

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at Mike Dobson's residence, Wednesday 15 September 2021

Present

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Anna Koor (Secretary), Rob Wood (Deputy Lord Mayor & Ward Councillor), Bob Stewart (Spice Island) Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Chris Attwell (Ward Councillor).

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Ian Holder (Ward Councillor), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Mary Tollow (Membership).

2 Declarations of Interest – Anna asked all to confirm their declarations of interest should any matters of that nature arise during the course of FOOPA business and all agreed. Cllr Chris reminded everyone that he is vice chair of Planning.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 21 July 2021 were approved by the Chair, having been circulated to all the Committee via email.

3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

OPATS / Traffic Survey – The local survey by councillors to canvass views regarding road crossings and traffic calming received an overwhelmingly positive response. There are presently not sufficient funds to carry out all the proposed measures — a few would require much greater infrastructure engineering. Councillors hope that some of the work (as recommended in the draft Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study) will commence by November.

Ineos / BAR Building – Despite 2 months passing, Gail has not received any proposals from BAR Technologies to host a community event. The building is being sub-let by the leaseholders as office space. Residents have raised questions regarding continuing subsidies from PCC, sub-letting arrangements, and change-of-use.

4 Correspondence and Communications

PGS Deliveries and St Jude's School Streets initiative – Steven Flynn (PCC, Principal Traffic & Development Planning Engineer) met with the PGS bursar who unfortunately offered no compromises or solutions to mitigate the current unsustainable situation regarding their food deliveries. Steven concludes that firmer action will be required by PCC, however he would like to witness the HGV manoeuvres for himself. Graeme expressed concern that more lorries will be incentivised to use Pembroke Road to avoid the Clean Air Zone coming into force this November. CAZ modelling work will estimate how much displacement of traffic away from the CAZ will occur. All agreed this needs close monitoring.

Speak Up Pompey World Café – Anna attended the Hampshire Police Independent Advisory Group last week and Sgt Andy Dolan confirmed that the recent Speak Up Pompey workshop succeeded in generating a raft of ideas to help tackle the problem of anti-social behaviour across the city. The next meeting will focus on how to move forward. Operation Nautical has completed its exercises and Sgt Dolan was generally pleased with how it went. Feedback was that the public did see more feet on the ground in terms of police presence over the summer.

5 Treasurer's Report

Liz was unable to make the meeting due to illness but confirmed that progress is being made to set up internet banking. Gail and Anna have signed the necessary forms. She reported that there has already been a positive response to the social events and numbers are pouring in.

6 Membership Report

Mary could not attend as she had family visiting. The Committee thanked her for helping with the social event administration and leaflet printing and deliveries.

7 Planning Report

Graeme expressed his frustration that PCC's automatic planning alerts are no longer working. He is cautious about saying there is nothing to report with progress because there could be pending planning applications that have moved forward but he is not being informed.

Royal Naval and Royal Albert Yacht Club – The applicant has produced a parking consultant survey which was noticed by a resident when it appeared on the PCC portal. He and Mike have noted some flaws and will be commenting.

12 A 'Becket Court – The issue of the high fencing enclosing this property seems to have been sidelined by PCC in the wake of their draft Heritage Strategy, which was circulated by Graeme recently. It is not clear how the public are able to engage with this document. Enforcement is not covered in the strategy. Councillors Rob and Chris are acutely aware that Planning is not in good shape at present and this is being closely looked at.

8 Social Programme – Ann was unable to attend but leaflets have been emailed and posted by Mary to promote forthcoming events: Quiz Night with Fish and Chips on 28 September, Ragtime to Jazz Talk and Recital on 2 November, and Christmas Lunch on 14 December. All will be held at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club and thanks to them for generously opening their doors to FOOPA. More details are on the FOOPA Noticeboard and the website.

9 Environment

Camber Right of Way – The applicants will need to re-present their question to Full Council on 13 October 2021, following the abandonment of the previous Full Council meeting on 19 July 2021.

Southsea Coastal Scheme – Gail has received a note of appreciation from a resident expressing gratitude for the hard work and commitment of the contractor team. The committee suggested including a feature in the next Annual Review documenting the progression of site works. FOOPA Members have been asked if they would like to join a site visit on Friday 1 October 2021.

10 Website – Keep your news and views coming in so that Gail can upload links and updates.

11 Traffic

OPATS – Mike will contact Steven Flynn to ask if his comments regarding flaws in measurements and modelling used in the Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study draft report, will be acknowledged when this goes before Traffic & Transportation Committee. However it was agreed that the greatest priority is that the report is adopted as a working document to move forward and that stalling it for the sake of rectifying imperfections would be self-defeating. Ward Councilors Rob and Chris confirmed that funds are potentially available to carry out some of the work, but hold-ups might jeopardize funding availability.

Highbury Street / Pavement Parking – Mike asked when the Double Yellow Lines and Parking Bay would be painted on Highbury Street (TRO 86/2020). The menacing creep of pavement parking is all too evident across the city and Mike urged PCC to grasp this nettle and tackle it. An article in Flagship would be a good start. Cllr Chris agreed to follow this up.

12 Ward Councillor Reports

Shipwrights Way – Following Mike's lengthy email to ward councillors regarding the threat to a number of long-distance paths, Cllr Rob Wood met with PCC's Safer Travel Manager Michelle Love to discuss an optimum solution to how the requirements of this route can be accommodated. There are options regarding the flow and crossings at Broad St near The Wellington Pub and White Hart Road. This will be fully finalised shortly.

13 Committee Admin — None.

14 AOB

AGM – Anna made the committee aware that the Cathedral currently has a policy of 30 people maximum capacity at Cathedral House. Larger numbers can be accommodated in the Cathedral itself. It was noted that FOOPA has held its AGM in the Cathedral before and it was very successful.

Thanks to Mike – At no notice, due to being locked out of the Pembroke Bowls Club, Mike hosted this FOOPA meeting around his dining table, along with refreshments and nibbles.

15 Date of Next Meeting – The Pembroke Bowls Club is not available on Wednesday 13th October so the committee agreed on Tuesday 12 October 2021, 7.30pm.

