

Minutes of Meeting 2nd October 2024 – 7pm

Present: Brian Fell, Colin Knight, Bob Finch, Matthew Whyte, Dave Marriott & Calvin Joslin.

Apologies: Mark Sadler.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th September were approved.

Finance.

Treasurer's report. Colin reported that we currently have a £138 surplus on our I&E this year, the current balance is £9030, expenditure during the month was wood for the bird boxes and subs to UKMSA.

Rent. Two rent invoices were left for us by Simon

IT/Media. Matthew has updated the website - <https://mensshedbse.org.uk/> and the new version is up and running and Matthew suggested we all have a look and see what we think and relay back to him any comments or things to be included. Brian will supply him with our Sponsor's details so they can be included and Matthew will supply Brian with log in details so at least one other person has them.

Administration.

Membership. We have 2 new members and 3 others have visited and shown an interest so hopefully we may exceed 30 members soon.

Competence Assessment. This is still moving forward and David has posted the up to date list on the notice board.

Events.

Christmas lights – Thursday 14th November We have been allocated a pitch but not sure where currently, the event runs from 3pm to 8pm, Brian will check the email and advise of the time we can set up from. Helen has volunteered to help along with Harry, Bob is confident he can get enough stuff together to sell and is working on a light for the stall. Bob and Matthew will mention on Saturday that we are looking for further volunteers. We may need to borrow Stuart's gazebo weights as Brian's are still in development!, Mark will need to provide the insurance certificates so Brian will liaise with him.

St Mary's Church – Saturday 7th December This is a little further in the future so not so urgent, it's indoors so no gazebo is required and we are allocated one car park space.

Projects.

The Hub. Bob has photo's of before and after the raised bed installation which he can send to Matthew, other than not much to report.

Cathedral. Brian mentioned that they had emailed Peter about getting the frame out, Woodley's daughter has cleared her garage and kindly offered it for storage of this. We are still no further forward with extricating it, Bob will make contact with them to see if they can provide any advice / assistance. With regard to The Yard Brian has not had any contact since before the last meeting so we are not sure of where they are with this.

Allotments. Still on minutes as to date we have not received a donation from them Bob thinks that this may be in kind (biscuits etc.) and not in cash.

West Suffolk Sands. We have purchased the wood for the bird boxes and Matthew will see if he can get Stefan started on them.

Victoria Surgery – Bird boxes. Peter had promised 2 bird boxes to them, Brian mentioned that Giles had produced a bird table last year from old pallet wood and wondered if he could do the same for the bird boxes. Brian suggested it would be a nice idea to get Peter to hand it over to them.

Christmas party.

Brian had sent an email and only received one reply, (from Helen), so it was decided that we won't do anything formal this year and Bob and Helen will look to lay on a few bits of food on Saturday 14th December and maybe invite Simon and the Oddfellows.

AOB.

Bob has been in contact with a housing development company in Kennett who have offered local charities their offcuts and leftover wood. Bob has been over and what they have would be fantastic for us as it includes long lengths of various timber sections. Simon has mentioned that if we could get him some then he would allow us to store ours at the Centre, if not we could store it at the Hub under a tarpaulin. After a discussion during which Dave got a price for a van it was decided that Bob would make a further visit and collect some bits and then after a discussion with Simon about possible cost share we can formulate a plan as the value of the timber far outweighs the cost of van hire.

Brian mentioned that last year CAS organised a local Shedfest and that this year they aren't doing it, but Hadleigh Men's Shed are organising an event along similar lines on Thursday 21st November and have extended us an invite, they will have a full program with a fish and chip lunch at £5, anyone interested in attending please let Brian know.

Bob mentioned about Haverhill Men's shed finally obtaining a premises but that sadly last week they had a break in and lost over £1000 worth of tools, although they have since received numerous pledges from people wishing to help them,

David mentioned that he has been given the impression that a member would be celebrating a milestone Birthday today, however, it turned out to be incorrect, however, he asked if the Shed should be marking members significant birthdays with a card, it was agreed this would be a good idea.

Date of next Meeting 6th November.