

Midmar Men's Shed Annual General Meeting 2025-2026 Minutes of Meeting

*Held at the Midmar Village Hall
12th May 2026 at 7:30pm*

Attendees & Apologies

Attending:

Gordon Gauld, Jim Allan, Rob Ferguson, Peter Woodhead, Louis Backwell, Mike Rust, Gareth Brown, Brod Jones, Ian Agnew.

Apologies:

Chris Beetham, David Smith, Andy Martin, Andy Douglas, Neil Taylor, Jonathan Wilson.

Review and accept 2024-2025 AGM Minutes

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

Chairman's Report

The report this year covers 12 months from end of April 2025 to end of March 2026 to coincide with the financial year end on 31st March.

The OSCR report will be done in the window of May to October.

Progress on the new shed took a giant step forward once the timber panels were sourced and funding from the Lottery and local donations were received. June saw the DPM, steel mesh and concrete slab laid. In August the timber panels were altered. Dry weather in September to November allowed us to erect the walls, roof trusses, timber sarking and roofing felt fitted to make the building fairly weather tight and gave us a dry work area to use. Most of the roof sheeting was completed on 2nd and 3rd of December, altogether from June, 810 manual hours were used to get to this stage. The weather from early December until mid-February prevented external work being done. Work to end of March saw the windows fitted, floor insulation laid, heating pipes fitted, concrete floor finished, and the roof sheeting and verges completed. Apart from the heating pipework, windows and concrete floor all work has been done by our members and a great team effort.

Storage of insulation material in the building space provided from Richard Fyffe became quite full. Shed member Andy Martin offered the use of an outbuilding for additional storage space. We are truly grateful to both and hopefully spaces will be liberated the material starts to be used for the walls.

A special mention to Rob along with Jim for their efforts in obtaining donations and grant funding to enable us to push forward with the project. One of the applications AVA Just transition Fund required votes from the public and a great effort to collect these were made for us to qualify and fund the Air Source heating system. The time involved in these applications and changes required to meet some funder's criteria should not be underestimated and I, on behalf of all members, appreciate your efforts. A list of all grants and donors is listed on the website.

On fundraising we hosted a Shed Ceilidh in the Hall which was well attended

Community activities continued with bird boxes for the Midmar School children to put together at lunchtimes.

Cluny School woodland area was fitted with woodland benches for the children, to replace the rotten tree stumps.

Planters and raised beds were made to order for locals, other items seem to arrive and get sorted which and other numerous projects that just seem to happen.

We received various visits this past year from people, groups interested in our project and to glean information to help them in their own projects.

In December Inverbervie had a visit and may be planning to build their own shed as they have been unsuccessful so far in obtaining redundant buildings from the council.

In July Alexander Burnett MSP paid a visit to discuss any issues that we may have and hear our story and see the progress of the new shed.

The Midmar 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. The ride on lawn mower which was donated is now in service and a great help to this group, along with other tools we have acquired.

We continue to receive donations of equipment to the Shed, for repurposing, revitalizing and moving on, however the time required for the new build has curtailed this part of the shed work.

Shed Walks have appealed to a different selection of Sheddors 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 and finding new areas to explore.

The close relationship between the Shed and the Village Hall continues. A new sink in the bar area, power sockets and lighting to this area improved. A new bench and seating unit replaced the rotten ones in the garden. Grass cutting continues. Thanks to Jim, Pete, Nigel, Andy and anyone else that has helped.

A number of our members have attended the quarterly SMSA meetings which allow us to visit other sheds to see what they are doing and the different projects they tackle. The SMSA agenda on specific topics seem a better format as we can send different people depending on the interest.

Thanks to Chris for his handover of the treasurers roll to Jim which was protracted due to getting signatures sorted out with the bank, also for his ongoing input on any H&S issues that arise from time to time.

I also take this opportunity to welcome our new members Brod, Neil and Mike, they seem to enjoy the work that we are carrying out and social aspect.

And finally, my thanks to Nigel and Jim 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 12th May 2026

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

1. First and foremost a big thank you to my predecessor Chris Beetham who handed over the treasurer's role to myself in January this year with all accounts 'workbooks' well established and up to date.
2. The draft accounts reflect a healthy operating cash account, where apart from incidental consumable outlays and minor expenses in support of fundraising, the most significant expenditure was for insurance.

3. Receipts from donations, fundraising, trading, membership fees and interest totalled £2855.35. Outlays, comprising the SMSA sub, fundraising and general expenses totalled £1108.13 resulting in an operating cash surplus of £1747.70 for the year.
4. General fundraising efforts included the raffle squares and the Xmas tree decorations and coasters with thanks to Andy Martin and Nigel respectively for coordinating.
5. We acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the generous Echt Player's donation from the December 25 Pantomime.
6. We continue benefiting from easy fundraising, where signed up individuals can help Midmar Mens Shed collect free donations with everyday shopping. Please see our website about how this works.
7. Taking account of the increased running costs and insurance for the New Shed our income is considered adequate for routine expenditure with the year-on-year cash surplus.
8. In March 2025 a separate 'restricted fund' was established to manage funding for the New Shed with a dedicated income and expenditure spreadsheet listing all monetary transactions.
9. 2025-26 New Shed receipts of £99,619.26 comprised 'in house' fundraising of £1,749.77 and donations of £97,869.49. New Shed expenditure totalled £73,308.59. At year end the New Shed fund balance stood at £32,310.67 – this taking account of the £6,000 opening balance.
10. We extend our sincere thanks to all our monetary benefactors that are too numerous to fully list. The most significant monetary benefactors, along with how their funding was spent, being :
 - Rural Challenge Fund – Windows, Joinery Materials, Electrical Works, Floor Screed
 - National Lottery – Roof Sheeting
 - Just Transition Participatory Budget – Air Source Heat pump
 - Garioch Area Fund – Foundation Concrete and Roof Trusses
 - MacRobert Trust – Timber Frame Walling & Roofing consumables
 - G&E Baxter Foundation – Larch Cladding & Roller Door
 - Meikle Foundation – Dust Extract Equipment
11. Receipt of the monetary donations has not been without the very significant efforts led by Rob Ferguson and others.
12. 'In house' Fund raising included the November '25 Ceilidh and the GoFundMe Crowd Funding at the Shed Web page.
13. Expenditure for the New Shed is supported by receipted invoices and there is an expectation we will be able to reclaim VAT on completion of the build.
14. And finally, a gentle reminder to those that have not already done so - 2026/27 subs are now due (£10 please)

An Independent review of the accounts is currently ongoing with Graham Young to whom we extend our sincere thanks for volunteering to do this for us.

Any questions or comments on the accounts will be welcome, either contact me directly or please raise at the AGM.

Jim Allan

Midmar Men's Shed Treasurer (wef 1/1/26)

Constitution Updates

Proposal 1:

Change the Shed's name from "Midmar Men's Shed" to "Midmar & District Men's Shed".

Proposal as received:

"At the Shed AGM on Tuesday 12th May I wish to propose that we consider modifying the name of the shed from "Midmar Men's Shed" to be "Midmar & District Men's Shed".

I believe this is in line with our constitution which provides for members to live with an five mile radius from Midmar Hall.

The change is intended to encourage people from around the area to consider joining our membership.

There is considerable precedent for this initiative, i.e. Inverurie, Aboyne, Banff & Macduff, Westhill, Aberchirder, Auchterarder and Bridge of Don as examples."

Notes:

Review of the SMSA directory shows a roughly 60:40 split of Shed names without vs with the word "District". Change of name would require updating OSCR, SMSA and bank account information.

Resolution:

After discussion this proposal was approved.

Proposal 2:

Rationalise the terminology regarding the officers of the Shed. Words presently used include Trustee, Officer, Management Committee and Board.

Proposed:

Define the terms:

"Officers" - a collective for named roles of the charity, in our case Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary.

"Trustees" - used collectively for those persons elected by the members to operate the charity day to day by the members.

"The Committee" – a collective term used to encompass Officers and Trustees.

References to the Management Committee will be replaced with "The Committee".

Notes:

Significant alterations to the text of the Constitution would be required (no problem, but too many to list here).

Resolution:

A marked-up version of the Constitution, with the changes highlighted, was circulated prior to the AGM. After discussion, the changes were approved.

Constitution Section 1.0 was changed to "Name and Definitions", with 1.2 added to define the positions/roles.

Proposal 3:

Insert new section titled “Men’s Shed and Community Building”.

Proposal as received:

“I had thought of a newly titled section 10 – re ‘**Mens Shed and Community Building**’

10.1 The MS & CB, located on community land, leased from, and adjacent to Midmar Hall, forms part of the buildings available for Midmar community use.

10.2 It will be managed, operated and insured by the Shed.

10.3 It will be available for other community groups to use as and when the need arises via booking system operated by the Shed

The installation of a shower space in the disabled toilet allows the building to function as a resilience centre for the benefit of the community.

Renumber sections 11 and 12?

Regards Dissolution – assets etc to Hall – or is that not a forgone conclusion?”

Notes:

The main purpose of these additions would be to support VAT reclaims for materials. While the reality is nothing new, it is not captured clearly in the constitution.

Concern that the Section name or heading proposed, does not necessarily fit in a charity constitution, so it may fit better under the Objects (aims) of the Shed in section 2 (perhaps as 2.2?).

Resolution:

A marked-up version of the Constitution, with the changes implemented, was circulated prior to the AGM. After discussion, the changes were approved.

Constitution “Section 9.0 FINANCE and PROPERTY” was split into “Section 9.0 FINANCE” and “10.0 PROPERTY” with the new text relating to property inserted into Section 10.

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

POSITION	NOMINATED	Proposed	Seconded	VOTE
Chairman	Gordon Gauld	Nigel Bennett	Pete Woodhead	Passed
Treasurer	Jim Allan	Rob Ferguson	Gareth Brown	Passed
Secretary	Nigel Bennett	Gordon Gauld	Peter Woodhead	Passed
Committee	Rob Ferguson	Nigel Bennett	Brod Jones	Passed
Committee	Chris Beetham	Jim Allan	Louis Backwell	Passed
Committee				

AOB

It was discussed and noted that the Constitution requires that the Officers stand for no more than 3 years in one role. The Chairman and Secretary will be standing down from the roles next year having completed 3 years. It was noted that changing two key roles at once may not be ideal, and that there should be an overlap period to ensure a smooth transition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm