

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 15 December 2021

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held via Zoom, 15 December 2021

Present

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Anna Koor (Secretary), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Mary Tollow (Membership). Cllr Rob Wood entered the meeting at approximately 8.30pm.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Ian Holder (Ward Councillor), Chris Attwell (Ward Councillor), Rob Wood (Deputy Lord Mayor & Ward Councillor), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Graeme Swinburne (Planning).

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 17 November 2021 were approved by the Chair, having been circulated to all the Committee via email.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

OPATS / Shipwrights Way – There has been no news from the Council regarding public consultation with Broad Street residents over proposals for a road crossing combined with the final leg of the Shipwrights Way. Anna confirmed she would write to PCC Safer Travel Manager Michelle Love to ask about its current status.

Street Clutter – Mike wished to emphasise the important distinction between ghost bikes, which are usually painted white and positioned in locations where there has been a cycling fatality, as opposed to bicycles used as advertising props that are often left on the highway. Anna will ask Bob to email photographs.

5 Correspondence and Communications – None.

6 Treasurer's Report

Liz was pleased to report that all dues had been received in respect of the Christmas Lunch – which took place yesterday and was very successful. Payments for the 2 preceding events have also been reconciled. The latest bank statement shows a balance of £9865. She is now focusing on preparing the 2021 account summary for the next Annual Review. Gail spoke to former FOOPA interim Treasurer Janice Loose who has very kindly agreed to undertake the next audit of the FOOPA accounts whenever Liz is ready to hand them over.

7 Membership Report

It was agreed that Mary will email those members who continue to pay by cash or cheque, to politely request that they pay their subscriptions due in January 2022 by Standing Order. There are 2 new members, bringing the current total to 198 members/households and 2 honorary members.

8 Planning Report

Fontenoy House – The applicants have appealed to the Secretary of State in respect of PCC's decision published on 4 May 2021 to refuse their most recent application. Graeme will be submitting comments to the Secretary of State in response.

9 Social Programme – Ann submitted a round-up of the events she organized in 2021, culminating in a very successful FOOPA Christmas Lunch held on Tuesday 14 December at Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club. This venue proved ideal for the 60 members who booked for lunch, ticking all boxes in terms of ambience, reasonably priced bar, very helpful staff and well organised and professional catering set-up. Owing to Omicron concerns, a few members did decline at short notice and Ann explained that refunds were not possible because food had already been purchased. Gail suggested a note regarding cancellation policy is added to event booking forms for clarity in future. Feedback overwhelmingly supported repeating this event for Christmas 2022. Ann confirmed she will be planning two events before the summer and two in the Autumn, hopefully followed by another Christmas Lunch. Ann, Liz and Mary are discussing how to improve logistics with event promotion and booking forms.

10 Environment

Draft Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030 — A public consultation by Portsmouth City Council is currently underway, and closes on 25 February 2022. The document can be read alongside a survey for submitting comments. https://travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/schemes/rights-of-way-improvement-plan-consultation/?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=GovDelivery

Camber Right of Way – Resident representatives attended a quarterly meeting of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum, which Portsmouth City Council is a member of, on 7 December 2021. The group is co-ordinated by Hampshire County Council and comprises volunteers from a range of stakeholders, including the Ramblers Association, British Horse Society, and parish councillors. Unfortunately Andrew Dimarco, Senior Active Travel Officer did not attend. The Forum was made aware of the Order for a Restricted Byway that was published in February 2019 and the subsequent lack of progress by the Council in returning the case to the Planning Inspector for a final confirmatory decision.

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

12 Traffic

Clean Air Zone (CAZ) – Assessments of changing traffic patterns need to be made by PCC since the introduction of the Class B CAZ on 29 November 2021, in order to determine impacts, such as whether traffic has been diverted and thus any consequences to surrounding streets, as well as rat-running and air pollution.

Pavement Parking – This issue was raised with Cllr Chris and featured in the most recent edition of Flagship. However, the problem is not limited to vehicles that are badly parallel parked. There are many instances, including a photo Mike provided, which illustrate residents' cars parked on their private driveways but protruding onto public space on the footway, obstructing access to pedestrians and making mobility particularly difficult for those using mobility scooters or buggies.

Highbury Street Double Yellow Lines – There is still no progress on implementation. PCC's response was that owing to the recent resignation of senior officer Nikki Musson, no one has yet filled her position and no one else is able to raise a TRO for the work to be implemented.

Protecting long distance paths – Mike gave a presentation to the local Friends of the Earth's monthly campaign meeting on 15 November 2021 to highlight the threats to public paths including Pilgrim's Trail, Solent Way, England Coast Path and Shipwrights Way as a result of flood defence works. Having explained the difficulties he has encountered with PCC and the Southsea Coastal Scheme, Mike received offers of help from Cllr Judith Smythes and Cllr Charlotte Gerada, who have committed to take this up on his behalf and arrange a meeting with relevant parties in the new year.

Bus Lanes use by Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) – Only cyclists and taxis are permitted to use bus lanes. However, a trial to extend that to private hire vehicles was recently approved by the Council. There was no formal consultation – presumably because it is only a trial – however Mike expressed disappointment that neither bus companies nor police commented. The case made by the Council is that it will reduce congestion, speed up journeys for people using PHVs and reduce air pollution. The case against is that it will slow down buses (which are already under-utilised), increase dangers to cyclists (a PCC report in 2015 found that accident rates among PHVs were higher than among licensed taxis), and encourage more people to drive or use PHVs thereby undermining PCC's over-arching objective to advance a modal shift to active travel and sustainable transport.

13 Ward Councillor Reports - None present.

14 Committee Admin — None.

15 AOB

School Streets Initiative – Anna attended a wash-up meeting on 24 November with volunteers and parents to discuss their experiences of the pilot scheme at St Jude's school and the next steps forward. Discussions covered some of the challenges ahead, particularly the reliance on volunteers. Anna raised the possibility of PCC employing Highways Enforcement Officers. PCC Safer Travel Manager Michelle Love agreed that HEOs would be a good solution but emphasized that it would need the support of councillors in order to set wheels in motion.

FOOPA Committee Dates 2022 — The following dates were approved for 2022: 19 Jan, 16 Feb, 9 Mar, AGM 22 Mar, 20 Apr, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 14 Sept, 12 Oct, 16 Nov, 14 Dec.

Annual Review – Content will be discussed in more detail at January's meeting.

15 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 19 January 2022, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club or Zoom.

