

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 22 May 2019

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at Portsmouth Sailing Club, 22 May 2019

Present:

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Alistair Wilson (Membership), Janis Loose (Treasurer). Many thanks to Alistair for use of his residence and dining table owing to a mix-up over Sailing Club keys.

1 Apologies

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

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 April 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3 Matters arising

Camber Right of Way – there is no further information from PCC. Cllr Rob Wood is following up on this.

4 Correspondence and Communications

Road Safety – Prior to the local elections on 3 May 2019, Mike offered all councilor candidates a briefing on road safety. Chris Attwell proposed a meeting date, which Mike took up, but there was no further communication from him. The opportunity to meet remains on the table, and likewise with another candidate Sumel Choudhury, who set up a Council petition in response to the lack of road crossings on High Street and excessive speeds. Mike also offered to meet him and sent him a Powerpoint file highlighting FOOPA's history of dialogue with PCC over road safety and speeding.

Licencing – An application to vary the premises licence at the Square Tower, extending its opening hours to 23.00hrs, seven days per week, was brought to FOOPA's attention by concerned residents. FOOPA was initially informed that public consultation closed on 9 May 2019, however the notice stated 22 May 2019. This anomaly was questioned, along with the incorrect signing date on the notice. FOOPA submitted comments to PCC on the grounds that residents are already disturbed by existing noise nuisance, and seeking assurances that noise is minimized.

Committee Volunteer — Alistair has received a letter from a resident who recently joined FOOPA and expressed an interest in getting involved. He has an accountancy background and is eager to contribute his skills. Alistair will invite him to the next meeting.

D-Day Commemorations – Gail will put details on the website.

5 Treasurer's Report

The Committee welcomed Janis Loose to the role of Treasurer and greatly appreciate her commitment. She has had all the paperwork from Alistair and, bar a couple of minor questions for Laurie, will be working to upload the accounts onto her system. She asked that all transactional records are submitted to her by the end of each month so that she can keep tabs on a monthly basis.

6 Membership Report

There is little change, but Alistair has welcomed one new member, which brings the total to 195. The annual subscription dues are now more in balance with the accounts. Alistair proposed a leaflet to reach out to new residents, encouraging new members and advertising forthcoming events once these are fixed. The leaflet could also be distributed to local outlets and Southsea Library.

7 Planning Report

HMO Application – Graeme and Anna have alerted Gunwharf Quays residents groups to an HMO application at Anson Court. Anna has asked Councillors to look at this because of their campaign with residents over Houses of Multiple Occupation in East St Thomas ward.

8 Social Programme

Old Portsmouth Quiz Night – Ann was unable to make this evening's meeting, however she has provisionally booked the Square Tower on Thursday 19 September at 7pm for a quiz night with tea / sandwiches and open bar.

Joint Cathedral Trip — once again FOOPA has been included on the invitation list for an outing to the National Trust's Tudor mansion The **Vyne**, near Basingstoke. Information will go on the FOOPA website on Friday when details are finalised.

Christmas Lunch — by popular demand, and thanks to organizational input from Janis, she has provisionally rebooked Boathouse 4 at the Dockyard for a festive lunch on 16 December 2019. Janis is currently looking at various festive deals on offer, one of which includes a free glass of Prosecco on arrival.

9 Environment

Air Pollution – Mike is concerned that engine idling is still not being taken seriously by PCC or drivers. The current anti-engine idling campaign by PCC is flimsy and selective with information. When Mike and other committee members approach offending drivers, the response is often negative. A robust, hard-hitting message would be a far better deterrent. Mike submitted a freedom of information request under the Environmental Information Regulations asking for details about the participants and workings of the Air Quality Board, an internal PCC working group. PCC responded on 3 May 2019, unfortunately refusing to disclose information on the grounds that the piece of work being undertaken is not yet completed. Mike will be investigating this further.

Southsea Coastal Scheme – Graeme attended a stakeholder advisory group meeting on 20 May 2019. The principal design phase has been completed and a full planning application is expected to be submitted shortly. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the FOOPA website, other information can be obtained from southseacoastalscheme.org.uk

10 Website

Nothing to report.

11 Traffic

Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study – Councillors as well as Mike and Graeme have seen a copy of the draft report for comment. It will shortly be circulated more widely and its lead officer Steven Flynn, PCC's Principal Traffic & Development Management Engineer, will be presenting the research and results at the next Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 27 June 2019. Mike values Steven's work as objective and thorough. However, the community is looking for recommendations for physical traffic calming to control speeds. Dialogue with PCC on this issue has been challenging because PCC have insisted on using mean speed analysis. Radar box recordings in High Street have logged 23mph as the mean speed, meaning that High Street is not compliant with its speed limit.

Pembroke Road Traffic Island – Mike has done the analysis and liaised with the resident who raised this with FOOPA and PCC following two collisions by vehicles with the traffic island, both blamed the low sun angle for diminished driver vision. Mike has made a number of recommendations.

Bus Services — With no further response from Councillors, Graeme wrote to First Group urging them to promote the, so far under-utilized, revised No 6 bus service which has been poorly advertised. The response indicates they plan to improve the casing displays at bus stops, however there is no commitment as to *when*. The committee expressed frustration that the Council administration has used taxpayers' money to invest in this service, yet First Group does not appear to be eager to encourage higher passenger numbers.

Community SpeedWatch – Anna, Gail, Eileen and John (with help from other observers) have recommenced exercises with the new kit procured by PCC. Data has been submitted to the Police and Anna is awaiting feedback as to how many drivers have been sent letters. Although the visible presence of the Team and Kit during one hour exercises does act as a deterrent to most drivers, there is nothing to deter drivers for the other 23 hours a day 7 days a week when the Team is not conducting an exercise.

Pavement Parking – During a recent evening event at PGS, Mike recorded 4 cars in a line straddling the pavement and on double yellow lines. Mike will email Anna the evidence to follow up with PGS.

Electric Vehicle Charging Point – A point has been installed in a lamp post outside Town Court, but its presence does need to be promoted and encouraged in order for drivers to take advantage of this amenity.

12 Policing

Nothing to report, however Sergeant David Sanderson has distributed a 'poster' via councillors regarding the D Day events, in particular security arrangements on 5 June 2019.

13 Ward Councillors' Reports

None.

14 Committee Admin

None.

15 AOB

None.

16 Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 17 July 2019