

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 15 June 2022

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2022

Present

Anna Koor (Secretary), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Mary Tollow (Membership), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Ward Councillors Ian Holder, Chris Attwell and Mark Jeffery. Guest attendees: Police Sargent Neil Johnson and Cllr Charlotte Gerada with campaigner Josh Allen – see briefings below.

Police Sargent Neil Johnson

The Committee thanked Sgt Neil for giving up his evening to meet residents. He briefed the committee on his background: 19 years in the force, born and raised in Portsmouth. He was asked about resources allocated to St Thomas ward and how that has changed over the last 10 years. Sgt Neil said this information would need to be provided by those higher up his command. On crime figures, he stated there had been 2455 'occurrences' in St Thomas ward in 2022 so far, with a substantial increase in some types of crime, particularly fraud and burglary. The committee agreed it would be helpful to know how these figures vary with previous years, and types of crime. Sgt Neil was asked about the alleged sexual assault on St Nicholas Street and he said this remained a live case. Concerns are that the police did not appear to follow up with neighbours and close residents following the incident. Sharon compared this with the more thorough police investigation after a nearby garage burglary a few years ago. Sgt Neil took that on board but did stress that in general police communications via email, website and apps, had superseded letter drops and knocks on doors. He has 6 PCs and 2 PCSOs in his team and their policing priorities are discussed on a monthly basis. He briefly reported on activities by the Operation Nautical team, which focuses on seafront crime. The committee expressed disillusion with Mutual Gain, the project set up prior to the pandemic, designed to bring communities together to solve ASB at the Camber. Mike briefed Sgt Neil about residents' concerns with speeding, citing the 8 pedestrian deaths over the last 9 months, and the lack of support, dialogue or interest from the police and road policing unit (RPU), urging Sgt Neil to broker re-engagement between FOOPA and the RPU. Sgt Neil agreed to follow this up.

Living Streets – Councillor Charlotte Gerada briefed the committee about this national initiative to green residential / commercial streets and create compact social spaces, aimed at: encouraging active travel, supporting local businesses, promoting road safety, and improving community relations / cohesion. There are 4 pilot areas her team has looked at, the first site is at 235 Albert Road. Crowd funding has generated £34000 so far and installation is planned this summer. Schools close to the sites have been encouraged to get involved. Key to success in roll out has been involving businesses as such schemes are projected to increase footfall and boost retail activity – impact studies will be undertaken. She will keep Eileen updated regarding the launch of the first project and is happy to provide advice and support should FOOPA identify a zone to work on in Old Portsmouth.

1 Apologies

Apologies from Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Graeme Swinburne (Planning). Graeme has been unwell and the committee wished him a speedy recovery.

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 18 May 2022 were approved, having been circulated to the Chair and all the Committee via email.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Pembroke Road / Grand Parade Parking Status – Regarding confusion over P&D / KA Zone parking signage and PCC website information, Councillors agreed that the situation would be improved by adding KA Zone Permit Holders Exempt signage to Grand Parade and Pembroke Road. Cllr Holder to action.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Member Email – The Committee was asked to consider raising the FOOPA subscription fee in line with other community clubs. It was agreed that dues should remain at £5 but members are free to donate extra funds to FOOPA as they wish. It was suggested the Hayling Island Ferry could run from Old Portsmouth and how to

support this. The Committee will pass on his thanks to local street cleaning teams for keeping Old Portsmouth so pristine.

6 Treasurer's Report — Liz was unable to attend but prepared a monthly reconciliation. The balance carried forward is £10267.86 at 31/5/22. Income totaled £15.00 from membership fees and £149.00 from social events, while expenditure totaled £183.84. She confirmed a cheque for £546 has been sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>.

7 Membership Report - There are currently 179 household subscribers, totaling 263 members. A new couple joined recently and 2 members with outstanding dues have settled.

8 Planning - Committee members commented on the badly positioned public notice for the 2 Farthing Lane planning application and the absence of a heritage statement, questioning why the case has been validated.

9 Heritage & Conservation

Local Listings – Sharon asked Councillors about the status of this document and who 'owns' it because there are quality problems with reading and understanding it. Cllr Mark to action. Sharon offered to refine it so that it's legible, coherent, and in a position to be used as a public consultation working document.

Records Office – There have been media comments suggesting a potential buyer for the property. Sharon asked what might have triggered this change of tack. Councillors will seek to clarify.

National Education Museum – It is understood that a site in Portsmouth is being looked at. The Committee agreed that the former BAR building would make a good home for this.

Wiley's Beach, Tower Street — This site is currently leased to Scout Association and Bob has been seeking more information about the land and any plans PCC may have. He will action an enquiry with ward councilors.

10 Social Programme – Ann is away but confirmed 37 have booked for the Quiz / Fish & Chips on 21 June and asked the committee to remind members that places are still available. The Bygone event on 26 May attracted over 40 guests and was well received. See www.bygone.co.uk. Bob raised the importance of announcing Fire Exits before events. He suggested FOOPA funds could be invested in a microphone – it was agreed to research this.

11 Environment

Traffic Calming by Street Greening — Eileen has secured a meeting with PCC's Cllr Kimberly Barrett, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment on 24 June 2022. Cllr Chris Attwell and Mike Dobson will join them.

Fullers – The site at Point could be greened to make it attractive. Ward Councillors agreed to advise how to take this forward.

12 Website – No update.

13 Traffic

OPATS – Research and discussions had proved methods and tools for analyzing speeding were incorrect. Steven Flynn had taken this on board and a Traffic & Transportation decision meeting with Cllr Lynn Stagg had confirmed this. However, these methods are not being used for the proposed Shipwrights Way.

Annual Status Report on Air Pollution – This should be on PCC's website by now but it has not been made public.

Liaison with GWQ – Mike has met with the residents association regarding Wightlink issues – noise, air, traffic and light pollution. Surveys indicate that 90% of its traffic is from outside the city. Had the terminal been relocated, it's claimed that 45 million road miles would have been saved.

Disabled Parking Spaces, Bridge Tavern – PCC's Parking Manager needs to step up enforcement.

BAR Technologies Carpark – Its continued under-usage is a concern while parking pressures are so evident.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – Cllr Chris and Cllr Ian introduced their new colleague Cllr Mark Jeffery. Mark can be reached at cllr.mark.jeffery@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

15 Committee Admin — None.

16 AOB — A few current / forthcoming events: Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery Silver City exhibition runs until February 2023. Rowans Hospice Moonlit Memories Walk is on 18 June, from 20.00-02.00. The 40th

Anniversary of the Falklands War is being marked on 19 June 2022 with a memorial unveiling at the Square Tower.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 20 July 2022, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club.