

Dorchester Men's Shed

Minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2016

Venue: Poet Laureate Inn, Poundbury

Attending; Graeme Trinder, Peter Shakespeare, David Jupp, Christopher Luckhurst, Adrian Wood, Angela Woodhouse, Stuart Smith, Vin Sootarsing, Simone Walls-MacDonald, James Skinner, Andrew Murray.

Apologies were received from; Ben Lewington, Garry Jones, John McCarthy, Jeff Wilson.

The meeting opened at 5.40pm with Graeme welcoming a potential new member, James Skinner.

Finance; Graeme stated that he was disappointed with the slow response to membership renewal and out of the current membership of 23, only 4 had so far renewed their subscription. It was suggested that he should send another reminder but with a final renewal date after which non-renewals would be considered no longer interested in being a member. Simone suggested that it would be a good reminder if the e-mail showed what was happening with the Shed i.e. events, demos, the ladies intro' course.

Graeme pointed out that the Shed's continuance is dependent on the membership renewals and if he doesn't get these in then the Shed runs out of money mid-July.

Adrian W. said he had heard that Magna still had some money available and suggested a reapply to them for a donation, GT is to liaise with Adrian over this. It was also pointed out by Christopher that there should be a budget for the general maintenance of the machines. GT said that income from a small number of the finger posts would enable a standing maintenance budget to be set up.

Graeme said that the Finger Posts should continue to be a regular income.

The Ladies Course has already got the interest of a number of participants and although it has been decided to limit the course number on the session to six, there are already 2 who have indicated interest waiting. The course has been delayed due to Angela's continuing treatment. Andrew M. said that he was willing to kick-start the course off if Angela's ladies would not feel intimidated by a male trainer.

It was agreed to set a start date but it would be a different day to the normal session days. Andrew M felt it might be better if it was held on an evening over six weeks or alternatively, a Saturday of 3 hours. The fee was discussed and agreed at £85 and that payment for the course would be taken at the outset with a discount given, if those completing the course wished to become a member.

Graeme will contact the press and local radio stations to advertise the events.

Marketing Plans; Graeme said that Barclays Bank have agreed to let the Shed have a 'pitch' in front of their building in South Street for the 'Come to the Shed' event. GT is sourcing a banner and trestle tables will allow products to be displayed together with a selection of tools.

Practical demonstrations will be given with a help and repair advice corner. Photos of past projects and machinery are to be shown.

GT will check with Dorchester Events calendar to prevent a clash with any forthcoming events. The suggested date would be 18th June.

A sub-committee of Andrew, David, Simone, Chris and Graeme was set up to meet at Roots Farm Tuesday 24th to take this further.

Committee; Peter said that the current committee needed re-structuring and those who had not attended for more than three meetings should be deselected and new members sought. He further said that he was going to withdraw from the committee as he could not commit to either Tuesday or Thursday due to other outside interests. He also felt that he was not giving Graeme enough practical nor motivational support and that the present attendees of this meeting showed more commitment than any of the absent members. In his opinion, there was a potentially very strong committee sat round the table. He asked that they considered this and let Graeme know whether they would or would not be willing to be elected on the committee.

There being no further business, the date of the next meeting was set for 5.30pm on Wednesday June 22nd at the Poet Laureate.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.