

## Minutes of Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 7pm

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

Apologies: Calvin Joslin, Mark Sadler.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February were approved.

### Finance.

**Treasurer's Report.** Colin reported that the balance at the end of February was £10,939, including £3,022 of grant funding. Income for the month included a £700 donation from Oddfellows and £50 from Great Barton Allotment Association.

**SCF Grant Application.** Brian submitted the application and SCF required confirmation of the "high level" of unrestricted reserves shown in our accounts. This may hamper our chances of receiving a grant.

**Rent.** An invoice for the period between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February was left for us by Simon.

**IT/Media.** Calvin has managed to sort out the Google Drive problem which prevented uploading the minutes and our records are now up to date.

Matthew asked Brian to draft a note for the web site thanking Oddfellows for their generous donations.

### Administration.

**Ronseal.** UKMSA have announced that this year's opportunity to apply for free Ronseal products will be in two tranches with the first starting on 11<sup>th</sup> March. After a discussion it was decided to meet at the Shed on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March to consider our current stocks and decide whether to make an application.

**Sealey Tools.** Brian has been approached by Matthew Grant, (Head of Marketing), regarding an offer of support which appears to be a donation of tools and/or PPE. Contact with Matthew has been a bit frustrating and Brian asked Dave if he could pursue the offer of free PPE as part of his general interest in improving our PPE stocks.

### Events.

**Planning for 2025.** After an initial meeting of the focus group progress has stalled due to other commitments but Bob is hoping to move things along from next Saturday. Unfortunately, Mark has been unwell recently and unable to contribute. Bob has taken advantage of a special offer at B&Q and bought three large plastic boxes to store and transport products for shows and after a conversation with Simon, Bob intends to rationalise storage at the Centre.

### Projects.

**West Suffolk Sands.** Matthew confirmed that the bird boxes should be completed this week and ready for collection. It was agreed that Stephan had done an excellent job, had learned a lot from Matthew in the process and was probably ready for another challenge.

**Theatre Royal.** Stuart has made a prototype storage rack and with help from Mick is well on the way to making two more units. The prototype should be ready for handover next week and Stuart will make arrangements with the theatre. The theatre manager has suggested that a plaque should acknowledge the Shed's construction of the racks. (If this is agreed Matthew offered to make the plaque).

**Risby School.** Brian and John Flower have delivered the Bucket Balance and a collection of educational wood roundels to the school. They were received by Suzy Stennet, (Chair of Governors) and Amanda Poole, (PTA Chair) who were delighted with them and have agreed to send a photo of the balance in place in the playground. Brian agreed to supply further roundels to include alphabet, numerals and garden birds in due course.

**The Hub.** Bob continues to work at the Hub assisted by his son Matt and also Harry. They are gradually bringing some order to the area around the polytunnel and as well as having two beds ready for planting,

they have established two compost bins. Bob intends to introduce “Tiger Worms” to assist in breaking the compost material down. There is still around £500 in the budget to carry out further work and some will be spent on a wheel barrow.

**Bungalow 25.** We have again been asked to assist in their “Bury in Bloom” entry which this year has a railway theme. As last year it looks as though Matthew will do most of the work on this.

**Date of next Meeting 2nd April.**