

MINUTES OF THE 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CANNOCK
CHASE SHED
MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2020

In attendance: Committee Members - Leslie Jewkes, Barry James, Graham Johnson, Avril Green. 4 Visitors. 15 Members.

Chair Leslie Jewkes opened the meeting at 10.00 with a warm welcome and some old jokes making a relaxing start to proceedings. ¹

Then started the business of the day. Giving a brief history of the opening of the 'Shed' or The Museum of Cannock Chase Shed as it was then. It was the Museum who suggested the idea of a Shed to Dave Causer who was the main instigator. He became Chair, Graham Johnson the Treasurer, Pete Dalloway the Secretary, Barry James as Health & safety Officer & Leslie Jewkes was persuaded to become Vice-Chair. Although all the jobs have become very flexible since then.

Once the opening members sorted themselves into a Committee, a Constitution & Name change to Cannock Chase Shed was agreed and signed on 4th February 2019. Some of the first projects were not successful but we learned a great deal in the process which has enabled us to prosper. Many adjustments had to be made to the original garage building, starting with clearing out the garage. The drainage had to be sorted out and the floor levelled. Then we painted the floor and the walls. Then began with benches and shelving. Electricity & water was supplied by The Museum of Cannock Chase 9 months later in November 2019 to the huge relief of all members as we could now install heating, proper lighting, dust control, power tools & woodworking machinery.

Member Tim Cutler knows how to make stuff and has a knack of finding inexpensive solution to problems. Everyone else got stuck in to get our Shed up and running as soon as possible.

A mention of special thanks to Graham Johnson our Treasurer who held it all together. always buying wisely as requirements and funds allowed. He has kept all of the records, a thankless but essential job. Donations of tools and equipment from members of the public have always been gratefully received and put to good use whenever possible.

We had support from Aldridge Shed who have a year plus more experience than we had. They also advised us on Insurance and invited us to their Open day where several members of CCS were introduced to the West Midlands

¹ The Minutes of the General Meeting dated 28th January 2019 were approved by Dave Shaw and approved by Barry James being 2 of the 7 members present on 14/4/2020.

Mayor Andy Street. Various projects have been 'made, mended & repaired' to quote our motto.

Museum employee Cara gave invaluable help dealing with funding, organisation and administration. We also did repairs to the old Hednesford signal box, and are presently finishing the Puppet Theatre for The Friends of Hednesford Park VE Day celebrations this May.

Avril Green joined us in the Summer and has been fortunate enough to obtain funds from various Staffordshire County Councillors, Parish Councils and a large grant from Veolia Environmental Services of nearly one thousand pounds.

Circumstances changed in December 2019 when our first Chair Dave Causer resigned. I record my thanks for his drive and enthusiasm in setting up the Shed. We have survived our first year and we were warned by Aldridge that it would be the hardest.

Members can feel proud to have completed many bird boxes for Hednesford Lions & Kingsmead School. Planters and composters for a local Special Needs School. Projects and repairs to the Museum and a wheelchair adapted Puppet Theatre for The Friends of Hednesford Park 75th VE Day celebration. The local Community has provided the bulk of our funding so we have a responsibility to give back when we can.

We must recognise the founding principles of the Shed movement - overcoming loneliness, finding new friends face to face, not digitally, joining in planning, constructing things that we are proud of. We currently have 21 Paid up members and it can be somewhat crowded. We have two solutions, open more often with the help of more volunteers to cover the essentials or to extend or move which we presently could not afford.

We have lost our Member Lionel King who died late last year. He was looking forwards pursuing some restoration projects. Sadly not to be.

At AGM's all Committee members must stand down and put themselves up for re-election if necessary. Sadly, Pete Dalloway is not standing again as Secretary but has given a great deal of his organisation skills, minute keeping and calm approach to meetings. He remains a valued member & now hopefully able to complete his own long-awaited projects. Before closing Leslie gave an amusing loose poetic reminder of Health and Safety.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Graham gave a full report of Accounts and Membership pointing out any social items that need clarifying. Detailed copies of the year's accounts were made available to anyone who wanted one.

Nearly all the purchase of tools and equipment have been made by Graham who bought from suppliers where costs were most advantageous.

We have not, as yet, paid rent or for electricity but we have the reserves to cover essentials such as the rent mentioned on early occupation and also the electric now it is being metered, also the Insurance and the insurance excess.

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Barry gave a reminder of health & safety, use of guards on machinery and regular inspections of tools and equipment. Reminding everyone about keeping tools sharp, as blunt tools are a hazard.

On closing the Chair called members who had given their names to stand for Committee to stay for a brief meeting.

Leslie Jewkes; Dave Shaw; Avril Green; Barry James; Tim Cutler & Graham Johnson.

Questions from the floor -

Q. Could we give an induction pack to all new members.

A. Once the new Committee are established it will be discussed.

Q. We should have a Leaflet to hand to visitors.

A. We have one, but it needs updating.

Q. The Web-site needs updating.

A. None of the Committee have the skills required but if anyone can help, please let us know.

Q. Could the next AGM be shorter.

A. As this was our first we were finding our way and wanted to be open.

There was a Members' general discussion about if this was our 1st or 2nd AGM. It was ascertained that the first meeting was 3 months after set up so was not an Annual General Meeting.

An ex-member offered a whet stone that may need some renovation.

There was discussion on opening days/times.

Members were asked if anyone wished to open the Shed and close on an extra day. If anyone was willing to please give their name.

Members were asked to note any tools that they felt would be useful and to give details to Graham for accreditation by the Committee.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 11.30am.....