

MINUTES OF MEETING



Midmar Mens Shed General Meeting

Date: 6th December 2024 11am – 1pm

Jubilee Meeting Room

Attendees:

Gordon Gauld (**GG**), Andy Douglas (**AD**), Jim Allan (JA), Andy Martin (**AM**), Nigel Bennett (**NB**), Rob Ferguson (RF), Chris Beetham (**CB**), Gareth Brown (**GB**), Ian Agnew (IA), Pete Woodhead (**PW**), Louis Backwell (LB)

[Note: initials in **bold** have at least one Action Point]

1 New Shed – Next Steps

Once the blockwork at the entrance is completed, and the hardcore and sand is a layer of concrete with reinforcement is laid.

The initial layer of concrete should ideally happen immediately prior to walls and roof are ready to install on site, so that the structure is wind and watertight. If left open the foundations would most likely turn into a pond! Ideally the concrete would be 2-3 weeks prior to the kit going up. The concrete is done in sections, so would take two separate days.

On top of this the insulation and UFH pipes are laid then covered within the floor screed. This can be done at a later date

Quotes are required for getting the building wind and watertight.

This would include separate quotes for:

- roof trusses
- walls
- roof coverings
- windows and doors

(the trusses, walls and roof coverings are all required at the same time).

AP1: GG – Obtain quotes for new shed materials as identified above (to support grant applications, match funding

Additional items that will require quotes and grant applications will follow at a later date include:

- solar PV system (panels, hybrid inverter, battery storage)
- air source heat pump
- insulation

Fife Council may have timber panels for uplifting.

Approach Window and door suppliers to see if they have any surplus stock to get rid of.

Continue approaching sites for insulation off cuts

2 Grant funding and Applications

Volunteers required to source and submit applications for funding.

GG did a rush job on the Rurals and Communities Challenge Fund, which highlighted the amount of information we don't have so it will serve as a base to get the information gathered.

SSEN have a fund of up to £5000 available for local groups which might be of interest.

Aboyne Mens Shed website has a list of funders that helped them with their new build project which might also be a starting point.

The SMSA share a "Shed Loads of Opportunities" email with a summary of Scottish funding opportunities. Morrison Construction have offered any surplus end-of-job materials to local Sheds. Need to identify a local point of contact at Morrison. There may be a similar offer from Robertson?

AP2: GG/AM – Identify PoC at Morrison and Robertson for opportunities

Discussion resulted in three separate approaches for funding and support, with different Sheddors identified to comprise the teams:

- 1) Grant Funding Applications:- LB, RF, JA, NB
- 2) Local company donations:- GG, AM, PW
- 3) Cash fundraising:- AD, GB, DS

It was also suggested to make up some business cards for cash fundraising that might help advertise our fundraising, and have a QR code, bank details, etc. (who might volunteer to do this??)

AP3: NB – investigate differences between GoFundMe, Just Giving and any other similar service

CB discussed generating policy documents, many of which are required for insurance as well as funding requests. CB has drafted some already with research into others ongoing (templates or examples from other Sheds).

AP4: CB – Finalise text for policy documents (NB to assist with formatting, printing and posting as required)

Segregating fund raising for the new Shed from general ongoing running costs considered. CB suggests ring fencing £5k for the new Shed from the ~£6.5k in the bank. About £500 will be required for insurance renewal.

Further it was proposed to identify something specific for the cash fundraising, so that we could publicise it, and add a progress thermometer to the website and include in the newsletter.

For Cash fundraising it was suggested that a some items could be prepared in batches for sale, based on standard plans/materials. Also, some items could be advertised “Made to Order” eg: fire pits. GB also offered Tech Help for a variety of things; this would require some definition to be able to frame it for publicising.

AP5: AD – identify list of items/services that could be offered

3 Paths Group

Assess whether the loosely structured Midmar Paths would be acceptable or viable to bring it under the Shed umbrella, as an “Interest Group”.

A good number of the Sheddors support the Paths Group with volunteer work, and the funding for the Comers footbridge replacement was channelled through the Shed account with relative ease. Any funds can be clearly segregated from Shed funds.

After discussion with Becky Baptie (who coordinates the Paths Group), it was agreed that we could create an Interest Group under the Shed umbrella (with it’s own page on the Shed website). It was agreed that the rider condition that folk volunteer at their own risk (as clearly communicated already) would remain, and that there would be no requirement for joining the Shed (though hopefully we may be able to encourage a few new members).

This would also make grant funding applications for the Paths activities simpler, as there is already a charity organization in place (The Shed).

AP6: NB – Create a webpage for the Paths Interest Group on the Shed website

4 Beanies

Shed beanies and Midmar beanies designs were presented and discussed.

AP7: NB – order 20ea of the Midmar Men’s Shed beanies (square logo)

AP8: GB/NB – experiment with a simple Midmar stone circle design for the Midmar (share with WhatsApp group for feedback). AM will try to get a sample from the supplier. Aim to get 30ea initially

5 AOB

- Article on our shed will be in SMSA December issue: draft received this afternoon. Great publicity. Perhaps we could mention it / link to it in the next newsletter?
- Risk management (we are identifying and managing the risks – eg: CDM)
- Team development (everyone involved as a team, and learning new skills)
- Up to date list of competency to operate equipment in shed. CB has purchased some clip boards that we can use to track competency for each machine.

AP9: CB – Share template for Competency. We can then mate this up with the relevant SMSA Safe Work Procedure posters

- DIY (doing as much as possible ourselves, but not afraid to pay to have trades do critical tasks)
- Determine land ownership of the new shed location. PW is submitting a Title Deeds request (paid by Hall)

AP10: PW – Share results of Title Deeds

- It was mentioned that it is possible to obtain a letter from HMRC to be shared with suppliers for zero VAT application. Requires investigation to see what is possible and how it works.

AP11: CB – check on VAT zero rating for new Shed purchases

- The Shed website is on a private server, and would be better in a more accessible location. Might also be worth investigating a new domain name, which may come at a cost, but would allow some specific email addresses for the Shed (not @gmail.com)

AP12: NB – Contact Martin Worth regarding the website hosting

- It was proposed that a pictureboard of Shed member is created and posted within the Shed.

AP13: GB – create a pictureboard of the Shedders

- A direct fundraising opportunity for the Shed is taking care of painting the Hall Kitchen. There are plenty of volunteers to assist with this project, including some from the community. All paint and materials would be provided (unless people have surplus brushes and rollers, etc. to donate)

AP14: NB – Draft an action plan and create a WhatsApp group of volunteers

- A suggestion was made to create a Shed Christmas card that could be sent to our benefactors/supporters who have made contributions during the year. NB is working on a template, but suggestions for who to send cards to would be welcome.

AP15: NB – finalise Christmas card