

Men in Sheds Milton Keynes

Annual General Meeting 2016

Held at the Shed 18th May 2016

Members attending are recorded in the signing in register for the day

The meeting was chaired by Paul Griffiths

1. Minutes of the previous AGM

These had been circulated electronically and paper copies were available at the meeting. Adoption was proposed by John McFarlane, seconded by Richard Barfoot and accepted unanimously.

2. Chair's report

Peter Gallagher introduced his report (attached as an appendix to these minutes). Membership numbers had now expanded to over 90 and it had been necessary to pause recruitment because of the administrative burden each new member carried. The £1 nominal payment for each active member had worked well.

Age UK have made it clear that they do not wish to continue with the management of the Shed and lease is now under review by Management Committee and Trustees.

There are various plans for improvements to all areas including equipment and heating. The Wolverton Power Company is now responsible for energy supply and will recirculate profits to its clients.

Other sheds in the process of setting up in Bletchley, Northampton and Netherfield have benefited from our advice.

Particular thanks were due to Andrew for his contribution to the woodworking area and Steve likewise for metalworking, also to Paul for his Hackspace work, to Dennis for his role as fire warden, to Ken for his social input, to DJ for his work as Secretary and Les for his finance work.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Michael West, seconded by Nigel Paterson and accepted unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report

Les Hubbard introduced his report. The Shed is financially sound and cash at the bank is healthy. Although sales income is down income from subscriptions has compensated. About 15 contributors are Hackspace members.

The take-over of the lease should now be from October.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Dave Towell, seconded by John Hancock and accepted unanimously.

4. Election of Management Committee

David Lloyd had now stood down as Secretary and Nigel Pigott had agreed to take on the role. Other officers, Peter Gallagher as Chair and Les Hubbard as Treasurer were proposed to continue. This was accepted unanimously.

Steve Heath was proposed and elected to membership of the Board of Trustees. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio members. Ian Leach has also agreed to join the Trustees on a pro tem basis.

In reply to a question concerning the functions of the Trustees it was stated that it met two or three

times a year and its responsibilities were primarily financial although many of its day to day functions were delegated to the Management Committee.

5. Any Other Business

In order for the Shed to function effectively on a day to day basis it was necessary for a number of roles to be fulfilled by volunteers. The following volunteers had come forward:

Toilets: Dave Towell
Kitchen: Peter Roberts
Rubbish clearing: Mark Sadler
Fire warden: Dennis Owen
First aiders John McFarlane, Nigel Paterson
PAT testing: Rick Barfoot (who will also recruit others)
Key holders Ken Rands
Safety Officer: Martin Price
Milk monitor: Volunteer sought

It was noted that First Responders training would be available for up to 8 people in June. Bruce Williams, Carl Scott and Vince Burgum volunteered for this training.

In response to a question concerning the takeover of the lease it was stated that Age UK was supportive of the Shed's wish for independence and had made a commitment to a transitional payment of £2000 per annum for two years. The lease would be for six years with a break point after three.

In response to a question about the decision to cap numbers it was stated that each new member required 1-2 hours of admin time and many did not become regular attenders. It was hoped to recruit an administrator who would take responsibility for new members and this would enable the cap to be lifted. The moratorium on recruitment had also enabled some time to be devoted to referrals from other agencies although there remained a challenge back to them to provide appropriate support for people with particular needs.

In response to a question concerning the number of members who made little or no contribution to subscriptions it was stated that donations could not be enforced but it was hoped that the attendance records now facilitated by the fob system would enable better tracking of attendance. It was not known how attendance was affected by opening times but these were in any case under review.

A representative of a new organisation, www.dad.co.uk addressed the meeting. It was seeking volunteers with practical skills to assist others via video calls with simple home maintenance tasks such as changing a light bulb. Payment would be made for each call. Members were encouraged to follow this up with the organisation if they were interested.

Nigel Pigott 25/5/16

Approved 19/1/17

