

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 21 April 2021

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held online via Zoom, Wednesday 21 April 2021

Present

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Mary Tollow (Membership), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Anna Koor (Secretary), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Rob Wood (Lord Mayor & Ward Councillor), Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Bob Stewart (Spice Island).

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Attwell (Ward Councillor).

2 Declarations of Interest – Gail asked all to confirm their declarations of interest should any matters arise during the course of FOOPA business and all agreed.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2021 were approved by the Chair, having been circulated to all the Committee via email.

3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

AGM – There was a brief discussion regarding the AGM and how well it worked via Zoom. Committee members and councillors were surprised and pleased how smoothly and succinctly it proceeded and that attendance was reasonable considering it was online. It was noted that some residents who do not use Zoom, had nevertheless participated in the AGM by returning their voting slips to Alistair. Anna is attending another AGM by Zoom and will report back on any learning points.

E-Scooters

Much of the post-AGM discussion was around the subject of E-Scooters and residents' concerns over the hazards that are frequently witnessed, resulting in dangers to pedestrians and other road users, as well as lack of enforcement over illegal use. There was frustration expressed regarding how to feedback issues regarding the current trial by PCC, which employs Voi Scooters. Residents who have attempted to contact Voi have only received computer-generated responses. Cllr Wood suggested that FOOPA invites Cllr Lynne Stagg (Cabinet Member, PCC Traffic & Transportation) to a future FOOPA meeting. Residents asked how much money PCC was receiving from Voi for its licence. It was questioned whether this trial would achieve the objective of modal shift away from people using their cars, and how this was being measured.

4 Correspondence and Communications –

Phone Boxes in Old Portsmouth – FOOPA was contacted by Jane Linford, the Co-op Member Pioneer for Portsmouth regarding conversion of a phone box into a community amenity such as a library. Anna has invited her to the next FOOPA meeting to discuss possibilities. The committee had several questions regarding heritage issues, upkeep, and attracting vandalism.

5 Treasurer's Report

Liz reported that she had met with Alistair and had a 'handover' of all the paperwork. She will need agreement and support from the rest of the Committee if she wants to take the system online. The Committee voted and agreed this was the right way forward. There is a stack of form-filling which needs completing first to register herself with the bank and remove Alistair, then to add herself as a signatory along with Gail and Anna. Ann asked if procedures can be made easier to handle when she is organizing events – booking and paying for venues, ticket money, etc. She and Liz will meet up in due course.

6 Membership Report

Mary has successfully taken over Alistair's email membership system and database. There has been no movement over the last month and membership figures remain the same.

7 Planning Report – In general, Graeme reported good progress with the street lighting upgrade, but disappointment and frustration with PCC Planning procedural errors and inconsistencies in recent planning applications.

Fontenoy House – The latest incarnation went before Planning Committee on 30 March 2021. It required the casting vote of the Chair, Cllr David Fuller, to confirm its refusal. Residents would like to thank Cllr Tom Wood for delivering a spoken deputation on their behalf.

Royal Naval and Royal Albert Yacht Club – The application for change of use from office to residential includes the assertion by the applicant that on-street parking is not a problem. This has been rebutted by Graeme. A mess has been made of Neighbour Notification letters being sent to the wrong addresses, rather

than neighbours who adjoin the site. Letters have been re-issued by PCC and the public consultation period has been extended.

6 Oyster Mews – An application for conversion of the historic John Perry boat-building workshop into a 4-bedroom dwelling has also encountered similar Neighbour Notification errors. The consultation period has been pushed back accordingly.

St Thomas Street – There are reports regarding an obtrusive fence construction. Graeme is investigating.

8 Social Programme - Ann reiterated that she is unlikely to organise any social gatherings before September, though she has no shortage of ideas once she feels it's secure to do so. She is doubtful about the Dockyard Xmas Lunch this year. This has been organized by Janis Loose in previous years.

University of Portsmouth Sports Centre – Bob enquired about what is planned for local residents in terms of use of the new facilities when it opens in September, and whether they have venue hire spaces. Gail will contact the Uni and invite them to a future committee meeting.

9 Environment

Camber Right of Way – The applicants resorted to contacting Stephen Morgan MP in order to obtain some clear answers as to what and when any action will be forthcoming by PCC to submit the Order for a Restricted Byway to the Secretary of State for a final decision. Hampshire County Council has now been asked to quote for making this submission and PCC should currently be considering their proposal.

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

11 Traffic

OPATS – For the sake of our new committee members, Mike briefly described the history of the Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study and its draft report which has been issued to community group representatives for comment. This will not go out to public consultation and presented to Traffic & Transportation Committee until after the local elections on 6 May 2021. Mike made the key point that we do not want this filed and buried, it needs to be published so it can be used as a working document and evolve going forward.

Local Election Candidates – Mike has contacted candidates ahead of the local election in order to brief them on the traffic and road safety issues that affect Old Portsmouth. He has arranged a site walk-about with those who have responded.

University Sports Centre – Anna agreed to draft a FOOPA response to the Traffic Regulation Order 42/2021 for reduction of on-street pay and display in Museum Road, which has been raised in order to facilitate 3 new access junctions to the Sports Centre.

13 Ward Councillor Reports

None.

14 Committee Admin

Anna will organise a gift for Alistair using £50 of FOOPA funds, which was agreed unanimously. All the committee expressed their utmost gratitude to Alistair for his loyalty and generosity with his time, particularly over the last two years when it's been difficult to find anyone to step into both his Membership and Treasurer shoes.

15 AOB

Police Matters – Anna attended the regular Hampshire Constabulary Independent Advisory Group meeting and was advised by our Temporary Sargeant Andy Dolan that he will be moving on from Southsea in October 2021. His replacement will be Sargeant Dave Gibbs. Members would like to know if the World Café events, which came to a halt during the pandemic, will resume at some point. This scheme was set up to bring community stakeholders together to try and resolve the anti-social behavior that arises over the summer months. Anna will raise this at the next meeting, though Members have little confidence that it will deliver lasting solutions.

16 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.

