

Midmar Men's Shed Annual General Meeting 2024-2025 Minutes

*Held at the Midmar Village Hall.
29th April 2025 at 7pm*

Attendees & Apologies

Attending:

Gordon Gauld, Chris Beetham, Nigel Bennett, Rob Ferguson, Jim Allan, Peter Woodhead, Andy Martin, Louis Backwell, Paul Thain, Ian Agnew

Apologies:

Gareth Brown, Andy Douglas, Jonathan Wilson, David Smith

Review and accept 2023-2024 AGM Minutes

The Minutes from last year were circulated prior to the AGM, and were duly approved with no questions.

Chairman's Report

The report this year covers 14 months from end of January 2024 to end of March 2025 to coincide with the financial year end on 31st March.

The fine weather window in February allowed us to start the blockwork to the foundations with many hands contributing and everyone learning new skills.

Work continued through the year to get drainage, ducting and backfilling of foundations ready for DPM and structural slab to be laid, prior to the Kit walls and roof being built. Thanks to David for loan of the digger, Charlie Ferries for keeping the walls straight and plumb, Miller Plant for the backfill material, and all volunteers that have taken part.

Community activities continued with new fence and gate posts for the school garden, additional shelving for cupboards. The second half of the Comers Bridge, this required a scaffold structure this time kindly loaned from Pete, thanks again to Rob for his fund raising and organization of this project in difficult weather conditions. Many positive comments have been received from the community on the finished article. Thank you to all that took part.

Paths group has now formed a closer tie to the Shed as the majority of helpers are Shed members, this will provide easier access to funding through our charity link. Having received a donated a ride on mower this winter Chris's one may now retire, or be a substitute.

There have been more donations of equipment to the Shed, for repurposing, revitalizing and moving on. A number of the Sheddors have used

the space as intended: as a place to work on their own projects, and to learn new skills from others. It is great that no one project is truly solo, they all seem to, in some way; involve more than one person before they are completed, be it advice, discussion, assistance or amusement.

The monthly activities of Repair Café's, seem to be die a death as no one turned up, this may be that more people were comfortable just dropping in past on Tuesday nights and Friday mornings instead.

Shed Walks and occasional Board Games Nights have appealed to a different selection of Shedders and the community. This is very positive, as one of the core Men's Shed organisations objectives is social inclusion, and to combat isolation. My thanks to Andy Martin for organizing the walks, Paul for organizing the Games Nights.

The close relationship between the Shed and the Village Hall continues. We have contributed a lot to the hall over the year, heating repairs, floor repair, painting the kitchen for a donation (Thanks Jim), cutting grass and general repairs and maintenance. Thanks to Jim, Pete, Nigel and anyone else that has

helped. We have also had a formal lease for our shed from the Hall committee signed for 20 years to keep things legal.

We have also managed to get the part use of a building from Richard Fyffe for storing our insulation collection, and our gratitude goes to him for this offer. However the insulation is now acuminating and we may need to look at some other building. An offer from Ian Miller was received for storage of materials which we may need to explore.

The SMSA paid a visit to the Shed in April to see what we do, our existing shed and the progress we were making with the new building.

Nigel and I attended the SMSA 10th Anniversary AGM in Perth, which gave us an insight of what other Sheds are up to. Several workshops took place Men's Health (MOT4Men), machine competency, 3D printing and Community Asset Transfer. Shed of the Year went to MacDuff Men's Shed. A demonstration on 3D printing was interesting and it's something we would consider for the new shed in a dust free area.

One workshop MOT4Men seemed relevant and Nigel managed to organize 8 of our members to take part in the hall, conducted by Tim Green our area coordinator.

We also hosted the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Mens Shed network quarterly meeting in the hall, and again thanks to all who helped out on the day with the hospitality.

We had an article published in the December edition of the SMSA newsletter highlighting our progress on the building of the new shed.

Since then Rob has managed to get us into the Donside and Deeside Piper and Page 3 of the Press and Journal, helping to raise our profile in the local area.

Rob along with Louis and Jim are busy with applications for Grants and funding including a concert by Learig in Aberdeen and the sale of Beanies to the Midmar citizens by Nigel for the next stage of the new building and a Thank you to them for this.

Thanks to Jim for taking care of the rather painful process of renewing the insurance cover for the Shed, it's users and our associated activities, this is a yearly battle which we now know other sheds seem to have the problem.

And finally my thanks goes to Nigel and Chris for their roles as Secretary and Treasurer. I have seen first-hand the work that they put in behind the scenes that keep the shed running in an organised manner. Your efforts are much appreciated, by me and the members.

GORDON GAULD

Chairman of the Midmar Men's Shed

29th April 2025

Treasurer's Report

01-April-2024 to 31-March-2025

- 1) Referring to the issued accounts attached, our income is adequate for routine expenditure with a year on year cash surplus.

- 2) Fundraising is ongoing in earnest for the new shed. In support of this £5,000 of historical cash surplus has been allocated to the new Shed.
 - 3) A GoFundMe site has been set up to raise funds for the new Shed. This is linked to a new PayPal account to allow Gift Aid to be claimed when appropriate (lesson learnt from Comers Bridge fundraising). Funds raised via this mechanism must be spent on the new Shed so a dedicated restricted fund has been set up to track this, and any other new Shed donations, as well as new Shed expenditure. Funds from 2) above allocated to this account.
 - 4) Bridge monies are a restricted fund (i.e. only to be used for that purpose) and this has been closed in this reporting period with works (and associated costs) completed.
 - 5) Reserves and risks are addressed in notes to the accounts.
 - 6) Independent review of the accounts was completed for last year and has also been completed for this reporting period. My thanks to Graham Young who has voluntarily undertaken this task.
 - 7) Acknowledgements:
 - A special mention to Kim Allan for painting this Midmar Hall kitchen. Also thanks to the Midmar Hall for the resulting £1,000 donation attributed to the new Shed restricted fund.
 - Re: new Shed: in this reporting period (and historically) Hunter Construction, Miller Plant, Breedon, Jewson and JKR Contractors.
 - Also Nigel Bennett for the Beanie Hat initiative which raised over £200.
 - 8) Midmar Men's Shed Easyfundraising account remains open and purchases arranged via this site result in small donations to our cause (typically 0.5 to 1.5% of purchase price for the likes of eBay, Toolstation etc.)
 - 9) In support of the Beanie Hat sales initiative a SumUp account has been set up allowing us to collect money via card payment.
 - 10) A reminder that membership subscriptions are now due for 2026/26 (£10 please).
- Any questions or comments on the accounts will be welcome, either contact me directly or please raise at the AGM.

Chris Beetham
Treasurer

Constitution Updates

There were two proposed changes, which were both passed.

2.1 (b) replace the word "through" with "by encouraging" ... active participation

2.1 (c) insert new paragraph to capture work in the community:

"To work actively in the Community for the benefit and improvement of the Community and it's residents.

This could be through individual projects, or broader Community-based activities to encourage social interaction, inclusion, activity and involvement which would support health, mental well-being and community spirit."

Election of Management Committee (Chair/Treas./Sec. are "Officers" of the Charity)

POSITION	NOMINATED	Proposed	Seconded	VOTE
Chairman	Gordon Gauld	NB	CB	Passed
Treasurer	Chris Beetham	PW	RF	Passed
Secretary	Nigel Bennett	GG	AM	Passed
Committee	Rob Ferguson	PW	NB	Passed
Committee	Jim Allan	CB	GG	Passed

Committee				
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AOB

- 1) It was suggested that brief CV's of the officers were required for certain funding applications and should be provided.
- 2) There will be a fundraising Ceilidh in the Hall on 1st November.

Meeting closed at approximately 8pm, and followed by a General Meeting to discuss current and future plans.