

Men in Sheds Milton Keynes

Annual General Meeting 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at the Shed 3rd June 2019

33 members attended and their names are recorded in the signing in register for the day.

Apologies were received from Les Hubbard.

The meeting was chaired by Michael West

1. Minutes of the 2018 AGM and EGM

These had been circulated electronically and paper copies were available at the meeting. Adoption was agreed unanimously.

2. Chair's report

Michael West introduced his report (attached as an appendix to these minutes). Membership stands at 115 and the Shed continued to attract a regular influx of new members.

The takeover of the lease from Age UK in 2018 had been a significant step and a great increase in financial and other responsibilities for the Shed but it had coped well with the changes this had brought and continued to grow and develop. A new Safe System of Work accreditation system for members who wished to use wood and metalworking machines had been introduced and there had been a big effort to clear the Shed of clutter before bringing in a project identification and disposal system which it was hoped would lead to an elimination of abandoned projects and people using the Shed for long term storage. Great progress had also been made in improving the storage of materials and equipment.

Thanks were extended to many Sheddors for their various contributions to the improvement of the Shed environment and to health and safety provision during the year.

Adoption of the report was approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report

John Orme introduced his report (attached as an appendix). The Shed continues to be financially sound and cash at the bank is currently healthy. However the Shed has benefitted greatly from a six month rate rebate in 2018 and to ensure its continued viability in the face of increasing costs, especially for electricity, it would need to retain members at approximately the current level and encourage as many as possible to donate through Local Giving. There was also considerable scope to increase income from other sources, including sales of surplus equipment and through fundraising from grant awarding bodies and corporates.

Adoption of the report was approved unanimously and the retiring Chair was warmly applauded.

4. Election of Management Committee

Ron Bowles stood as the sole nominee for the role of Chair and his election was endorsed unanimously by a show of hands. Nigel Pigott as Secretary and John Orme as Treasurer were proposed to continue. Andy Selby and Les Hubbard would remain as co-opted members of the Committee and Ricky Briggs and David Towell would be joining. Nigel Paterson would be standing down as a Committee member and Trustee and was thanked for his long period of service since the foundation of the Shed.

David Towell was elected unanimously to membership of the Board of Trustees. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are ex officio members. Les Hubbard will continue as External Trustee by virtue of his trusteeship at the Play Association while a fully external trustee is sought.

(At this point Ron Bowles assumed the Chair and gave a short introduction, thanking his predecessor and outlining his vision for the Shed).

5. Any Other Business

Dave Jeffery informed members that Stan Green was still hospitalised in Milton Keynes University Hospital, Ward 10, and was unlikely to return home or to the Shed in the near future. He would welcome visitors. Members extended their warmest wishes to Stan. Dave was thanked for continuing to visit Stan over several months.

Norman Atkin-Smith raised a concern that some members did not have email accounts and as a result found it difficult to keep up to date with Shed news. It was agreed that postal communication would be too burdensome but important announcements should be posted on a noticeboard at the Shed. There could also be a whiteboard for individual messages and both might eventually be replaced with an electronic bulletin board. Plans for such a board had already been drawn up and would be pursued by the Committee.

Peter Fraser suggested that in view of the Shed's somewhat precarious financial situation some members might be willing to increase their donations above the current £15 (Shed) and £20 (Makerspace) recommended levels on an entirely voluntary basis.

Nigel Pigott appealed to members to come forward to assist with several community projects that were currently on hold owing to a lack of volunteers.

Finally, it was suggested that many working members had been unable to attend because the meeting had been held during the working day. It was agreed that in future years either an evening or weekend time should be sought.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 13.05.

Nigel Pigott 5/6/19