

Poringland & District Men's Shed 2018 AGM Minutes & Trustees Reports

Tuesday 20th February 2018 10:00am

The Dove PH, Poringland

17 members were present. Julie Ringer from South Norfolk Council was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for her support. Apologies were received from local councillors.

Last year AGM minutes were agreed as accurate.

Henry presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Roy who was unavoidably delayed, Steve presented the Secretary's report and finally Henry the Chairman's report.

Q & A session

David Halliday requested we have more social activities such as the Big Breakfast visits to local cafes.

John Cooper questioned why we were not selling goods that we could make. Henry Gowman explained we did not want to be traders but anything we did make could be offered to the public on a "suggested donation" basis (and of course we could then claim gift aid with the agreement of the donor). Tim Ridgley confirmed that was the practice at Norwich Men's Shed

With regard to the committee all trustees had previously agreed to continue in office for another year – no objections were received from members and so they will remain in post until the next AGM.

Attached are reports from the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary

Meeting closed at 10:45am

Porringland & District Men's Shed

Financial Report for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017

Please refer to the handouts which show

- a) our Income & expenditure for the year,
- b) *details of the grants we have received since The Shed was first set up*, the purpose of those grants and funds not yet used, and
- c) details of the Shed Purchase Account.

INCOME

Grants received during the year are slightly down on 2016. However, income has been boosted by a >50% increase in proceeds from attendance at The Shed. This has been sufficient, in addition to the grants received, to cover our expenditure during the year.

The Trustees decided to set up a Shed Purchase Fund to which all other financial contributions have been designated (see the Shed Purchase Account sheets).

Funds received from other sources are substantially greater this year since donations, either voluntary or for work done, increased, and crowdfunding accounts, MyDonate and Give as you Live, set up by our Secretary, are beginning to attract funds.

An additional source will be from Gift Aid which we will be able to claim back from HMRC once we have all member's donation forms completed.

This fund is small beginnings towards raising or attracting funds towards establishing a permanent home, but it's a start, and it demonstrates how much effort is being put in by members, which is attracting funds in numerous activities.

EXPENDITURE

Overheads, predominantly insurance and utilities, is slightly down on 2016 and less than was predicted.

The bulk of our expenditure has been spent on refurbishment at The Forge until we moved from there at the end of June, and ongoing at The Barn. Total refurbishment at The Forge in 2016 & 2017 amounted to £2850.

Less was spent on equipment. There are funds designated from grants to purchase tools etc., which can be called on as & when equipment is needed.

Turnover, reflecting increased activities at The Shed, is up and we have an increase in surplus funds. Financially we are in a good position.

RLB
12th February 2018

Secretary's Report PDMS AGM Tuesday 20th February 2018

My role for the shed is an administrative role. I should like to comment on two strands. Firstly the website www.pdmensshed.org. It continues to attract visitors to the site and we have now passed the 10,000 views milestone. However the site is only as good as the content and I alone cannot provide it so firstly a big thank you to those that have provided material and to all of you please keep sending it to me.

We have just launched a new page which will document our progress on the New Shed Project from the start (which is now) to when the ribbon is cut. Appropriately the page is headed up "New Shed Project" and we shall use this to keep everyone informed of progress. To view the page go to

<https://pdmensshed.org/new-shed-project/>

The second strand is fundraising: As a Registered Charity since February 2017 we can claim Gift Aid on donations. If you haven't done so please complete the "Multiple Donation" forms. We can also claim for single donations from members of the public who make donations for projects completed.

We have also signed up for Give as you Live – a fundraising platform for (primarily) on-line shopping. Five members have signed up so far and have raised £125. This is at no cost to individuals. There is lots of head room for us in this scheme and members friends & family can sign up as well.

Lastly, if members find some spare cash down the back of the sofa we are now signed up to BT MyDonate . This can be found on our website and allows individuals to make single or regular donations (with Gift Aid). Just click on the MyDonate logo and follow the on screen instructions.

Maximising our fundraising is important as we need to demonstrate to grant funders that we are not solely reliant on grants.

Steve Dowall

Secretary PDMS

20th February 2018

Chairman's Report PDMS AGM Tuesday 20th February

My report, for the most part is that nicest of things – a list of Thank you's and Well Done's.

Firstly Thank you to Roy Burson for managing our finances so well – he has kept us on track through our relocation and through his own house move. It is imperative on all of us to make Roy's job easier by providing receipts for any authorised purchases.

Thanks to Steve Dowall who as well as being our Secretary also built and runs our website and keeps on top of our membership records. He has used his newfound IT skills to assist our fundraising by putting buttons on our website to enable people to support us through " BT MyDonate" and also an App whereby shopping online leads us to getting donations. Our website is very much our shop window and an important tool in this digital age.

Steve and Roy took the lead in dealing with the complexities of us becoming a Registered Charity and in dealing with HMRC to enable us to qualify as an organisation permitted to make Gift Aid applications for tax relief on donations. This means that for every £100 we raise through subs or money for fixing things – we get another £25 from the tax man.

My thanks also to the other members of the committee who have all made significant contributions to the running of our project. Not everyone can be as active as they would wish all of the time. House moves – illness – bereavement – have all figured in their lives over the last year yet they have always been there for me when I have asked for their support. I am grateful to all of the committee for putting up with my constant barrage of emails, phone calls and texts which must sometimes be disruptive to a peaceful life.

A year ago we were in the forge, happily digging drainage trenches and we had a busy last week of June before taking up residence here on 1st July. It is only through Roger Roper's generosity that we didn't end up homeless and we owe Roger a huge vote of thanks.

So – just to recap on some of the things we have achieved over the last year.....

We became a Registered Charity

We made bug hotels for Poringland Lakes

We attended Fair on the Yare at Claxton and made them a tombola drum

We attended a garden party on Chapelfield with Norwich Men's Shed

We attended Poringland Village fete and South Norfolk on Show at Long Stratton

We were accepted by HMRC for Gift Aid

We supported Silver Sunday – a celebration of older people's skills

We repainted Arminghall Village Hall

And we captured escaping horses from Roger's field!

We have joined the UK Men's Shed Association and have hosted or visited other Men's Sheds to share our experiences and support them.

Most importantly we have stuck together over the move from the forge and have gone from strength to strength at the barn – transforming it into a fully functioning shed project. What we have collectively achieved in such a short space of time is remarkable – considering we are only here for three hours on a Tuesday and Saturday. Made wood burners – work benches – installed electric power – lighting – flooring – built a snug café – storage shelving – put in windows and doors – and are now making an out shoot for use as a woodworking cabin. We have also been busy repairing a steady stream of broken household objects brought in by the local community – meaning less has gone to landfill. And all this has happened because Tim Ridgely called a meeting in the Royal Oak just over 2 years ago!

All of this costs money and we have been supported by South Norfolk Council – Norfolk Community Foundation – Waitrose Norwich – and our local councillors – John Fuller – John Overton – Lisa Neal and Vic Thompson. Thank you your support is very much appreciated. Additionally we have just, this month, received a substantial grant which secures our financial future for this year.

So, let us remind ourselves what we are about. We are a user led community project aimed at improving the lives of men who are or could become socially isolated and prone to depression.

What evidence do we have that we are meeting our aims? Well individually you have told me the following:

“If it wasn't for this I would never leave the house”

“Coming here has put some meaning in my life”

“When I stopped work I felt completely lost – coming here means a lot”

“The only time I have a real laugh is when I am here”

“This is the first time in my life I feel I have been accepted for who I am”

And from a partner: *“He is a different man when he comes back from the shed – keep up the good work”*

We are meeting our aims and our project is improving the mental wellbeing and social inclusion of our members.

So – What next? Current projects include finishing off the rocking horse for an auction to raise funds for the Nook appeal and taking part in marking the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. We intend to work with the art department of Framingham High in making silhouettes of soldiers and 100 crosses. We are also assisting another wellbeing project in making garden furniture and raised beds for their planned wheel chair accessible sensory garden.

And – we will be progressing with our fundraising and planning to build our very own permanent shed in Poringland. We have agreements in principle for a site and assistance with the build and agreement on a 250 year lease.

The future looks good and I look forward to your continued support.

Henry Gowman

Chair PDMS 20th February 2018