



MEN IN SHEDS MK

First Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 20th March, 2013

Minutes

1 Outgoing Chairman's address

Peter Gallagher – commended the Sheddors for the action taken over the past year. He mentioned Heinz with IT activity and setting up the website; Heinz and Gary for raising the profile of The Shed with the sledge project; 'Cowboy' John, Andrew and Malcolm for organising the woodwork area; Ian, Peter, Alan, Rick and Jake for work in the metal working area and PAT testing; Gary, Robert and Ken for the railway layouts – that attracted a lot of interest from the Community Foundation donor visit; Arnold and the crew who got the partitioning in place; Mike for pottery and adding a bit of class!

He also thanked Alan, Nigel, Les, Mike and Heinz for their support on the Steering Group and commented that there had been an evolution from doers and thinkers to doer-thinkers.

The Shed has been going for 12 months and was still growing – indeed two more men had come in today. The Shed has gone from strength to strength.

Peter mentioned he had been to a meeting last Friday to discuss launching a national shed association. We are probably one of the largest Sheds in the country.

The Shed will continue to develop independently. That said Peter commented on the support of Age UK Milton Keynes and remarked that Nick Stacey had been 'awestruck' by the progress that had been made when he visited The Shed as part of the Community Foundation visit. Community Foundation staff were also phenomenally busy people but they too were impressed. Credit was due to everyone who had turned out for the donor visit the day before.

Peter said there should be more Sheds in MK, servicing more of the community.

The Shed continued to be outward looking and had worked with a number of other groups in the community including MK Play Association, Community Orchard [raised beds] etc. But need to plan the future demands on us.

Even though The Shed wanted to develop independently it still relied on support including from Age UK Milton Keynes, MK Community Foundation, Milton Keynes Council and the various donors of tools. Peter highlighted a recent donation from Jim, working closely with Heinz, of routing equipment used for making peace and

interfaith clocks. In recognition of this very valuable donation Jim was awarded 'honorary membership' of The Shed.

2 Financial Statement by Outgoing Treasurer

Alan Entwistle - made a general statement to the meeting. Finances were tough but The Shed was solvent. This had been achieved through a combination of donations from MK Council/Age UK Milton Keynes, MK Community Foundation and members paying their subs through localgiving.com – that had been match-funded; so a magnificent effort to pay £2,000 in this way and generated £4,250 in income for The Shed.

A financial statement would be posted in the kitchen and is attached to these minutes.

3/4 Election of Officials and Steering Committee Members

A number of nominations had been received prior to the meeting:

Treasurer - Peter Gallagher

Secretary - Nigel Paterson

Membership Secretary - Heinz Elbers

Steering Group Members - Ian Leach, Michael Sheppard, Les Hubbard, Robert Longman and Gary Noakes

There was no nomination for the position of Chairman. However, in the meeting Gary Noakes indicated that he would be prepared to take on this role if another member was prepared to support him as Deputy Chair. Heinz Elbers indicated that he would be happy to undertake this role, alongside that of Membership Secretary.

This was put to the meeting and a show of hands indicated unanimous approval for the composition of the new Steering Group.

As an aside, Paul Griffiths, of Age UK Milton Keynes, indicated that he would support the Steering Group as Minutes Secretary.

6 AOB

Mike asked about an item he had noticed in e-mails from the Steering Group: a payment of £400 to Jan Lloyd. Paul Griffiths responded that this was in recognition of the considerable amount of equipment that she had given to the Shed in its early days. Since this the Steering Group had reconsidered its position regarding paying for second-hand equipment and had agreed that in future such payments would not be made.

John Barker – was putting together an asset register and pointed out that there was a lot of equipment around and some needed to be moved out! Peter responded that

this would happen in a number of ways including to help other local Shed launches; an equipment exchange as part of the national association and some equipment being suitable for 'Tools for Self Reliance'

The importance of the 10th May Open Day to generate publicity, new members and income was mentioned.

Andy – asked about the offer that had been made about being trained up and asked – can we get trainers in to help people? There was a discussion about this linked to Health & Safety and rules regarding the safe use of equipment. At the moment the proposed training was though self-learning and informal training being offered by more experienced Shedders. The possibility of more formal training would be explored by the new Steering Group.

Mike – asked about finances and it was confirmed that a copy of the current financial position would be posted in the kitchen.

Meeting Closed