

Poringland & District Men's Shed 2017 AGM Minutes

Saturday 22nd April 2017 10:30am

The Forge, High Green, Brooke

Members present

Henry Gowman, Mike Bardzil, Roy Burson, John Mallott, Tim Ridgley, Les Banks, Steve Dowall, Karl Ashford, Peter Webb, David Halliday, David Gillingham, Philip Woods, John Cooper

Apologies received from invited council officials otherwise engaged in election duties.

Treasurer Report

Roy Burson circulated latest accounts-the full audited accounts are available for members to view. He explained that current income is covering all our fixed overheads and the £2 per session donation and higher attendance levels are ensuring these continue to be met. Our financial position is healthy.

Secretary Report

Steve Dowall updated members on the years secretarial activity. The website is fully established but we continue to develop it and Steve emphasised it is only as good as the content and asked members to contribute their news and pictures. The formal membership process has also been created and is now to be used for all existing and new members. Steve also explained we were now a Registered Charity and explained some of the benefits that will flow from that.

Chairman Report

Henry reflected on the progress of the last 12 months. We are now wholly accepted by the local community. Everyone has mucked in-Les Banks has done a great job liaising with building control and overseen the drainage project. We have upgraded the electrics and now have toilet facilities.

We have attracted a lot of support from local council officers and others and we have established, in conjunction with South Norfolk Council a Repair & Recycle centre. Socially we have eaten a number of Big Breakfasts, visited the Stonemasons Guild and enjoyed a day sailing on board The Albion. (This event could be repeated in 2017). And most importantly we have developed a friendship and camaraderie when only 18 months ago we were all strangers.

Looking ahead we shall be attending a number of Summer events this year including The Fair on the Yare, Chapelfield Garden (with Norwich Men's Shed), Poringland Village Fete and South Norfolk Council Fete.

We intend to start fundraising with a view to purchase the Shed and seek advice with regard to building a second workshop area. The type and size of building is yet to be determined.

We also have the opportunity to be trained to be accredited PAT testers and have a number of repair projects to work on.

Socially the big breakfasts will continue and Henry asked for ideas for specific venues that can cater for our appetites. We also hope to visit The Sparrows Nest in Lowestoft.

Henry went on to stress the importance of complying with common sense safety procedures such as using PPE and just being aware of the working environment and those around you. He asked that members be neater and Tidy as you Go. It was noted that some powered equipment should be bolted down when in use.

It was also stressed that the use of foul language needs to be controlled if we are not to fall out with neighbours.

We have been issued with a rates demand backdated to 1/10/2015 when we took occupation. We are lodging an appeal and as a registered charity are entitled to a mandatory 80% reduction. We hope to secure a further discretionary reduction-ideally to be zero rated.

As mentioned by Steve we now have a formal Membership process that all existing and new members should complete.

The current trustees all indicated that they were happy to serve a further year. Mike Bardzil announced he would step down as Vice Chairman and John Mallott agreed to become Vice Chairman for 2017/18

All trustees were unanimously re-elected by a show of hands.

Meeting closed at 11:30am