

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 9 March 2022

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 9 March 2022

Present

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Anna Koor (Secretary), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Mary Tollow (Membership), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Ian Holder (Ward Councillor).

1 Apologies

Apologies from Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Rob Wood (Deputy Lord Mayor & Ward Councillor), Chris Attwell (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 16 February 2022 were approved by the Chair, having been circulated to all the Committee via email.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

AGM – Notices were issued by email, letter, website and noticeboard for the AGM on 22 March 2022, along with the draft AGM Minutes from 2021, and proposed amendments to the FOOPA Constitution (see below).

Charity Donations – There needs to be some reconciliation work following the 3 recent events, added to the outstanding £90 from members who, instead of being refunded for events cancelled due to Covid, requested that their ticket money was donated to charity. Liz will add this to the donations ledger and present the running total at the next meeting with a view to distributing the monies as agreed in the Minutes of January 2022.

Procedures for Treasurer/Membership/Social Events – Following the accounts assessment by the Independent Examiner and her discussions with the executive officers, Gail and Anna drew up a set of draft protocols based on some of the IE recommendations. The resulting delay in promoting forthcoming events is regrettable. Gail is liaising with Ann about this when she is back. The Committee had a discussion regarding a) Accepting cash for ticket bookings; b) Setting cut-off dates for ticket purchases. It was agreed that: cash should not be accepted (which is in line with social events organised in the past) for a trial period; and that booking payment deadlines are essential, both to insure against losses and for health & safety so it is clear in advance (to both FOOPA and the Bowls Club), how many guests are attending, bearing in mind the maximum capacity of 60.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Gunwharf Quays Residents Assn – Mike has a contact in the Association and he is exploring setting up possible links with FOOPA. He and Anna hope to meet up with them soon to discuss scope for mutual co-operation.

6 Treasurer's Report

Liz has prepared the Summary for publishing in the Annual Review and presenting at the AGM, following the Independent Examination. The committee thanked Nesbits for placing a full-page Ad in the Annual Review. An invoice for £50 has been sent to them and recorded by Liz. Liz reported her reconciliation for January 2022 as follows: opening balance £9216.70, Membership payments £653, Expenses: website £24, leaving a closing balance at 31 January 2022 of £9845.70. These figures corroborate with the bank statement.

7 Membership Report

Mary reported there are 2 new household members. She flagged up that there are 49 members who have not yet paid for 2022 who have, in the past, paid before now. It was agreed that she should send them a gentle reminder.

Constitutional Matters: Following advice in the report submitted by the Independent Examiner, a few amendments have been proposed, which will be voted on at the AGM. Clause 4 clarifies that new applicants joining within three months of a calendar year end, will be deemed to be paid up members until 31 December of the following year. Furthermore, subscriptions renewals are due annually on 1 January and membership automatically lapses if the fee is not paid within 90 days. The accounts reporting procedure described in Clause 9 is amended to state that an Independent Examiner shall be appointed by the Committee for the purpose of examining and reporting on the previous years' accounts, which will then be presented at each AGM.

Draft Privacy Policy: Mary has kindly drafted a new Privacy Policy in our dealings with members, which was circulated to the committee on 2 March 2022. Committee Members voted to adopt this policy and Gail will put this on the FOOPA website.

Membership Renewal Forms: Mary is revising and updating the content to align with the amended constitution and privacy policy.

8 Planning Report – Nothing significant to report this month.

Highbury St TRO – Graeme has again written to PCC Parking Manager Kevin McKee to urge officers to implement the long-awaited TRO. PCC has been telling FOOPA that TROs cannot be processed because there is no officer able to do this. However, it is evident that TROs are being implemented, presumably by agency staff, therefore this TRO should be pushed up the list and prioritized before it becomes obsolete.

CAZ Signage – Graeme met Cllr Holder to point out issues with unnecessary and oversized signage. There is guidance on their use in conservation areas and he asserts this is not being applied correctly. He is awaiting a further response from Hayley Trower, Air Quality Improvement Manager.

9 Social Programme – Ann was unable to attend but has expressed concerns about some of the protocols being adopted for social events.

10 Environment – See CAZ above.

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

12 Traffic

OPATS – Recommendations outlined in the Old Portsmouth Area Traffic Study report, which was accepted by the Council last year, are starting to materialize. However, current plans for road layout changes to the corner of High St and Broad St do not reflect what was discussed between Mike and officers on previous occasions. Mike is concerned that officers responsible have moved on and consequently there is lack of continuity in implementing these plans. Cllr Holder agreed to contact the new officer and put him in touch with Mike.

Police and PCC Liaison over Speeding – Mike reiterated the appalling statistic that 7 pedestrians have been killed by drivers in the last 7 months. He is proposing to write to the Chief Constable and call for the roads policing unit to re-open dialogue with the community about speeding problems with a view to tackling it jointly with PCC.

Pembroke Road Parking – Anna received a response from Kevin McKee. Parking fees for St Jude's parents are now suspended from 08.20 to 08.45 and 15.20 to 15.45 Monday to Friday. There is confusion regarding use of Pembroke Road P/D bays by KA Zone permit holders and Anna will follow this up and copy in Cllr Holder.

13 Ward Councillor Reports – Cllr Holder confirmed that Cllr Rob Wood is officially standing down at the coming election and the LibDem new councillor candidate will be announced shortly. He announced that £100k for two road crossings in Old Portsmouth was approved at February's Council budget meeting. He continues to work with Gunwharf Residents Association over the long-term Wightlink problems: noisy ramps and lighting glare.

14 Committee Admin – None.

15 AOB

Annual Review – Gail is applying the final touches to the content and has obtained printing quotes. It will be £1.10 per issue and it was agreed that 80 copies are sufficient for members and content contributors. The majority of members will be able to download an online PDF of the Annual Review from a link to the FOOPA website. The Committee agreed these costs were reasonable and that Gail should proceed.

AGM – Gail assured the committee that the speaker Mike Underwood has confirmed and she and Mike Dobson will be on duty to rig up projector screen and projector. Mary will be posted at the Club entrance to tick off members as they arrive and hand them a copy of the Annual Review should they like one.

Future Event Proposal – Gail has been contacted by a young team called Bygone who have launched a website of 'then and now' photographic and documentary materials. It is intended as a free community interactive archive and resource which, for now, is self-funded. The team would like to come and present their ideas to a FOOPA gathering. The committee support the idea and Gail will take it forward.

Camber Right of Way – Following further enquiry by Ken Bailey, PCC Legal Services has updated Gerald Vernon-Jackson that Chambers have been advised of the Council's barrister for the inquiry and officers are contacting potential witnesses. Legal Services remains committed to submitting the Definitive Map Modification Order to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of the first quarter of 2022.

15 Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 20 April 2022, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club. And a reminder that the AGM is on 22 March 2022, same time and venue.