

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 24 April 2019

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at Portsmouth Sailing Club, 24 April 2019

Present:

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Bob Stewart (Spice Island).

Guest: Chrissie McQueen, Portsmouth City Council Hotwalls Studios Manager.

1 Apologies

Rob Wood (Ward Councillor), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Alistair Wilson (Membership), Ann Wilson (Social Secretary).

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3 Matters arising

Hotwalls Studios - Chrissie McQueen attended to update the committee about forthcoming events / projects. Looking further ahead, a series of Heritage Open Days are planned for two weekends in September. Chrissie is keen to work with local community representatives to develop the idea of collectively hosting public 'open days' of historic spaces in the neighbourhood that rarely get an airing. It was agreed to help contribute with this and perhaps develop a 'historic trail' — FOOPA members who reside in historic properties may also like to open their doors. More imminently, over the 4-5 May 2019 weekend, the Round Tower will showcase a pop-up exhibition of work by artist Donna Poingdestre, and on 19 May 2019 the Hotwalls Studios Creative Market will launch an artisan event in the Round Tower — The Traders Keep — which will feature guest artists and designer-makers on the parade ground. Through the summer, the weaver artist in Studio 12 will be launching an interactive weaving project, engaging with young visitors, stemming from the local youth organisation Motivate's work on anti-social behaviour. It will follow an environmental theme. Mike suggested adding a 'bonus' point system for those who arrive by active travel and Chrissie will think about this. Anna and Chrissie will liaise to establish if representatives from Motivate might come along to a FOOPA Committee meeting, with a view to FOOPA making a donation / contribution to their work at the Hotwalls and surroundings over the summer.

Camber Right of Way – the 42-day consultation period ended on 12 April 2019 and the Council's objection to the Order for a Restricted Byway has been published. It can be viewed at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/travel/public-rights-of-way

4 Correspondence and Communications

None.

5 Treasurer's Report

FOOPA Member Janis Loose, who formerly had a role as Auditor of FOOPA's accounts, has kindly agreed to be Treasurer, following discussions with Gail at the AGM. She emphasized that she is often away and therefore cannot always attend monthly meetings.

6 Membership Report

Alistair is away and will wrap up transactions and proceedings following the AGM, when he returns before the next meeting.

7 Planning Report

Fontenoy House – PCC's new case officer has established that Historic England had not been consulted following submission of the planning application, so there will be some delay while awaiting their response.

8 Social Programme

Old Portsmouth Quiz Night – Ann was unable to make this evening's meeting, however it is understood that she is keen to organize a Quiz Night. This kind of event has been held in the past and been very successful by all accounts. Committee members are happy for Ann to pursue the idea and lend support.

9 Environment Report

Air Pollution – Concern is being expressed by the Council that a Clean Air Zone will need to be implemented in the city. Cllr Vernon-Jackson has written to central Government asking for an exemption on the grounds that this measure would hit poorer communities hardest, and requesting funding for improvements to air quality. The Air Quality Local Plan has yet to be released. Mike's opinion is that PCC is in denial about the scale of the problem. He also challenged Cllr Vernon-Jackson's claim, referring to the

example of Charles Dickens ward which experiences the worst levels of urban deprivation, has the lowest levels of car ownership, yet has the highest air pollution readings.

Southsea Coastal Scheme – there is a Stakeholders Advisory Update meeting on 20 May 2019 which Graeme will be attending.

10 Website

Nothing to report.

12 Traffic

Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study - Mike has emailed all the local election councillor candidates for St Thomas Ward, offering to brief them about traffic and road safety issues in Old Portsmouth. He has seen a draft of the Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study and there may be an opportunity for PCC to present this at the next Neighbourhood Forum on 27th June 2019. There is a general dogma still be followed with respect to speeding. Mike's analysis of results from Community SpeedWatch exercises demonstrate that half the number of drivers along High Street would be due a speeding penalty by the police. However, the erroneous interpretation by PCC is that no action needs taking if the mean speed is below the enforcement threshold. In a 20mph limit road, it is above 24mph. The average speed on a motorway is 44mph, and yet the police undertake enforcement.

Shipwrights Way – progress with this is on hold because of Brexit planning, therefore no update.

Victorious Festival – Mike has discussed the issue that seafront access is blocked every year over the bank holiday weekend during Victorious Festival, which is not acceptable. There should at least be publicity and sign diversions for pedestrians and cyclists and intends to take this up with Cllr Steve Pitt.

13 Policing

Nothing to report, however Committee members are anxious that police and agencies are proactive in having a presence at the Hotwalls and Camber in warm weather. Police issued a Section 35 Dispersal Notice over the Easter weekend and Committee Members as well as other community groups, agreed that it would have been helpful to have kept the community informed. Although this deterred large numbers of youngsters gathering at the Camber, there were reportedly still dozens gathered on the pontoon, putting themselves at risk.

14 Ward Councillors' Reports

None.

15 Committee Admin

None.

16 AOB

None.

17 Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 22 May 2019

