

# Poringland & District Men's Shed Trustees Meeting Minutes

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 10:00 am @ The Farm Shop Café

Present HG, JM, SD, LB, MB apologies from RM and TR

## **Trading**

The meeting had been called to discuss whether or not we should consider trading to raise funds. Some members had expressed a feeling that their work was undervalued when goods were made and the fund raised did not match the amount of work and effort that had gone into making it.

HG outlined our core purpose as he understood it - Making things for the community and specific individual commissions along with repairing and recycling goods for the general public. Of course we need enough money to pay our bills – but currently we operate both rent and rate free courtesy of a generous landlord and support from South Norfolk Council. Our bank balance has a surplus which is being used for the New Shed Fund. Making goods is easy – selling them in an open market at commercial profit is another matter and adds more layers of complexity to our operation. Operating as we do we have become rooted and well respected in the community and financially sound.

After some lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of trading it was unanimously agreed we should continue as we are and will not trade for the foreseeable future but we would revisit the option when we are based in our New Shed in Poringland. In the meantime we should reassure members that our finances are sound and raise awareness of asking for a Gift Aid donation when appropriate. A members meeting will be called to air the subject in the near future.

## **Other Business**

HG has arranged for a local GP to raise member's awareness of Prostrate Cancer. A meeting to be held at the shed in due course.

## **Projects**

Bowthorpe Care Village - Crazy Golf Course – this is currently on hold

Mow & Grow – Tim Mayhew has designed a suitable structure – G&M are awaiting funding

Brooke Mere Posts – We have overcome the setbacks and will be tackling the project on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. A working party of volunteers will be led by JM

Silhouettes - These will be erected on Remembrance Sunday morning and left in situ for a week.

The meeting closed at 11:20