

The Black Isle Men's Shed
Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 8 Feb 2023

2:00 pm Chanonry Sailing Club

Present:

Colin Blyth	Zak Eastwood	Don Holding	Stewart Robertson
Steve Bramwell	Richard Evans	Peter Lawrence	George Smith
Donald Cameron	Mike Hale	Donnie McLeod (chair)	John Tuach
Richard Cherry	Michael Halley	Nicolaas du Preez	Graham Tuley
John Cromarty			

- 1 **Chairman's welcome:** Donnie McLeod welcomed us all to our Fifth AGM.
- 2 **Apologies** none received
- 3 **Minutes of the Fourth AGM** on 16 Feb 2022. **Agreed unanimously**
- 4 **Chairman's Report:** Donnie presented a review of 2022.

The Covid crisis thankfully is no longer the major issue that it was and our recovery seems to be pretty good. Our workshop at Avoch has been well attended and several projects have been successfully turn out. A special thanks to the team working mainly at Feddanhill wood. What a great job making our workshop from natural woodland materials so a particular thanks to George, Richard Evans and Don Holden plus all others who contributed to this project and a special thanks to Graham Tuley for welcoming us to his hobby woodland.

I would like to mention 2 members who have moved on through health issues in the last year. Mike Hutcheson was an early member whose woodworking skills and enthusiasm are sadly missed by all. Charles Oates has also moved away to be closer to his family. Charles, while unable to do too much physically was certainly good company for us all in the Wardroom. Don't forget that the Wardroom is a very important element of a Shed.

I would also like to say thanks to Stewart Roberson who is stepping down as a trustee of the Shed. Stewart mainly was responsible for the formation of the Shed and was our first Chair. Stewart led us successfully through our embryonic days to where we are now. I hope that Stewart will still be able to contribute to the Shed as his input and knowledge are highly regarded.

On stepping down as chair I would like to thank the board and trustees for their help and commitment to the Shed over the past year and in particular to Peter Lawrence and Richard Cherry as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, these guys do most of the administrative heavy lifting. Steve Bramwell deserves a mention as he has worked tirelessly in securing a variety of grants from many sources to help with the running and sustainability of the Shed.

On a sadder note, I must mention the passing of Cliff Sim who oversaw our audited accounts since the Shed started and we pass on our condolences to his family and friends. Fortunately, we now have Hector Douglas vetting our books and we are very grateful for Hector agreeing to do this essential service for us.

Our main challenge now is being able to sustain the Shed over the next few years. Our landlords, due to increased cost to run the centre are having to increase the lease cost to centre users to such an extent that it will be very difficult for us to remain at the centre. While we have discussed this issue informally we need to resolve it formally through our new committee. Accordingly, it is necessary to call a special meeting to agree the way forward. The committee has been looking at potential ways of continuation of the Shed and I am confident that there are solutions. It may take some time for a long-term solution however there are a number of potential contingencies available. The new committee will agree a date for the Special meeting as soon as possible.

We have cemented very good relations with our friends from the repair café and this initiative is growing and becoming more popular with the public as it is reducing what goes to landfill. We are also talking to Avoch Primary School with a view to promoting more intergenerational working with the school.

The Scottish Government may halt funding of SMSA that may result in us losing support from Jason and Tim. Should this be the case I would support that we continue with our Moray Firth networking group. This is a very useful forum for exchanging views and concerns.

Hopefully, I've covered everything so forgive me if I've missed out anything important, my defence is, as my dear old granny used to say, old age does not come alone. Thank you.

- 5 Trustees for 2023-2024:** - Steve Bramwell, Richard Cherry, Richard Evans, Michael Halley, Peter Lawrence, Donnie MacLeod, John Tuach.

Agreed

- 6 Allocation of roles of Committee Members for 2023-2024:** -

John Tuach	Chairman and Webmaster
Mike Halley	Vice- Chairman
Immediate past-Chairman	Donnie McLeod
Secretary	Richard Cherry
Treasurer	Peter Lawrence
Project co-ordinator	Richard Evans
Talks and Functions co-ordinator	vacant
Health and Safety Advisor	Vacant (responsibility of Chairman)
Welfare Officers	Steve Bramwell and John Chisholm (Advisor)
Session Leaders	Steve Bramwell, Richard Cherry, Richard Evans, Michael Hale, Donnie McLeod, Nicolaas du Preez, George Smith, Alistair Todd

Agreed

7 **Treasurer's report:** Peter Lawrence presented our EOY2022 accounts and reported a surplus for the year of £546 in our Unrestricted Fund. Our bank balance is healthy, with £6077 at EOY. Hector Douglas has signed off the accounts and we are very grateful to him for his help.

The accounts were then accepted unanimously by the meeting.

8 **Amendment of Constitution:** We agreed to delete the requirement for Black Isle Residency from paragraphs 4 and 11 of the Constitution.

9 **Handover of Chairmanship:** John Tuach had agreed to take this role and Donnie handed over to him. There was a unanimous vote of thanks to Donnie for his work during the past year.

10 **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Hector Douglas had been very helpful indeed in the preparation of our Annual Accounts and has agreed to assist us next year. His formal appointment was proposed by Peter Lawrence and seconded by Richard Cherry.

Agreed

11 **AOCB:** Colin Blyth conveyed thanks from the organisers of the Repair Café, and looked forward to the relationship continuing. All of us who have been involved concurred enthusiastically.

12 **Next meeting:** details of our 2024 AGM will be circulated in due course.

Meeting closed at 1440 hrs