

Dorchester Men's Shed

Minutes of a meeting held on 25th March 2015; 5:30 pm.

Venue : Poet Laureate Inn – Poundbury

Present: Committee: Graeme Trinder, Peter Shakespeare, Brian Fowler.

Members: Mark Few, Jack Goward, Jeffrey Wilkinson, David Jupp, Brian Shepard, Rob Vincent, Ray West, Edward Batho.

Apologies: Jason Outlaw, Ben Lewington, Vin Sootarsing, Martin Borberg, Rob Luton, Edmund Murray.

Graeme opened the meeting by welcoming new members Mark Few, Edward Batho, Robert Vincent and Brian Shepard. He continued with an overview of what the concept of Men's Shed and how it had grown into a national initiative and said that our membership was now at 29 and he was receiving interested contacts and was confident that the numbers will continue to rise.

The new members gave a profile of themselves which again led to further discussion of the spread of skills and the opportunity to combine allied skills such as silversmithing and graphics. Graeme said he envisioned that there would be a great deal of ancillary skills that members would be able to 'tap into'.

Graeme gave an update on the premises previously discussed at the last meeting and said he was disappointed that the premises owner had decided not to proceed with a rental agreement as he felt there would be a noise issue. It was noted that there would have been a considerable expense by the owner to bring the premises up to occupier standard, partitions, toilets, washroom tool store etc. and it was felt that this may have been an expense he was unwilling to take at this stage. Graeme went on to say that the owner did offer two other sites that were available and he was looking into these.

He stated that he was still confident that the end of April opening target was achievable.

Graeme updated all on the progress with the funding applications and again was confident that we would soon be in receipt of an amount from the POPP Fund. This was based on the fact that a similar 'Shed' application for Portland had been successful and they had received their £2,000 fund. We have also applied to the Dorset County Council Fund but their decision will not be known until the end of May.

Peter reported on his conversation with the Charlton Down Local Council and stated that the person concerned had offered to look into what possibility of obtaining Business Rate relief. Graeme said that he had made changes to the Web site and there was now a 'donation' bar and he was hopeful this would be taken up.

The Joining and Membership fee was discussed and Graeme stated that there would be a joining fee of £40 and a session fee of £5.00. He went on further to explain that in an effort to remove all barriers to potential members, anyone proving financial hardship, would be considered on an individual basis. This was accepted and agreed by all present.

It was suggested that groups such as the Rotarians may consider membership sponsorship'. Graeme said he would investigate this.

There was general discussion on the type of projects that could be done to bring in monies. One area could be making items to sell on stalls at local fairs and shows. A comment came from Brian Shepard that he had been involved in making rocking horses with one being auctioned off to £7000.

There being no further business the date of the next meeting was agreed for 29th April, 5.30 pm at the Poet Laureate Inn. The meeting closed at 18.35.