

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 20 April 2022

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 20 April 2022

Present

Anna Koor (Secretary), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Mary Tollow (Membership), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment). Graeme Swinburne agreed to act as Chair for this meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies from Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Rob Wood (Deputy Lord Mayor & Ward Councillor).

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 9 March 2022 were approved by the Chair, having been circulated to all the Committee via email.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

AGM – There was a brief wash-up of the AGM: it was a favourable turnout of 48 members, there was positive feedback to the talk by Mike Underwood, and appreciation of the hospitality provided by the Bowls Club.

Procedures for Treasurer/Membership/Social Events – This document was circulated to the Committee following the Independent Examiner's report. Anna will circulate this, and the IE's Executive Summary, to new committee members Sharon and Eileen.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Membership Cards – It was suggested to Mary that annual membership cards printed with expiry dates, might be a good idea to nudge members to renew their subscriptions each year. There was a brief discussion and it was agreed that, at present, the logistical cons of implementation outweigh the pros.

Cathedral Events — Mary was approached by the Cathedral requesting that FOOPA advertise their events to our members. It was pointed out that this would be in breach of FOOPA's GDPR policy which prevents us from passing third party information to members. However details will be posted on the FOOPA website and the noticeboard.

6 Treasurer's Report

Liz prepared a monthly financial reconciliation with the FOOPA bank statement for March 2022. The balance carried forward from February was £9831.70 and as at 31 March 2022 it stands at £10175.70. Breaking this down: £175 was received in membership subscriptions, £426 was received from social events, and £50 from Annual Review advertising. Expenditure was £257.00, resulting in a profit of £344.00. Regarding online bank payments made by Liz, there was a discussion about how best to ensure transparency and scrutiny. It was agreed that prior email authorization of all online payments, by one of the 2 other cheque signatories (Gail or Anna), would be a sensible security measure. Liz would like either Anna or Gail to have access to Online Banking, as a precaution. She currently sends Mary bank statement copies bi-monthly and will copy Anna in future.

7 Membership Report

Mary reported that 17 members have yet to pay their subscriptions for 2022. She has emailed them reminders and will be lapsing their memberships shortly. There was a discussion over how to treat lapsed members' data. It was agreed that a separate confidential record would be kept by Mary who would make no further contact. These records will not be deleted for at least 3 years; which also helps in the event of those members renewing their subscriptions. There are 2 new members and 75 returns have so far been received from Mary's membership renewal requests. Anna will circulate the existing privacy policy to the Committee as a reminder.

8 Planning

Nothing major to report this month by Graeme. The outcome is still awaited on the planning inspector's decision over Fontenoy House, and over the Oyster Mews property. The Committee notes that the Royal Naval & Royal Albert Yacht Club has gone into receivership, according to a notice at the property. Concern was voiced over the contents in the Club, including trophies and paintings, some of which may be on loan to the Club. Graeme and

Sharon confirmed that planning permission had been approved for conversion of the second floor into residential units. Residents will be eager to see what future use this historic building will be put to.

9 Heritage & Conservation

PCC Local Plan – Graeme invited help from Sharon and others to scrutinize this more deeply. Sharon commented that it appears flimsy on heritage, hence the Council's decision to draft a Heritage Strategy to be incorporated with the Local Plan. The Committee has only seen a fledgling version of the Heritage Strategy and Sharon has established that it's not clear who in PCC owns this document or who oversees the local historic listings. All agreed that it would be beneficial to FOOPA (and to PCC) to develop a dialogue on these matters.

St Thomas's Cathedral – A leaflet produced by the Cathedral, related to the Local Plan and local consultation regarding Cathedral plans, has been mailed to some residents and Graeme will be responding to it. It hints at the Cathedral's wishes to develop Cathedral House to create more residential accommodation. Graeme will scan the leaflet and circulate this to the committee. He declared a vested interest as he is a neighbour.

CAZ Signage – Graeme has received assurance from PCC that some of the signs will be reduced in size. The sign at Cathedral Green will be moved further towards Broad Street.

10 Social Programme – The committee thanked Ann for submitting a comprehensive report with a breakdown of costs/revenue from the recent Triangle Girls event (proceeds of £151.50 to be donated to local charities), and a projection of costs/revenue for the events programme coming up. It was noted by Mary and Liz that, despite the new protocols, there are issues with a few people wanting to pay cash or not paying in advance, and a few online payments not referenced correctly. What helps is to price events differently so they can be easily identified.

11 Environment

Pavement Bollards, High Street – Liz asked if any progress had been made to complete this work. Anna confirmed that she has received assurances that it will be, from Cllr Chris.

Greening – Everyone welcomed Eileen's ideas to integrate more greening in Old Portsmouth. She is looking at the possibility of wilding (with wild flowers) the grassy banks of Long Curtain Moat and creating a meadow around the Garrison Church. She is investigating the feasibility of creating a living façade on Spice Island House to mitigate its unsightly elevations and will gather further information on recent local oyster bed seeding. Eileen showed the Committee photos of the pocket park at the Camber, which seems to have gone unnoticed. She will ask the new local Living Streets co-ordinator if they would like to brief a future Committee meeting.

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

13 Traffic

Broad Street Crossing and Shipwrights Way – Mary commented that a public notice regarding removal of the bus stop is erected at the Square Tower. Mike has not yet managed to secure an on-site meeting with PCC officer Chi Sharpe to discuss the Shipwright's Way completion. He has had a reply from him in response to FOOPA's TRO comments, which is a concern because it indicates that PCC is reversing its acceptance that its methods for assessing speed and the need for pedestrian crossings are flawed. He anticipates further discussions with PCC and potentially a meeting with Cllr Lynne Stagg and Felicity Tidbury (acting head of Traffic & Transportation).

Drivers Parking on Footways – Obstruction of the footway part of the public highway by drivers concern that PCC should be tackling more proactively.

Pembroke Road Parking Status – There continues to be conflicting information regarding the use of P&D parking spaces along Pembroke Road. Following various responses from Kevin McKee regarding exemption (or not) for KA Zone permit holders, Graeme, Sharon and Anna will endeavour to seek clarity.

Highbury St TRO – Graeme had a reply from Kevin McKee confirming that an officer is now in post. Graeme has impressed upon him that the work should be actioned as a priority as it has been so delayed.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – None in attendance.

15 Committee Admin – None.

16 AOB

Donations – It was agreed that pledges made by the committee to donate proceeds from recent social events, and an outstanding agreement to donate the remaining 50% annual membership subscription from 2020 (totaling £546), will be discussed at the next meeting.

Annual Reviews — Graeme requested a copy for Justine Brown, who wrote the article about the Southsea Coastal Scheme. All members who want a copy should have received one by now. Any spares will be shared among other contributors who wrote articles.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 18 May 2022, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club.