

## **Dorchester Men's Shed**

Minutes of the meeting held 21st April 2016

Venue : Poet Laureate Inn, Poundbury

Apologies were received from : Adrian Wood, Angela Woodhouse, Tony Bevins, Stuart Smith, Vin Sootarsing

Attending were : Graeme Trinder, Peter Shakespeare, David Jupp, Simone Walls- Macdonald, Garry Jones, John McCarthy, Christopher Luckhurst, Andrew Murray.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm with Graeme welcoming two new members, John McCarthy and Christopher Luckhurst to the Shed. He also introduced Andrew Murray who is going to deliver the Machine Training. He also reported that Angela Woodhouse is recovering well after her operation. We wish her well.

Graeme said that the finance is looking reasonable but there he is still seeking further funding.

He went on to say that the current membership of 25 needs to be increased to 50 to ensure complete financial viability.

With an increased membership he could look to expanding the sessions perhaps in the evening or another day.

At present the current rent covers an evening session but we never have had the demand to open.

Andrew said that he would be willing to supervise an evening session, Graeme said that he would advertise this as a trial period.

A view was expressed that the Shed could/should encourage younger people to join. In reply Peter S. said that we really need to concentrate first on getting our registered members to attend.

A suggestion was put forward that on a Saturday, we could take a stand on South Street with a display of what we offer. Members with tee-shirts (Shed logo) would be available to engage with the public to promote the Shed.

David J. suggested as the membership renewal was out, then send out a questionnaire giving more structure and timetabling to the Shed's activities, also asking why members do not attend.

Garry stated that one of the reasons he joined was to meet likeminded people, have a chat and cup of tea, help out others with their particular works and felt at the moment the Shed did not have a social side. An idea was put forward to contact another Shed, perhaps Poole, see if we could arrange a courtesy visit to discuss, compare and see how they progressed themselves.

Graeme went on to say that Andrew will deliver the Machine Training on Thursday 28th April. There are already 5 members signed up. He will start with the Band Saw then Sander, Thicknesser, Planer, etc. He confirmed that changing blades would also be done as would routine maintenance.

Simone asked how the Ladies Course was progressing and in reply Graeme showed that training programme Angie had put together. This will cover hand tools with all participants taking a finished product home. Angie's recent hospitalisation prevents the start of the course.

Graeme informed all that the Boat Project has concluded and will be collected next week and the Shed was richer by £220.

The Finger Post Project is still in its infancy but Graeme anticipates this will be quite lucrative for the Shed. The commissioning body will pay £75 for a single side post and £125 for a double sided post with all materials being supplied.

Again it was mentioned that we need members to take some 'ownership' of a particular project and set up a Project Book as previously discussed at the last meeting.

Under AOB Peter stated that we have Committee members who do not attend these meetings. Further to that he himself feels that due to other commitments he cannot attend the Shed's session days. His view was that Graeme is doing all of the development work in addition to promoting and lobbying for funding. For the Shed to progress and develop in the ways we have been discussing tonight, there needs to be a change of committee. Committee members need to be active and motivational and able to support Graeme more than he feels he can do at present. With this in mind he proposed that notice of this should be made to all members and at the next meeting nominations can be tabled.

A request to change the day of the meetings was agreed and the next meeting was set for Wednesday 18th May at 5.30pm in the Poet Laureate Inn Poundbury.

The meeting concluded at 6.45pm.