

Dalbeattie Men's Shed
Notes of Members Meeting No 27, held 12th Jan 2021 10:00am by Zoom.

1. Present.

5 Officers & 13 members

Apologies.

None

Last Meeting

The last meeting in October April was conducted over Zoom.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the Shed has remained locked down since March, with little to report on Shed business. The premises themselves remain available to us when lockdown rules, the Shed Trustees, and our landlord judge conditions are favourable for a return. This is unlikely to be in Q1/2021.

Shed 'active' membership (i.e., those on the Shed phone/email/zoom circulation list) sits at 41, and we are still short of an Assistant Treasurer. We have 2 new member requests to join the Shed which have been put on hold until after reopening of the Shed. Any volunteer for the post of Assistant Treasurer to pass their names to a Shed Officer.

Most Shed projects are on hold (like the Dumfries Town Model), The Skeoch is mechanically complete and is currently being painted. Recent lockdown rules have put all plans for celebrating the Skeoch centenary on hold.

A query about how the Shed determines membership numbers and handles new member requests arose from the Chair's report. The Secretary related how in 2019 the Shed constitution changed to reflect a Board decision to limit active Shed membership to a safe capacity as determined from time to time by the Board. The target in 2019 was to reduce that number from 44 to 40 active members through natural attrition, so potential new members would need to go on a waiting list. However, the 40-member target has been superseded by lockdown rules and the Trustees will need to review the safe number before reopening. It is likely that an attendance booking system for each Shed open day will be used on reopening, and this could be in place for some considerable time. With this in mind, we are unlikely to be accepting new members in the near future – we could consider putting those requesting membership on the circulation list.

3. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that in the current financial year to date Shed receipts are £12,054 and payments are £4,707 giving a working cash total of £5,070, with some outstanding moneys from member's purchasing. The separate Skeoch account has benefitted from significant donations, including a legacy, to sit at £11,400.

The Treasurer has also had notification of a potential legacy for the Shed.

A dedicated Skeoch reserve account is being set up by the Treasurer, the Secretary proposed that in view of the significant ongoing costs of owning, maintaining, and displaying the Skeoch, the Shed Officers should move the bulk of Skeoch funds into the reserve account before our financial year end.

4. Open Discussion

Open discussion was largely about balancing the members wish to get back to Shed life against their concern to stay virus free. It was accepted that Shed reopening and operating protocols will be driven by recovery from current Covid infection rates, and although vaccination is crucial to that recovery it will not be the trigger for reopening the Shed. There is insufficient surety about recovery rates, or guidance about post covid precautions/restrictions to alter our Shed reopening risk assessment and protocols at present, but these documents will need to be revised to include attendance dependence on vaccination [i.e., can we discriminate between no vaccination/one vaccination/two vaccinations].

5. Next Meeting

The next formal Shed meeting will be our AGM and Members meeting, due Tuesday 13th April 2021, which will be held on Zoom if, as anticipated, the Shed is still closed.

By general consensus, the Shed will hold informal monthly Zoom meetings for members at 10am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month until Shed reopening. The Assistant Secretary will send out links, the meetings will not be minuted.

GCA 12-01-21