



# Southern Men's Shed Network

## Monday 28th October 2019

[www.smsn.org.uk](http://www.smsn.org.uk)

Hosted by Hayling Island Men's Shed

(Venue: South Hayling United Reformed Church, Hollow Lane. (PO11 9EY))

Present: (approx 52 in total)

Apologies Brian Cooke, Tony Hay

Graham Gowman (SMSN) chaired the meeting, Roy Cadoux took the meeting notes.

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Welcome announcements and notices were given by Graham Gowman (Nursling).

### 2. Hayling Island Men's Shed Story

**Background on the birth and creation of the Hayling Island Shed given by Roy Cadoux.**

(A copy of Hayling Island's Presentation is available on the "Meetings Documents" Page of the [smsn.org.uk](http://smsn.org.uk) website).

**Some of the Questions arising from the presentation were:**

**Q: Do you have tenure on the site?**

**A:** Yes, 7 years. This is the maximum allowed under the Church Charities Regulation.

Also Romsey pointed out they were on a school academy site and also had 7 year tenure, Nursling were on a church site and also had 7 years.

Length of lease needs lots of discussion and compromise. Offers had been made to different sheds of between 7 and 99 years. Often major funding sources require an offer of 5 or more years.

**Q: Havant Shed asked what restrictions were placed on HIMS by the church.**

**A:** HIMS had applied to use site for 5 days per week nominally for hours within the working day. This was agreed but priority would be given to the Church for any events they have planned during those hours where quiet was required. No opening at weekends.

**Q: Liss asked where the HIMS memberships costs (£15 pa) came from.**

**A:** This was based on the fact that we had no shed, expenses were minimal and the number of members we had acquired. It is understood that this may need to change for the future.

**Q: How do you control the number that use the shed at one time?**

**A:** Restricted to 15 at one time. Based on number of active members and current membership it was felt that HIMS would rarely have this many at one time.

A discussion continued for a while based on other sheds experience. Most found regular attendance was lower than expected and rarely do members stay all day. A natural pattern will probably fall into place once HIMS is open fully.

### **3. General Shed News/Updates**

The meeting was given to the floor for any updates from Shed activities.

**Alton** – No lease but have a gentlemen’s agreement with the church. This is for 10 years. No rent is paid but a donation has been made. Avoids VAT. Have own power supply to site. Duration can be re-negotiated.

**Drayton** – Also been offered a church site. The Church of the Resurrection.

**Portsea** – Still looking. After a promise of space within the Historic Dockyard, which fell through due to the nature of it being a listed building an offer was made for space within the Beneficial School. Objections were raised by neighbours. Possible site in the grounds of a community theatre but had problems with planning permission. Most promising is an old filling station site which is part of a multi-story car park owned by Gunwharf Quays. Planning has been placed.

**Fareham** – are planning a multi organisation fund raiser on November 18th. Details are on their web site.

**Steve Redrup** reminded all sheds to register and use the forums as new posts on here automatically created and distributes the SMSN newsletter helping keep everyone in touch and up to date.

### **4. UKMSA News – Update from Graham Gowman as Brian Cooke was unavailable**

Still working hard to get more exposure. Only have 2.5 Part Time Employees. They negotiate at all levels. Runs Ambassador Scheme to help new sheds. Encourage all sheds to register. Still not really known how many sheds and members are currently active in UK.

### **5. Health & Safety, Men’s Health (Graham Gowman)**

Sheds generally have a good Health and Safety record.

A Health & Safety Policy document needs to be created and read by all members of a shed.

Risk Assessments are needed for all operations on.

These documents and other Health & Safety related documents need to be available on site.

These are important regarding insurance cover requirements.

Men’s health often overlooked. Prostate cancer awareness very important. Opportunity to take tests should be accepted. Importantly, talk about problems. Share experiences and give encouragement to others to take care of themselves.

Graham quoted A A Gill with reference to Alzheimer’s.

### **6. Insurance for Sheds (Dr. John Mitchell)**

Dr. John Mitchell attended the meeting to give some hints and tips regarding insurance requirements. He pointed out that to his knowledge only 2 claims had been made in the last 18 months, both for break ins and theft.

He outlined the following needs for a sheds insurance cover.

**Liability.** This protects the shed (personnel) against claims. A shedder could be the claimant here if they are injured whilst carrying out an activity in or for the shed.

**Property.** Covers the buildings and contents. Beware at being under insured. Estimate based on replacement value. Insurance Costs are approximately £15 per £1000.

**H&S Policy** must be in place and have been read by all members.

**Risk Assessments** need to be in place and accessible. Review process needs to be agreed.

**First Aid.** Kit needs to be available. Incident book to be used. Important to record near misses.

**Fire.** Signs need to be in place. Extinguishers need to be in place and proper signs. Service cards need to be attached.

**Trustee Indemnity.** Protects the Trustees against claims.

**The following responses came from the floor.**

**Q: What certificates need to be displayed?**

**A:** Employee Liability only

**Q: What is a Shed?**

**A:** The Entity. I.e. the trustees and or management committee of the shed.

## 7. AOB

**Q: How many sheds are there now in the UK?**

**A:** Not properly known. Estimated 10,000 members over 510 sheds.

**Steve Redrup** spoke. Was very pleased with turnout (50 plus) but pointed out that the area covered by the SMSN was now nearly a 50 mile radius making visits to sites at the extremes more difficult. Suggested perhaps breaking into smaller groups. 6 or so thought this a good idea but it was pointed out that some areas had tried and failed to set up smaller groups usually because no volunteers could be found to run them.

**A Show of hands voted to keep as is.**

**Fareham** – suggested expanding activities to incorporate other community organisations. I.e. Dementia Friends, McMillan's etc. They have a theatre at their disposal that can be used to host larger events. Some other sheds also pointed out they are also involved in wider community programmes.

**UKMSA** proposed local shed fests to supplement the National event. Along the lines of the Isle of Wight event this year it was felt to be a good idea if a suitable venue could be found within a 90 minute average travel time. A venue 'of interest' would be preferred.

Weald and Downland Museum suggested..

## **8. Next SMSN Meeting**

Date of the Next Meeting is yet to be confirmed (probably around the end of January)

Chris Nixon suggested that Fareham Men's Shed may be a possible host. He will check and confirm.

## **9. (3:30pm) Meeting closed.**

The meeting closed with Graham giving "Thanks" to Hayling Island Shed for hosting, with a special Thank You to the people who provided the catering and thanked everyone for attending.