

Midmar Men's Shed Annual General Meeting 2022 Minutes

*Held at the Midmar Village Hall.
26th April 2022*

Attendees & Apologies

Attendees: Andy Martin (AM) | Jim Allan (JA) | Gordon Gauld (GG) | Chris Beetham (CB) | Peter Woodhead (PW) | Nigel Bennett (NB) | Paul Thain (PT) | Jonathan Wilson (JW) | David Smith (DS)

Apologies: Rob Ferguson | Gareth Brown | Andrew Douglas | Terry Stout | Martin Worth | Tom Smith | Duncan Sewell

Meeting begins 19:45 Chairman welcomes everyone present.

Chairman's Report

It's been another year disrupted by Covid restrictions; however, we have managed to maintain a good level of activity, within the controls and guidelines in place at different times. Thanks to Chris Beetham for COVID guidelines.

We applied for, and received, some emergency funding from the SMSA to support Shed's during the various lockdowns and other restrictions. This has allowed us to procure a CCTV system, and also insurance (covering liability as well as buildings). The CCTV has already proven valuable.

We continue to develop the Shed location, with the addition of a canopy area to the outside, which is almost completed, and will allow covered external storage for materials, as well as hopefully providing a good external social area for the summer months. Internally, there is a new main workbench, created from donated cabinets (Dunc and Frank), and some purchased plywood. A new workbench along the side of the main work area has also been created, using pre-existing materials.

We continue to support the community with not only fund-raising opportunities for the Shed, but also with larger projects. We have assisted with taking rubbish to the dump, clearing fallen trees, repairing and re-hanging gates, and such like. We have also provided support to the Midmar Hall, not only with operations, but also with repairs to hall and garden, as well as grass cutting. There is also a growing list of items that we have repaired (or created) and sold on for profit. Apart from the compost bins, we have repaired and sold on various items including a table tennis table, a brickies mate, a cut-off saw). We have one or two other items for checking over or repairing prior to selling on (garden multi-tool, bike racks, etc.). We are very grateful for all donations of equipment that we have received, and donations for items or materials sold on.

In an effort to attract new members we have tried a few initiatives: a mid-week Social. Limited interest, though we have seen a couple of new faces. A short series of repair shed's (Garden machinery, Technology and Fix-a-bike) were conducted, with some success. It was difficult to know what to target, or when to conduct the sessions, as despite advertising/promoting the events in local distributions (Midmar newsletter, Nextdoor and FB), uptake has been limited. Perhaps we will try a more generic Open Workshop concept in the future?

There was a significant effort from the Shed, and its membership, to help with the replacement of the Comers footbridge: which is a key community resource that was in serious need of repair. Not only were many hours of people's time dedicated to this cause, a fair amount of materials and equipment was also provided. While the footbridge was by far the biggest collective activity for the Shedders, it must be noted the Jim put in a lot of effort to replace three of the raised beds at the Midmar School garden.

We have attended an Aberdeenshire Men's Shed Network meeting (which I think is quarterly, with the next one at the end of May). It was helpful to meet some other Shed representatives, and to hear about how they have tackled some practical and operational challenges.

The website has had a revamp and could always benefit from new information, so if anyone has suggestions, please let us know.

NIGEL BENNETT
 Chairman of the Midmar Men's Shed
 26th April 2022

Ends.

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Account for period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

INCOME

	£
Donations In	2,963.74
Fundraising (to bank)	355.24
Fundraising (to petty cash)	<u>0.00</u>
Total Income	<u>3,318.98</u>

EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions	24.00
Professional Fees	1,107.06
Expenses	1,350.00
Donations Out	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>5,481.06</u>

Net Surplus / (Loss) for the Year **2,162.08**

Opening Bank Balance	3,782.62
Net Surplus / (Loss) for the Year	2,162.08

Closing Bank Balance

1,620.54

[Updated overview of account changes through to today \(26th April 2022\)](#)

The current bank balance is £1,640. This shows that we are covering our costs for now; although as energy prices, tools, and materials continue to increase we will need to ensure that money from activities, donations, membership, and Amazon Smile & EasyFundraising continues to come in.

JONATHAN WILSON

Treasurer of the Midmar Men's Shed

26th April 2022

Ends.

Secretary's Report

Despite 2021-2022 being another period defined by lockdowns & social distancing, there were still some positives on the admin front:

- With a wider range of activities in the calendar and a targeted drive for new Shedders, we have seen our registered membership grow from twelve to sixteen; with a handful of other people in the community showing interest in joining, and more generally, a broader range of community involvement & engagement.
- No members have elected to leave the Shed since its inception in 2018.
- Our Second Trustee's Annual Report (TAR) was submitted to the charity regulator OSCR with no issues or concerns.
- Thank you to Jim, who managed to register the Shed with "Charity for Tax Purpose" status, allowing us to claim back money for tax exemptions, and Gift Aid on eligible donations.
- Our website has been re-designed and simplified, as mentioned above by Nigel: the look & feel has been updated to put the information front and centre.
- Fundraising has slowed down due to the uncertainty around COVID and donors being more cautious, but we hope to get more applications moving in the 2022/23 year.

PAUL THAIN

Secretary of the Midmar Men's Shed

26th April 2022

Ends.

Restructure Annual Membership Fee

The current annual membership fee of £1 - and the associated time to monitor, advise, chase, and check between the Secretary and Treasurer - takes a disproportionate amount of time and effort to raise a relatively small amount of money.

After a long discussion about updating the membership mechanism, the consensus was reached that it should be turned into a £10 annual subscription fee paid by all members at the same time every year - 1st July.

The rationale for the increase is to raise a meaningful contribution towards the ever-increasing running costs of The Shed (electricity, maintenance materials, etc) and that it would be a more legitimate reason to reach out to our members - particularly those that are less involved.

Vote to change the membership passed unanimously.

Ends.

Election of Office Bearers

POSITION	ELECTED	NOMINATED	CONFIRMED	VOTE
Chairman	Nigel Bennett	PT	JW	All In
Treasurer	Chris Beetham	NB	GG	All In
Secretary	Paul Thain	GG	PW	All In

With the prospect of both the Treasurer and Secretary changing at the same time under the current election arrangement - and that all three Office positions would be up for renewal every six years - a majority vote was passed to amend the constitution relating to the election cycle of office bearers.

At present, the Chairperson is to be changed every two years, and the Treasurer & Secretary would change every three years. It was agreed that this should be revised to introduce a new rolling three-year cycle where only one position changes each year; for continuity and to save all three roles changing every six years.

The specific wording of this clause in our constitution will be reviewed and amended at a later date.

Jonathan has elected to step down as Treasurer. Paul has agreed to remain in post as Secretary for one final year; to allow for greater continuity.

We welcome Chris Beetham as the new Treasurer.

AOB

Chris Beetham's first task as treasurer will be to investigate moving The Shed's bank account, as our current account limits the number of free transactions per month and charges a fee for each additional transaction. With the upcoming change to membership this will incur a measurable loss.

Bank signatories also to be updated to the three nominated positions.

An agenda item of "HSE Moment" to be added to future meetings and update the meeting minute templates.

Agreed to use Facebook & Nextdoor to gently remind the local community that they can sign up to EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile for free.

Meeting closes at: 20:55