

Brightshedders currently has seven trustees. Mary Jane Ng and Steve Hammond resigned , we thank them for their contributions. New trustees Pauline Smith, Mark Spearman and Ricky Long have joined Gary Peck ( chair) , Gunter Teichler ( treasurer) , Helena Nwaokolo and Mary Burridge. Brightshedders has been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has a bank account with Lloyds Bank. There are currently two signatories – Gary Peck and Gunter Teichler. The trustees have a what's app group and meet approximately monthly at the Railway pub. Our first AGM was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The group originally thought of having a Community Shed for both men and women. However on advice from Essex Men's Sheds the decision was made to initially concentrate on men only as funding might be more available for this group who can be more socially isolated.

Efforts to build on the Community Centre site using shipping containers were not successful, nor were there any suitable premises to rent locally.

Brightlingsea Town Council agreed to lease the group an area of land at Lower Park road Recreation ground, the Scout fields. The rent has not yet been agreed.

The aim is to build a hut using recycled materials and the build was going well , with about six volunteers. The building will be timber framed utilising reclaimed pallet wood and "foundations" from tyres and stone chippings. The building will be off grid and use solar power. However in April, Tendring District Council Building Control brought the build to a halt as they changed the classification of the building. Advice was sought from a local structural engineer , Oliver Morgan, who has agreed to work pro bono.

A complaint might be made to Tendring District Council for letting the build continue but in the meantime alterations are being to the building to allow the resumption of the build. The options were discussed by the trustees. A smaller group of trustees will make decisions about the day to day build but keep all the trustees informed .

Grants have been forthcoming from Love Essex and from Essex Community Foundation ( for solar panels) . Screwfix declined our application.

We have had personal donations of tools and equipment which are much appreciated and also from Brightlingsea Winterfest.

Brightshedders have had a presence at the local Music Festival and an event at the Library. This coming year we will be at the Music Festival and the Classic Car Show.

Two trustees have attended a suicide awareness course organised by MIND.

A revised information leaflet has been produced.

We have a Facebook page – BriShed.

We do not currently have a website and have decided to wait until we are more active as there may be costs involved .

We have received a commission for information boards for All Saints church.

*Pauline Smith*