

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 12 October 2021

Website: foopa.org.uk

Email: foopacontact@gmail.com

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club, Tuesday 12 October 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), Liz Winder (Treasurer).

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Ian Holder (Ward Councillor), Chris Attwell (Ward Councillor), 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, which was agreed.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 15 September 2021 were approved by the Chair, having been circulated to all the Committee via email.

3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

OPATS / Shipwrights Way – Cllr Rob Wood was pleased to announce that, at a PCC meeting today it was agreed that funding priorities would focus on installation of two road crossings — on High Street at the junction with Peacock Lane and on Broad Street in the vicinity of Square Tower. The latter would be instigated in an integral way with work to complete the Shipwrights Way, which has already separately secured funding and is ready to go out to consultation. Realistically, work is likely not to commence until early 2022, however consultations can proceed with immediate effect. PCC has engaged Active Travel Officer Tristan Thorn to project manage the process. Mike commented that a communications plan with community groups is critical to promote residents' understanding of the benefits of these road interventions.

Ineos / BAR Building – Following concerns regarding the current use and remit of the facility, Cllr Wood assured the committee that the city council's Executive has been made aware of the issue and is investigating and reviewing the case.

4 Correspondence and Communications - See committee input below.

5 Treasurer's Report

Liz has received confirmation by email from Lloyds Bank that FOOPA now officially has internet banking with facilities to make online payments. She is awaiting the welcome pack. In the meantime, the BACS faster payments system is working well and is helpful in identifying payers. She is busy reconciling payments by members for all the social events. Liz proposed that the committee and members think about more ambitious plans for funding a community project, given the healthy FOOPA bank balance of over £9000. It was agreed that committee members would each come back to the next meeting with one fully researched idea. Post-meeting note: Liz confirmed that the Quiz night organized by Ann on 28 September generated proceeds of over £100. Cllr Wood pointed out to the Committee that the tree-planting project and plaque outside the cathedral was looking in poor shape. The tree has not survived and this might offer up one funding consideration. Other suggestions were briefly raised for more serious discussion at November's meeting.

6 Membership Report

Mary was unable to make the meeting however she confirmed that FOOPA has 2 new members. No other changes.

7 Planning Report

Royal Naval and Royal Albert Yacht Club – The applicant has submitted a second application for a 9-bedroom hotel, following an initial application for 2 residential apartments. Both applications remain 'live' – see PCC website planning application, Ref: 21/01340/FUL. The sticking point in both cases appears to be parking. There is a continued general assumption in Portsmouth that there is a limitless supply of street spaces. It was pointed out that although hotel guests would not be provided with allocated parking spaces, business owners are able to purchase visitor permits for their guests / customers to enable them to park for free.

12 A 'Becket Court – The explanation provided to Graeme by PCC is that the owner's new fencing is regarded as permitted development as it is below 1.9m in height. However PCC could insist the owners remove the section adjacent to St Thomas' Street which imposes on the public realm.

Draft Heritage Strategy – Puzzlement and confusion was expressed as to how this document is being shared publicly and how the public are able to engage with it and provide feedback. Cllr Wood agreed to follow up.

8 Social Programme – Ann requires a projector for the speaker at the FOOPA social event on 2 November. Gail agreed to lend hers out and will help Ann set it up. Mike can provide a screen. Ann requested if the committee decision over donations of funds from the proceeds of her social events could be delayed until after the Christmas lunch on 14 December 2021 when a final tally can be made. This was agreed.

9 Environment

Camber Right of Way – On behalf of the applicants, Stephen Morgan MP has enquired with PCC chief executive David Williams as to the current status of this case. The MP received an encouraging response from Mr Williams, who committed to November as a date for submission of the Order to the Secretary of State for a decision on its confirmation. With the MP's help, further publicity surrounding the case appeared in The News on 8 October.

Southsea Coastal Scheme – Feedback was very positive following the recent site visit and presentation. Of particular note: the widening of the promenade to facilitate more walkable space and accommodate those with disabilities; and the appreciative news that — subject to all the materials arriving on time and supply chain logistics going smoothly — works to this section are expected to complete in August 2022. The contractors thanked residents for putting up with the prolonged noise and nuisance.

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

11 Traffic

Portsmouth City Council's Parking Standards — In light of the parking issues highlighted by the case of the Royal Naval & Royal Albert Yacht Club, Mike hypothesizes that the issue of parking will affect every development application in Old Portsmouth. Following correspondence with PCC, it was established that the Council has a parking standards guidance document that is issued to applicants when carrying out parking surveys. The Council's standard is similar to the generally adopted Lambeth Method. However weekday vacant parking space counts may not be appropriate for Old Portsmouth where some of the severest parking demands occur at weekends not during the week. In addition, cars are getting bigger in size. Mike discovered a recent report by the RAC which concluded the current average car length is 4.3 metres. PCC guidance suggests allowing 5 metres per car when assessing on-street parking spaces. This figure is producing substantial inaccuracies, severely over-estimating the numbers of existing available parking spaces. The document also refers to the potential for off-street parking development — Mike will write to Cllr Rob about this matter.

Car Ownership and New Build Homes — Mike emphasised the potential ramifications of the above when developers / planners are specifying / considering dimensions for garages and driveways for new builds. It is so often the case that local planning authorities are not ensuring house-builders make sufficient provision and therefore everyone parks on roads. There is cognitive dissonance at play here, when simultaneously, planning and highway authorities talk about reallocating road space toward active travel and more generous pavements.

Highbury Street Double Yellow Lines – Anna has written to ask when the work will be carried out, in line with the TRO approved a few months ago.

12 Ward Councillor Reports

Policing Issues — Cllr Wood is hearing positive feedback regarding the recent resolution of Anti-Social Behaviour problems in Somerstown and greater use of personal engagement by the police with young groups of people.

Pembroke Park — A residents survey by PCC will shortly be underway to establish views on residents' parking. This will determine subsequent formal consultation on plans to introduce a residents parking zone.

13 Committee Admin — None.

14 AOB — None.

15 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 17th November 2021, 7.30pm, Pembroke Garden Bowling Club.