

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 16 JUNE 2021

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held online via Zoom, Wednesday 16 June 2021

Present

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

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Holder (Ward Councillor), Ann Wilson (Social Secretary).

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

3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

University of Portsmouth Sports Centre – Gail confirmed that Fiona Bell, Director of Estates, University of Portsmouth was unable to attend but hopes to join next month's meeting.

Ineos / BAR Building – Following residents' questions regarding the current status of the BAR building at the Camber and whether its present use complies with the terms/conditions of their lease granted in 2015, on 24 June 2021 Gail and ward councillor Rob Wood will be meeting with facilities manager Mark Rogers and CEO John Cooper, who are understood to represent a spin-off company called BAR Technologies.

4 Correspondence and Communications

PGS Deliveries and St Jude's School Streets initiative – A Penny Street resident has again raised the long-standing nuisance and dangers of the regular 7.45am food deliveries to PGS by HGVs which involve lorries making an illegal manoeuvre to reverse into the rear entrance of PGS. Anna reminded Councillor Rob and the committee that in 2019 she and Gail met with the previous deputy head Chris Williams about alternative solutions. There were various reasons given as to why Museum Road cannot be used, however in the opinion of the Committee, none of these reasons justify the hazards and nuisance to neighbours. It was emphasized that these delivery arrangements cannot continue when the School Streets scheme for St Jude's is officially launched in September. Anna will contact Jenni Jones of Sustrans and Debbie Dalzell at PCC to highlight this issue.

Victoria Park Building – It is understood that the University will shortly be holding a consultative exhibition of their plans for this building and an online presentation. See website for details:

<https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/our-ambition/building-our-future/victoria-park-building>

Speeding in Old Portsmouth – Broad Street resident John Tollow has written to councillors regarding the relentless speeding on High Street and Broad Street, particularly the evening 'boy racer' activities, which continues unabated despite the long history of residents' complaints and regular community speedwatch exercises. Mike made it clear that police still seem to ignore that speeding is a problem. High Street persists in serving as a convenient rat run for rush hour traffic avoiding the Terraces when exiting the city. Committee members agreed that road engineering in terms of road narrowing, build-outs, crossings, would make a significant difference.

5 Treasurer's Report

Liz is still awaiting news from Lloyds regarding updates to the FOOPA account. Subscriptions have been received from 3 members and identified by Mary.

6 Membership Report

Mary reported no membership movements this month. It is hoped that once activities are up and running, it will encourage new members to join.

7 Planning Report

Graeme expressed serious reservations about planning processes falling short of standards and unnecessary delays being caused to applicants resulting from errors in validating and assessing applications.

12 A 'Becket Court, St Thomas Street – The matter of the street-frontage fence (and now a similar erection nextdoor) is in the hands of Peter George, Planning Enforcement Officer at PCC. Graeme has

written several emails to PCC on this matter and awaits a response to his specific questions regarding what is permissible and what measures PCC policymakers intend to introduce in view of wider consequences.

29 Pembroke Road – Application for dormer window construction. There is concern that this would set a precedent for all others in this uniform terrace to do similar and that Planning Officers need to consider the repercussions of this.

8 Social Programme – Ann confirmed that her contact at the Cathedral remains keen to join the FOOPA committee after stepping forward prior to the AGM, and will attend September's meeting. Ann is making enquiries regarding event bookings for September onwards when it is hoped restrictions will be relaxed.

9 Environment

Camber Right of Way – Applicants met with local MP Stephen Morgan to discuss the unacceptable delays by PCC in proceeding with the simple administrative tasks required to submit the Order to the Planning Inspector for a final decision as a result of PCC's unresolved objections to the Order. They will be meeting with his senior parliamentary researcher in order for questions to be asked of the Minister and Defra.

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

11 Traffic – Mike repeated his comments to PCC regarding their findings in the Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study draft report, such as how speeding is measured. Assessment should only be conducted during free-flow traffic conditions, not when there is congestion. He assured committee members that there are a range of instruments that can be used for traffic calming that avoid speed humps, which are unpopular with some drivers.

Shipwrights Way – It is understood that outline plans are being drafted.

University of Portsmouth Sports Facility – Mike is disappointed the University could not attend to update the Committee. He is currently going through the University's Transport Assessment and Travel Plan because he is worried that the facility will generate increased motor traffic movements and that active travel to the site will be difficult because of lack of consideration for road safety measures in Museum Road and Cambridge Road.

Clean Air Zone – When it comes into force in Portsmouth in November 2021 there is concern that it may have an impact on commercial traffic using Pembroke Road to access The Point, in order to avoid congestion charges ensuing from using CAZ routes via Cambridge Roundabout. The Committee asked if it would be feasible to include Pembroke Road as part of the CAZ in order to avoid pollution being shifted to this residential road.

13 Ward Councillor Reports

OPATS Initiatives – Cllr Rob assured the committee that recommendations arising from the Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study are being seriously assessed and prioritised by a working group of councillors.

Millennium Walkway reopening - Cllr Rob updated the committee regarding the presently inaccessible Millennium Walkway around Gunwharf Quays. It had been temporarily closed (like Feltham Row) for Covid safety reasons. Michelle Love (Safer Travel Manager, PCC) is liaising with residents groups at Gunwharf regarding a timetable for reopening.

Operation Nautilus – Cllr Rob elaborated on city-wide policing plans. To help prevent instances of ASB along the seafront over the summer, the city will allocate more community wardens to seafront areas. The Committee stressed that timely patrols from the police and harbour police would help. Gail enquired about the diversionary activities that were promised, as well as mental health outreach and support.

14 Committee Admin — None.

15 AOB

IAG meeting – Anna is attending the quarterly Independent Advisory Group of the Hampshire Constabulary on 21 June 2021. The Committee asked Anna to raise several issues: Anti-Social Behaviour and Drug misuse; Speeding; Speak Up Pompey World Café (police initiative to find community-led solutions to anti-social behavior across the city; Operation Nautilus (a new police strategy to manage community safety along Portsmouth and Southsea seafront); Safer Streets Fund – a government grant scheme to support police teams and local authorities tackling crime in cities, including concerns over use of alleyways as getaways by criminals on bikes or scooters.

16 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.

