

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 12 October 2022

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2022

Present

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mary Tollow (Membership), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Mark Jeffery (Ward Councillor), Liz Winder (Treasurer). The meeting was held at the Dolphin because the Bowls Club was unavailable.

1 Apologies

Apologies from Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Bob Stewart (Spice Island) and Ward Councillors Ian Holder and Chris Attwell.

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 14 September 2022 were circulated to the Chair and all the Committee via email. Sharon pointed out an error with the Treasurer figures. *Post-meeting Note: Anna amended and recirculated.*

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Hotwalls & Camber Restorative Support Group – Eileen attended a meeting on 21 September in place of Gail. The minutes are posted on the FOOPA website. It comprised Portsmouth Mediation Service representatives and PCC officials (Mark Collings, Seafront Manager; Harry Scot, Hotwalls; Amanda Littlefield, Youth Service Manager; Lisa Wills, Strategy, Executive). They plan to meet monthly and coordinate, communicate, implement and embed a long-term restorative plan for tackling anti-social behaviour. Measures include engagement, meetings and forums with community, businesses and other stakeholders; developing new partnerships to promote communications and understanding from diverse perspectives; training to strengthen relationships and prevent conflict; working with police and law enforcement to make restorative interventions with families and communities.

Car Club – Cllr Mark updated the committee: there are 2 contenders in the final round of the tender process, which is taking longer than expected. However, there is a will for this to be implemented as a priority.

Local Listings – Sharon continues to encounter a wall of silence from PCC regarding the inadequate Local Listings document that she has offered to refine so that it can be relied on as a bona fide working consultation document going forward. Cllr Mark committed to following this up with Ian Maguire, PCC Director of Planning.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club – Gail relayed the disappointing news that, from 2023 the Bowls Club will no longer be hiring out their venue for private events. This means that FOOPA will have to find a new home.

Sea Through Pompey – Details of this local initiative are posted on the FOOPA website. Communities are being asked to submit applications for grants to help with anti-social behavior. Winners will be chosen by public vote.

6 Treasurer's Report – The balance at 1 September 2022 was £9597.65. There are still ticket cheques to be deposited following the event on 20 September 2022. In the interim, Liz reported that £183 has been received in income and costs of £279 have been incurred, leaving a closing balance at 30.9.22 of £9501.65.

7 Membership Report – No new movements to report. There was a brief discussion regarding forthcoming events and the role of Social Secretary. See below.

8 Planning

Fontenoy House – The appeal to the Planning Inspectorate by the applicant based on his last proposal (20/00158/FUL, refused by PCC Planning Committee) has been dismissed.

Mary Rose Pub – There is a planning application for conversion to a convenience store with flats above. A heritage statement exists, however Sharon enlightened the committee with additional some historic details of the site and has submitted some comments on behalf of FOOPA to the application. It was noted that collective awareness in this field is a good illustration of FOOPA's importance to the city, particularly as corporate knowledge at PCC seems to be dwindling.

9 Heritage & Conservation

Millennium Promenade – Sharon reiterated concerns that the 3km long Millennium Promenade will not be reinstated. However, the fact remains that the Millennium Walkway leaflet is wrong and should be corrected.

Tree Works – Sharon asked Cllr Mark to enquire whether, in conservation areas, all tree works require permission.

10 Social Programme – Ann has officially tendered her resignation with effect from 21 September and submitted a final report summarizing her programme of events over the last three and a half years. All expressed their enormous gratitude to Ann for taking up this role and the commitment and professionalism she brought to it. The Committee voted and agreed to present Ann with a £50 voucher from Camber Wines. Liz recapped on the figures for September's talk by Susan Howe: 48 paid guests with 3 no-shows generated an income of £384. There were expenses of £255 leaving a surplus of £129 to be donated to local charities. Mary and Liz will be handling the Xmas Lunch — flyers have been emailed and posted. Mary will draft an email flyer call-out to members to fill the post of Social Secretary.

11 Environment

Long Curtain Planting – Hannah Thompson, PCC Countryside Officer, will dig in some 'plugs' on the lower steeper grass slopes, she is sourcing plants for installing in late autumn. She is also looking at herbs and edible plants for the beds in front of Nelson statue.

Street Greening at Square Tower / Hotwalls – Harry Scot, Hotwalls Manager, has expressed an interest in introducing planters and will continue the conversation with PCC and studio artists.

Solent Seagrass Project at Long Curtain Moat – Eileen has met with the team from Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust overseeing this project. They are very enthused, but warn that the process is lengthy as it involves user permissions and sampling research to be undertaken by the University. It is also not yet clear how much of the Moat will be reinstated by the Southsea Coastal Scheme works. Obtaining the seeds is a challenge and once planted, the seagrass has to stay in place.

Meanwhile Use at Fullers Construction Site, The Point – Cllr Ian will be forwarding the contact person to Eileen.

12 Website – Gail has posted a number of new items up and urged committee members to take a look.

13 Traffic

Shipwrights Way – This was due to be heard by Traffic & Transportation Committee in October but delayed, which gives Mike more time for explaining the drawbacks to PCC's proposals.

Roadside Noise Nuisance Technology – Mike is not aware that it is being used in the UK yet.

High Street and Broad Street Crossings – Despite promises, it is not clear from PCC when these are going ahead. Cllr Mark assured they would be published for consultation soon. Mike urged Cllr Mark to provide FOOPA with early sight of what is planned so that any hitches can be ironed out.

Long Distance Paths – Cllr Judith Smyth from St Jude's ward is sympathetic to community concerns over seafront access restrictions during the bank holiday Victorious festival and committed to staying onboard with this.

Congestion in Old Portsmouth – A recent incident involving a ferry break-down demonstrated how severe local congestion becomes. When Wightlink expanded their terminal they gave assurances that this would stop happening. Wightlink is meeting with Gunwharf Quays Residents Association on 31 October and they have invited Mike to attend.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – Cllr Mark announced there is now a Ward Councillor advice surgery in Old Portsmouth, held on the 2nd Wednesday each month at Cathedral House from 5pm to 6pm. He also reported that work to finish installation of safety bollards has been completed on High Street. Lastly, former councilor Rob Wood was recently made an alderman, an honorary title given to councilors if they have served 3 or more terms.

15 Committee Admin – None.

16 AOB

Great South Run, MP Stephen Morgan – Sharon reminded all that on Sunday 16 October there is the GSR, and that the Portsmouth South MP is hosting an afternoon surgery at the Sally Port Inn.

Cathedral Fish & Chips – It's been noted that the Cathedral has introduced a pop-up Fish n Chip van on Cathedral Green every Fri and Sat early evenings.

Planning Notices – Mike again raises the point that Planning officers are leaving notices up after their expiry. It is becoming increasingly common-place across the city and adds to the street clutter. Cllr Mark will follow this up.

Census 2019 – Mike was eager to know when the report will be published. Developers and others are using data from the 2011 Census to evidence development applications and traffic analyses. The committee notes it is often in their interests to use stale data, such as figures on car ownership, household and demographic changes.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 16 November 2022, 7.30pm, venue Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.

