

Dorchester Men's Shed

Minutes of the meeting held 24th March 2016

Venue: Poet Laureate Inn, Poundbury

Apologies were received from: Mark Harden, Vin Sootarsing, Jason Outlaw, Jeff Wilkinson and Trevor Coley.

Attending were: Graeme Trinder, Peter Shakespeare, Angie Woodhouse, David Jupp, Adrian Wood, Stuart Smith, Simone Walls- Macdonald, Garry Jones.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm with Graeme T. welcoming two new members, Simone and Garry.

He also said that three members Jeffers Wilkinson, Martin Borberg and Trevor Colley had decided not to renew their membership. He went on to say that the current membership total was now eighteen and that e-mails will be going out to remind all members of the renewal date.

He reminded us that annual subscription is the lifeblood of the DMS and if we don't get the renewals in then the 2nd week in July would see the Sheds closure.

Graeme informed the meeting that two of the Sheds funding sources, Dorchester POPP Fund and Magna Housing had, due to internal finance cuts, had had their funding removed for this coming year. This means the Shed has lost approx. £2000 from each and we will need to seek other funding sources.

Battens Solicitors kindly gave £100 last year and Graeme will approach them again to 'tap' into their community benevolence.

A lengthy discussion took place on what mechanisms could be employed to improve and increase the growth of membership. These were having 'taster' days at specific locations, showing how simple home DIY tasks could be tackled.

Maybe a questionnaire in prominent places, Library, Estate agents etc... Perhaps a 'Blog' on our website.

Graeme would revisit the local radio stations local press.

Perhaps distributing leaflets to schools to reach parents, grandparents via the schoolkids.

Maintain a list our Projects on the website and on our Facebook page.

Graeme moved onto current projects and explained how the Finger Post project should work. These are the historic sign posts under the responsibility of local councils who are required to reinstate them to a good condition. If the commissioning authority supplies the wood and the paint materials then they would only pay for the time taken and for single sided fingers this would be £70 and double sided fingers £100 approx. If the Shed supplies all wood and paints then the cost to them would be the wood of course and a charge of £2 per letter. An opportunity to have the letters on the two sample Fingers grit blasted along with the clinker boat was thought to be a practical move. There are over 1,000 in Dorset to be done with no defined time limit by several organisations but we must show commitment if the Shed takes this on.

A suggestion from Adrian Wood was that anyone helping out on a project would not pay the £5 session fee and would help in putting a project plan on. This was unanimously agreed.

Comments came forth with regard to establishing a 'project' list for jobs to be done. Peter S. said that this had already been established for the Dolls House and proved helpful.

David Jupp repeated his previous request that it was essential that an induction to all machinery be offered to improve confidence and ensure safe working practices.

Graeme asked Angie Woodhouse explain her Ladies course which Angie said was a six week introduction course for ladies. Each participant would work with hand tools and produce a 'take home' product.

She has four potentials and Graeme added that there might be 3 or 4 Future Roots staff interested.

The course fee has been set at £10 per person per session materials provided.

Simone W-M thought that the Shed could offer training courses for the public but Peter S. explained that we would come under the regulatory body which would require inspection of workshop resources, training programmes and he felt this was a step too far.

The members further discussed ways in which the Shed could be promoted and Simone W-M suggested that the Shed should make a submission to the 'Thrift' at Blandford Camp for possible funding, Graeme said he would look into this.

There was no further business and the date of the next meeting was set as Thursday 21st April 2016 at 5.30pm at the present venue, The Poet Laureate Inn, Poundbury.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.