

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 17 September 2025

Website: foopa.org.uk

Email: foopacontact@gmail.com

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 17 Sept 2025, 7.30pm Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club

Present - Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Eileen Measey (Environment),

1 Apologies – Ward Councillors Ian Holder, Chris Attwell, Mark Jeffery.

2 Declarations of Interest – All were reminded to confirm their declarations of interest should any matters of that nature arise during the course of FOOPA business.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the 16 July 2025 meeting were circulated to the Committee and agreed by the Chair. Sharon requested an amendment to the item on St John's College development - noted by Anna.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

A-Bar Paving - The temporary tarmac has still not been replaced with the original paving stones. As stated by Cllr Mark Jeffery at the Neighbourhood Forum yesterday evening, SSE energy company has said that further work will be undertaken shortly, so it will not be replaced until that is finished.

School Streets - Residents have received letters from PCC stating that more enforcement is planned for the new year. Sharon commented that the back-to-school traffic has been quieter. She will forward a copy of the letter to Mike.

Old Portsmouth Living - The second edition was recently issued. FOOPA is grateful for the editorial feature and the publisher welcomes further articles.

5 Correspondence and Communications - None.

6 Treasurer's Report — At 31 July there was £3903.15 in the current and £5122.01 in the savings accounts. At 31 August there was £3894.05 in the current and £5125.25 in the savings accounts. Gail and Anna conducted a handover with Ann. Gail has successfully taken charge of the online banking with Lloyds Bank. Sharon purchased a £50 Hobbycraft gift card for Mary and was reimbursed by cheque authorised by Gail and Anna. A net profit of £97 was made from the Gower talk in May. It was agreed to donate this to The Rowans. Anna will send a cheque.

7 Social Programme – Gail has secured a speaker for a FOOPA talk on 6 November 2025 by retired navy officer Mark Barton, who lives in Southsea. The Bowls Club has been booked. It was agreed that a ticket price of £6, including free drink would be appropriate. Gail will issue the flyer.

8 Membership Report – The committee was sad to hear that long-time member Margaret Jill Coombs has died. According to her niece, she took an avid interest in FOOPA and the Neighbourhood Forum over many years. Gail will update the records. Without a membership secretary, there has not been any monitoring of FOOPA subscription payments since March to identify any remaining non-payers. Anna agreed to take on that piece of work.

9 Traffic

Bicycle Hangar at The Point - PCC Transport officers have been asked by residents to make use of BAR's East St car park for a bicycle hangar, which was originally planned for the pavement area next to the bus stop at the Camber. BAR already uses its own apron area as an exclusive carpark. The East St carpark is policed by PCC officers who's salaries are paid for by the public, therefore in PCC control. Local residents should therefore have some say in how it is used. It remains unclear about what

parking is included in sale of the former BAR building. Mike suspects PCC is being vague due to the original contentious deal with BAR. There seems to be little determination by councillors to tackle this despite continued efforts by Point residents.

Road Safety and PCC's Ian Myhill - Mike is still after the raw data that was used in Ian's presentation at the Neighbourhood Forum in March.

Pavement parking - Mike is urging for more enforcement to combat pavement parking, given it's the start of the school year. He flagged up the Living Streets website and campaign, which is calling for the public to photograph vehicles parked on pavements so a national map of black spots can be generated. Pavement parking is now illegal in Scotland and parts of London.

Clean Air - A new public survey of the Council's clean air strategy is currently being aired, Sharon and Anna concurred it takes a considerable time to complete.

Shipwrights Way - At last night's Neighbourhood Forum, residents again raised the issue of cyclists using Feltham Row and how to resolve this.

10 Planning

Still and West - A retrospective application for a rubbish store on the Fullers site at Point received conditional permission. Planning consent was given for the inner porch recently installed in the pub.

St Thomas's Street - Application to construct a front door porch, similar to others along the street.

Duke of Buckingham 24/01085/FUL - There have now been two material changes resulting in further public consultations. Case officer Lorna Juarez conducted a site visit to the neighbouring Jack House gallery property. The second material change was to enlarge the windows on Highbury St with the lower half glazing obscured. Sharon's FOOPA comments are still missing from the planning portal.

PCC Survey - PCC is currently running a survey about empty properties and their use.

Former Nuffield carpark - A University application has been submitted for a 400-capacity cycle space and showers on the site. A Wellbeing Hub next to the Student Union is also planned.

St George's Building - It has been mooted that the building may be sold by the University.

Anglesea Road MOD building - It is understood there is a plan to sell off HMS Nelson building.

11 Heritage & Conservation

Hampshire Open Studios - Took place in August, sadly featuring not a single venue in Portsmouth.

Heritage Open Days - A series of events in Portsmouth until 21 September, see website.

Holmes Fest - Currently running, mainly at Groundlings Theatre.

12 Environment – The experiment with heritage vegetables has not worked and little has thrived. Eileen is exploring the concept of cultivating without water, otherwise known as Xeriscape gardening.

13 Website – Nothing to report. Gail has posted several new events and updates.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – None present.

15 Committee Admin – None.

16 AOB - Sharon has reported a suspected abandoned vehicle on Penny St.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15 October 2025, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.