



Aylsham Community Shed Annual General Meeting

Saturday 3rd February 2024

Venue: Aylsham High School Construction Shed

Time: 9:52am

Members Present:

Paul Baker
Steve Burch
Tyler Burch
Derek Burton
Rob Haughton

Alan Kerrison
Peter Lavender
Andrew Mullenger
Steve Pickering
Ken Seaman

Carey Whiteman
Trevor Whiteman
Peter Windmill

Apologies were received from several members including Len Casey, Ken Lennox, Peter Jolly, Monica Harding (TACT), Jo Tuttle (TACT), Beth Scrivens (Co-op).

Guests:

Teresa Andrew, Premises Manager, Site Team, Aylsham High School
Pat Grocott, Aylsham Swift Group
Philip Macdonald, CEO Aylsham Care Trust
Paul Rowlands, Mind
Jonny Wood, Norfolk Men's Sheds, Network Facilitator

The meeting started at 9:52am

Chairman's introduction and report

Ken Seaman (Chairman), welcomed those present and gave a brief history of the shed which was constituted in February 2023 following initial exploration meeting/s in autumn 2022. Ken visited several local sheds to see how they operated, etc. The first main issue was searching for a venue. Aylsham High School (AHS) contacted the initial group with a suggestion that they view the school's new construction classroom (shed). An agreement was drawn up between The Aylsham Community Trust (Families) and the founding members and offered the use of the construction shed at the weekends as a venue for the community shed. The rest is history!

Ken then handed over to Peter Lavender (current Secretary), who introduced Jonny Wood to act as meeting chairman until a new committee was elected.

Jonny then handed back to Peter to give the Secretary's report.

Secretary's report

Peter told the meeting that the shed had been in true operation for around 8 months and, although it was a struggle to attract members initially, we now have a paid-up membership of 22. The membership fee was originally set at £12 per annum and members have been active in individual and group projects, including swift boxes; picnic table refurbishment; owl box, etc., as well as sorting and refurbishing donated tools. Peter's personally expressed hopes are that members will continue to work on group and individual projects, sharing experiences and developing new skills as we go. Going

forward, we need to get the message across that we are here and that membership is open to all, regardless of existing skills and gender (we are a community shed)! The challenges are establishing future projects and seeking mutual support from, and for, the community.

Jonny asked for Paul Baker (current Treasurer) to present his report.

Treasurer's Report

Paul distributed copies of the balance sheet and gave his thanks to those who have given their support in the establishment of the community shed. Without this support, we wouldn't have the facilities that we have now, including our storage shed - which is absolutely essential. We have a healthy bank balance and we have aims to purchase a branded gazebo so that we can spread the word about the shed and attend events such as the Aylsham Show.

Peter asked if we need to do anything constitutionally and the issue of membership renewal was raised.

Discussion followed around whether we have a set date for renewal or have members renew on the anniversary of joining. Steve Burch felt that the current annual membership fee (£12) was not significant enough to worry about using anniversary dates and that we should use a set date for all membership renewals. This was voted upon and carried by the meeting.

Derek suggested that the membership fee charged should cover at least 12 months (not a pro-rata amount to run up to renewal).

A renewal date of 1st April each year was suggested and carried by the meeting.

Jonny proposed acceptance of the reports from the officers of the shed and the membership duly voted and accepted these.

Shed Stories

The next item on the agenda was Shed Stories and this involved 3 individual shed members providing background to their own reasons for joining the community shed.

Peter Windmill, Carey Whiteman and Steve Pickering each presented their own, personal, reasons for joining the shed. They gave some background to their own particular circumstances, but all shared some common goals, namely to meet people, share their own skills and develop new skills whilst working as a team to support each other and the community as a whole.

Jonny thanked the three members for sharing their experiences of joining the shed. He gave the analogy of the shed being 'the right sort of virus'.

Election of Officers and Committee members

Peter gave a pre-amble by mentioning that he would be stepping down but that those opting for election would be supported by others. They would not be abandoned to struggle with their new roles! Jonny also mentioned that there was further support on offer from the existing network of sheds and the Norfolk Association of Men's Sheds, plus ambassadors (Ray at North Walsham and Henry at Poringland).

Jonny ran through each of the officer posts, asking for nominations and then support from the members present.

Chairman: Steve Pickering indicated that he would be willing to perform this role. Duly elected by the members.

Secretary: Andrew Mullenger indicated that he would be willing to perform this role. Duly elected by the members.

Treasurer: Paul Baker indicated that he was willing to continue in this role. Duly re-elected by the members.

Membership Secretary: Peter Lavender stated to the meeting that Peter Jolly was willing to continue in this role which also covers maintenance of our website. Duly re-elected by the members.

Vice Chairman / Co-Founder: Ken Seaman was asked if he would be willing to undertake this role, to which he responded yes. Duly elected by the members.

Communications Secretary: This role is split off from the original role of secretary. Peter Lavender stated that he would be willing to undertake this role. Duly elected by the members.

Other committee members. The following members stated that they would be willing to work as members of the committee.

Derek Burton
Carey Whiteman
Steve Burch

The above members were duly elected by the remaining members present.

Thanks were offered to Jonny Wood for his role in chairing the meeting and also to Teresa Andrew representing Aylsham High School for the use of the premises for this meeting.

The AGM closed at 10:30am

Presentations

The AGM was followed by presentations by Jonny Wood (on the topic of “Why Sheds Matter, and how they make a difference”).

Also, by Philip Macdonald (on the topic of “Why community action matters to Aylsham”).

Both presentations were welcome and warmly accepted by the members present and the speakers were thanked for their involvement in the proceedings.

Overall formal meeting closed, after which members and guests discussed projects and looked at individual work completed or in hand.