

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 14 September 2022

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2022

Present

Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mary Tollow (Membership), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment), Mike Dobson (Traffic).

1 Apologies

Apologies from Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Ann Wilson (Social Secretary), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Bob Stewart (Spice Island) and Ward Councilors Ian Holder, Chris Attwell and Mark Jeffery.

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

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Portsmouth Mediation Service – Gail has had a follow-up meeting with Steve Rolls and will report back at the next meeting. Mary and Eileen have also met with him. The sentiment is: there is a disconnect between what is promoted on paper and what expectations are from all sides. Those holding the meeting were not from Portsmouth and not aware of the problems in the city or this area. They seem to think their established formula applies to all situations. When discussing how ‘£15,000 of public money could be spent within the Hot Walls area to support and empower young people and residents’, it is clear to residents that there is a limit to what we can do to engage the young people when they visit Old Portsmouth, they need to be engaged all over the city.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Member Email – Mike has yet to do any research on tackling noise nuisance from vehicles and motorbikes. It is understood that in Paris, an automated sensor scheme picks up noise and vehicle registration details from offending drivers, which means they can be penalized.

Southern Water – A burst water mains has put Pembroke Road out of action until 30 September 2022. Mike noted that the Colas circulation list is out of date regarding ward councilors.

6 Treasurer's Report – Liz was unable to attend but has provided the figures for August. The balance at 1 August 2022 was £9395.65. There was £226 received in income, less costs of £24.00, leaving a balance on 31 August 2022 of £9597.65.

7 Membership Report – Mary confirmed that one new member has joined, bringing the current total to 182 households and 267 members.

8 Planning

90 St Thomas's Street (Ref 22/01104/HOU) – FOOPA submitted an objection over particular aspects of this application, most notably the absence of drawings of a proposed 1.8m high boundary brick wall and gate. FOOPA is concerned about the impact of this type of frontage for the wider realm and public experience of the Old Portsmouth Conservation Area. The alternative of natural planting would have beneficial effects, not just privacy, but also biodiversity and soaking up rainwater run-off.

7 Oyster Mews – A further planning appeal has been rejected.

Fontenoy House – Graeme will check if there is any update.

9 Heritage & Conservation

Amendments to PCC's Local Listings Document – Sharon has followed this up twice with councilors and planning officials, with no response. Quay House has recently been added to the 'old' local listings document that appears on the council's website. All agreed that the Council wants to encourage community groups to get involved in improving their environment but we need to see more of this in reality.

Millennium Promenade – Sharon has enquired at the Southsea Coastal Scheme visitors office about greening measures integral to the works. She was told that the 3km long Millennium Promenade with its chain link branded route will not be reinstated along the new Long Curtain section and there is a question mark over the arc lighting.

She contacted the Visit Portsmouth office about updating some of the online information about the Millennium Promenade that is out of date, however was told there are no resources to do this.

E-Scooter/E-bike Racks – All agreed that the proposed location in the arches on Broad Street seems sensible as there is already other wheeled storage there. Post-meeting note: An email from Cllr Chris on 15 September to community groups confirmed that the proposal for scooter racks at Seagers Court will not go ahead.

Heritage Statements / Tree Works – Sharon asked all to note that all planning applications in the Conservation Area must include a heritage statement and observed that recent examples are poor or often non-existent, even when applications are validated. The committee is concerned that little note is taken of heritage statements. In conservation areas all tree works require permission, and Sharon would like to know if this remains the case.

10 Social Programme – Mary updated the committee regarding the forthcoming talk on Tuesday 20 September which has attracted healthy numbers. There are 42 paid and confirmed, enough to offer attendees a complimentary drink. The Xmas Lunch is still planned for Tuesday 13 December.

11 Environment

Long Curtain Wildflower Planting / Meanwhile Use at Fuller's site / Street Greening at Square Tower – Since Eileen met with Hannah Thompson, PCC's Countryside Officer for Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services and Zoe White, PCC's Green & Healthy Streets Co-ordinator, there has not been any response therefore she will follow up.

Community Orchard – Eileen has met with Simon Pearce, PCC's Arboriculturist, who has decided that the Garrison Church patch is not suitable for planting trees because of poor soil and saline conditions. However, he has spoken to Zoe White about planting trees in the school grounds and adding some trees to Pembroke Road.

Solent Seagrass Project – Eileen is meeting Ellie Parker from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to discuss use of the Long Curtain Moat for seagrass planting www.hiwwt.org.uk/seagrass-restoration. Besides its biodiversity benefits, seagrass plays an important role in carbon capture – it can store carbon 35 times faster than rainforest. This spot is also ideal for monitoring and getting schools involved as it is closely accessible.

Fullers Construction Site – Eileen received a helpful response from Asahi (who now own the Fullers brand), however they only own the brewery side of Fuller's operations, not their property portfolio. Eileen will press councilors to check who owns the title, which should be on record in PCC's Planning Department.

12 Website – No update.

13 Traffic

Shipwrights Way – no further progress. Mike will prioritise this. The issue is: the data strongly supports the case that there should be a 3rd crossing from Square Tower to White Hart Lane (in addition to High Street and Broad Street). However PCC appears to be cherry picking data to ensure they don't need to do this. Nor is the Council building in for greater pedestrian capacity by encouraging more active travel.

Hildegard Lowe inquest – Following a formal request to the Coroner by FOOPA to give evidence at the Inquest, the date has now been put back to at least 25 January 2023.

Portsmouth Car Club – Anna has not had a reply from Cllr Chris and will follow up.

Highbury St Double Yellow Lines – The TRO has been published to suspend parking and clear the street so that work can start anytime after 19th September.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – No Councillors present.

15 Committee Admin – None.

16 AOB

Community Safety Charter – Anna circulated details of this national initiative set up by the Government and currently being implemented by the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. All agreed that it was worth signing up to the charter to explore how this might benefit the community. <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter>

Holiday Inn Recycling Amenities – Additional bins have now been provided that include tetrapak cartons as well as other plastics that cannot be collected in the standard door-to-door recycling collections.

KA Zone Parking – Labels have been added to the Pay & Display machines along Pembroke Road to make it clearer to drivers that KA Permit Holders are exempt from these restrictions.

Camber Right of Way – The Council has submitted the paperwork to the Secretary of State's Planning Inspector but has yet to get the green light from them, which will provide a timetable leading up to the Public Inquiry.

Duke of Buckingham – The Committee noted its closure with regret. It is understood that the hotel remains open.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 12 October 2022, 7.30pm, Dolphin Pub.