanted' list could be set up in the Shed and members could simply put their name and contact number against any project they would be interested in. Graeme T would also send wanted requests out via e-mail.

The requirements for Machinery Training was raised and it was felt now is the time to formalise a planned programme.

There was discussion about the need to check and sharpen all chisels, drill cutters etc. Tony Bevins kindly offered to take all such tools as he has the necessary grinding equipment and thanks were expressed for his offer.

Brian S. said that a programme of training for the setting up of machinery such as the Band Saw, how to change blades, drill sharpening etc. needs to be established.

Peter S. said that we must procure the required PPE, gloves, goggles, aprons, masks before embarking on any training. He also suggested that posters showing the Do's and Don'ts of Workshop practice should be obtained and displayed round the workshop.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be in October on a date to be announced in due course. There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.30pm.