

**Dorchester Men's Shed**  
**Minutes of a meeting held on 25th February 2015 ; 5:30 pm.**  
**Venue : Poet Laureate Inn – Poundbury**

Present : Committee: Graeme Trinder (GT), Peter Shakespeare (PS), Brian Fowler (BF),  
Members : Jack Goward (JG), Jeffrey Wilkinson (JW), Rob Luton (RL),  
Apologies : Jason Outlaw, Ben Lewington, Vin Sootarsing.

Graeme (GT) opened the meeting by welcoming new members Ray West, Edmund Murray, Martin Borberg, Dick Cottage and Trevor Colley. He went on to give an overview of what the concept of Men's Shed was as previously given at the last meeting.

GT said he was pleased with growth of membership which was now 22.  
An individual profile given by the new members, showed again a variety of acquired and allied skills to carpentry and joinery. This gave rise to questions on how diverse would the 'Shed's' theme be.

GT said it was the intention of the Shed to encourage broader skills interest that would be of benefit to any member. An example was given of perhaps a silversmith using their skills on products produced by others.

The target for 'opening' was again given as April, accepting that this might be end of April, It will fully depend on the acquisition of premises. GT said that he and PS had looked at a very promising site in the old military hospital on the Grove Road Industrial Site. The rental for the building was £13,000 per year and it hoped that the next discussions would agree a rental fee proportionate to the space we would require. The need to build partitioning for tool stores, office, benches etc was enthusiastically voiced.

Questions with regard to Insurance, health & safety were answered that the Shed has to conform to current requirements however a question concerning what would happen if the Shed couldn't meet its monthly bills was deferred for GT to explore the implications further.

GT gave an update on his discussions with the District and Town Councils which were very encouraging and supportive, with advice being given on what funding opportunities there are.

GT also reported on a meeting held immediately before this meet with the Dorchester Town Clerk, Adrian Stuart, who was very supportive and helpful in guiding us to how we could access funding.

GT has further meetings arranged and is currently filling in funding applications 'on line'.  
PS has been tasked with contacting the Charlton Down Local Council for support and help with Business Rate Funding relief.

GT discussed the Joining and Membership fee and explained that we'd had a good deal of discussion over this and proposed a joining fee of £40. and a session fee instead of a full annual subscription.

He said the final figures would be confirmed at the next meeting.

There being no further business the date of the next meeting was agreed for 25th March at the Poet Laureate Inn and the meeting closed at 18.40.

Martin Borberg gave his apologies at this point as he will be on holiday.