

## THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 19 July 2017

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at Portsmouth Sailing Club, 21 June 2017

### Present:

Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Alistair Wilson (Membership), Rob Wood (Ward Councillor), Anita Stepnitz (Vice-Chair)

### 1 Apologies:

Terry Halloran (Planning), Tom Wood (Ward Councillor), PCSO Michelle Slater (St Thomas Ward Police Team), Vikki Mathews (Social), Laurie Higgins (Treasurer)

### 2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

### 3 Matters arising

Lucy Watts had submitted an email update (see June 2017 Minutes for summary), however Gail said she would invite her to the September meeting. (Post meeting note : invitation will be for the October meeting owing to full Agenda for September meeting.)

### 4 Correspondence

**Southsea Sea Defences** – Cllr Rob has received a large number of letters. There is a public debate in progress regarding the hard-line approach having been adopted by PCC, and an alternative ‘soft’ strategy being publicized by a University of Portsmouth research team. This was aired and discussed at a talk and exhibition at the Cathedral on 15 July (full details on FOOPA Website). It was agreed that Gail would contact Guy Mason, the PCC officer who over-saw the original public consultation in November 2014 and ask him to come and explain the current status. Old Portsmouth resident Francis Graves (from the University of Portsmouth research team) was invited to this meeting to help FOOPA Committee members understand the situation.

The East Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) scheme has got initial funding of £5.9 million from Government to develop the design. ESCP / PCC will be briefing all Councillors on 25 July, owing to widespread adverse reaction to the ‘hold the line’ approach that has been adopted and apparently the only option on the table. Francis explained their concern is that a potential concrete ‘revetement’ will effectively mean that Portsmouth will no longer be ‘a waterfront city’. It was acknowledged that the lack of communication from PCC has not helped. Francis emphasised it is vital that creative thinking is applied to this momentous project to ensure that the waterfront aspect is enhanced and attracts investment. However, at present it is difficult to ascertain what the current situation is regarding the contract.

There was a brief discussion regarding ESCP’s consultation exercise in 2014 and Mike added that ‘Public engagement should be free from predetermined ideas.’

### 5 Treasurer's Report

Laurie is only back from holiday today. Anna has submitted transaction back-up accounts to Laurie by email with copies of receipts / invoices. Alistair has emailed Laurie the bank statements. Gail proposed that Laurie checks out online banking when he is next available. He will hopefully pass the previous year documentation to Janis so she can examine.

### 6 Membership Report

Currently there are 224 members, same as previous month. Once the new Website goes live, a mailshot will be distributed to all members, which will include a request that everyone pays their annual subscriptions in January each year. This will simplify the tracking of membership renewals and accounting.

### 7 Planning Report

Terry submitted a summary, see attached.

Wellington Arms – as far as Anita is aware, there has been no enforcement by PCC and the retrospective planning application seems to be identical to the original one that was refused. It was agreed to continue monitoring the situation and consider making a deputation to Planning Committee when it comes up.

## **8 Social Programme**

Anna has circulated proposals. It is hoped that Vikki can attend the September meeting to report on progress arranging fixtures.

## **9 Environment Report – none.**

## **10 Website**

Gail has circulated a link to the new website pages, and it is up to committee members to suggest amendments and review content for their own pages. It is hoped that this will be completed over the summer period as there is no meeting in August.

## **12 Traffic**

**Old Portsmouth Traffic Area Study** – being conducted by PCC in-house in consultation with other departments. It is hoped that PCC will consult with community groups at the outset of the study, not present the community with the results of the study and ask for comments. Anna will check with Pam Turton.

**Speeding** – urban myths are still being peddled regarding lack of speed enforcement: cannot enforce a 20mph limit, it is an emergency exit route, average speed is under the enforcement threshold, High Street has good compliance with speed limit, other roads in Portsmouth are worse, speed cushions increase air pollution... etc.

**Parking** – a city-wide online parking survey has been underway. Scepticism has been expressed regarding how valid and meaningful the results will be. However Mike has received a helpful response from Jane Di Dino regarding the survey's basis and assessment. There will be a focus group on 25 July consisting of a small group of randomly picked respondents equally spread from around the city.

**PCC Draft Air Quality Strategy** – PCC adopted the strategy on 17 July at the T&T Committee Meeting chaired by Cllr Simon Boshier, despite the number of responses during consultation. Mike had submitted a deputation, which was pointed out by opposition spokesperson Cllr Stagg – Anna attended. She cited one example Mike gave regarding engine idling which is illegal, yet PCC's publicity no longer mentions this. It is a widespread problem so should be publicised robustly. Cllr Boshier and Alan Cufley confirmed they had both read Mike's deputation and appreciated his work and contribution. They also acknowledged that more needed to be done about this problem.

**Wightlink** – at the last Neighbourhood Forum concern was expressed about regular traffic hold-ups. Residents were told that this should improve when the double-deck parking is fully operational. FOOPA is concerned that the bottleneck at Gunwharf Road and St Georges Road junction remains. Rob will email a summary of where the project stands.

**13 Policing** – not in attendance, however feedback from Councillors and fellow residents suggests that Sgt Dean Juster and PCSO Michelle Slater were given a hard time by residents at the Neighbourhood Forum on 6 July 2017 following the spate of anti-social behavior at the Camber and HotWalls.

## **14 Ward Councillors' Reports**

**Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** – PCC's portfolio holder Cllr Rob New reported that rubbish removal on HotWalls beach is having a positive effect. He has committed to upgrading the CCTV to high-definition quality around the HotWalls which would be more helpful in aiding prosecutions. This would be a case of re-locating high-definition cameras from elsewhere in the city. The previous problems gaining a response when calling 101 to report non-emergency policing issues is understood to be fixed. Community wardens and police officers have powers to issue on the spot fines of £100 for ASB, which

means that culprits are required to give their home addresses, so the police can follow up by conducting home visits with families. Cllr New has reportedly engaged with BAR and received a commitment to helping combat the disturbances on the BAR apron area. Councillors have been advised that funding has been made available to upgrade safety signage and erect a diving platform to provide an attraction for youngsters.

**15 Committee Admin** – none.

**16 AOB** – none.

**17 Date of next Meeting** - Wednesday 20 September 2017.