

Men in Sheds Milton Keynes

Annual General Meeting 2021

Minutes of the meeting held at the Shed 26th May 2021. N.B. These minutes are subject to approval at the next AGM or EGM.

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

Apologies were received from Bill Groves, David Towell and John Weir, 6 proxy voting forms were also received.

The meeting was chaired initially by Nigel Pigott (Secretary) and, following his election, by Michael West (incoming Chair)

1. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

These had been circulated electronically and paper copies were available at the meeting. Adoption was agreed unanimously. There had been no AGM in 2020 owing to the closure of the Shed during the pandemic. Committee and Trustee business had been conducted entirely by electronic means from March 2020 to April 2021 and there had been no formal meetings.

2. Chair's reports

Ron Bowles spoke briefly as retiring Chair to thank all those who had supported him in his role and the many Shedders for their various contributions during the two years of his chairmanship. Dave Tilley and Brian Littlejohn were singled out for their exceptional work on community projects and improvements to the Shed environment. These individuals, and the retiring Chair, were warmly applauded.

Written reports for the two years 2019-20 and 2020-21 were introduced and are attached as an appendix to these minutes). Current paid-up membership stands at 84 and the Shed continues to attract a regular influx of new members.

Adoption of the reports was approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's reports

John Orme introduced his reports for 2019-20 and 2020-21 (attached as appendices). In spite of the impact of the pandemic the Shed continues to be financially sound and cash at the bank is currently healthy, mainly owing to reduced energy costs during closure and the willingness of many members to continue donating via LocalGiving. However the Shed is facing a rent review, and, although it has applied for a rebate, costs are still likely to increase by up to 20 per cent. 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 felt to be considerable scope to increase income from other sources, including sales of surplus equipment, and through fundraising from grant awarding bodies and corporates.

Members noted a number of inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the report and some statements that caused concern, particularly in relation to the report made by the Treasurer to the Charity Commission, which included an allegation of financial irregularities in 2019-20. This had been submitted without the approval of the other trustees. A concern was also expressed that the report referred to membership numbers that did not appear to correspond to statements made elsewhere. The incoming Treasurer reported that although the integrity of the outgoing Treasurer was not in any doubt he would require clarification of some matters in the accounts before he could confidently take over their management. In the light of these concerns it was proposed and agreed by a show of hands that the reports be not adopted pending a review by a suitably qualified external individual. Following the review it was expected that revised reports would be submitted to an Extraordinary General Meeting for approval.

4. Election of Management Committee and Board of Trustees

Michael West, Peter Gallagher and Nigel Pigott were the sole nominees for the respective roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and their election was endorsed by a show of hands. Dave Tilley was also endorsed as the sole nominee for the Management Committee and additional members would now be sought by co-option. John Orme would be standing down as Treasurer and Trustee and was thanked for his management of the Shed's finances and its digital assets, including membership records and the website. Ricky Briggs, Martyn Simpson and Andy Selby had also stood down as Committee members and were thanked for their contributions.

The newly-elected officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) would become ex officio members of the Board of Trustees but additional members, including an external member, were currently being sought.

At this point Michael West assumed the Chair and gave a short introduction, thanking his predecessor and outlining his vision for the Shed as it emerged from lockdown.

5. Any Other Business

A query was raised as to whether the demijohn was the most appropriate way of collecting donations and other cash income. In reply it was stated that it was planned to replace the demijohn with a secure and permanently fixed cashbox with a slot for coins and notes.

An appeal was made to all members using the workshops to ensure that workbenches and machines were cleared and cleaned after use, and tools returned to their allocated storage spaces. Failure to do this was causing continuing bad feeling as well as a potential safety hazard.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 13.00.

Nigel Pigott 17/6/2021

Appendices:

Chair's reports 2019-20 and 2020-21
Treasurer's reports 2019-20 and 2020-21

