

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Becket Hall, Cathedral House

Tuesday 21 March 2023, 7.30 pm

The meeting was chaired by Gail Baird with attendance from 6 other committee members, 34 members, 2 ward councillors and 2 speakers (45 in total).

Committee Present:

Gail Baird (Chair and Website), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Eileen Measey (Environment), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation). **In attendance:** Councillor Chris Attwell, Councillor Ian Holder.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Gail welcomed everyone and ran through the Cathedral housekeeping, amenities and Health/Safety/Fire instructions. She advised members that copies of the annual review are available to those attending, however members will also receive a copy by email, as some may prefer just a digital copy. Paper copies will be posted to those members who do not use email or internet.

She explained the order of business and that questions would be welcome once AGM business is completed and following the talk. Gail briefly described some of the new initiatives that FOOPA is undertaking such as Eileen's big plant out across 2 sites, for which volunteers are needed. She also mentioned some of the partnerships and joint efforts with other local groups, including Gunwharf Quays Residents Association and the Portsmouth WI.

Gail went on to thank all the committee for their continued commitment, with particular thanks to those who have stepped down: Liz Winder (Treasurer), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), and outgoing Social Secretary Ann Wilson who stepped down at Christmas. Gail urged members to come forward and volunteers to take up these roles, either during the AGM election process or following the meeting. Special appreciation was given to Independent Examiner Janis Loose who scrutinized the FOOPA accounts for 2022. Gail reminded members that, following the AGM, they will see a presentation by Ellie Parker and Tim Ferrero, Marine Officers with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, who will give an illustrated talk about the Solent Seagrass Project they are leading.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from committee member Mary Tollow (Membership). Anna thanked the following members who sent their apologies: Robin and Moyra Hedderly, Cissie and John Avery, John Tollow, Sonia Banks, Fi Rosen, Elaine Bevis, Antonia Bennett, and Myra Allen, Jackie Baynes.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes AGM 2022

Draft copies had been circulated to members by email (posted to those not on email) and on the Noticeboard / Website. Members were asked to approve the minutes of the previous AGM held at Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club on 22 March 2022. It was explained that an amendment will be made to details concerning Hildegard Lowe, to state she was struck down by a *suspected* hit and run driver. The case remains under investigation by the police. The minutes were agreed by a majority show of hands.

4. Matters Arising – None.

5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Executive Committee – Gail handed over proceedings to Mike Dobson who asked Gail Baird (Chair, Website) and Anna Koor (Secretary) to step down from their roles in order to be re-elected. Mike asked if

anyone would like to stand in their places but there were no contenders. He asked for proposer and seconder for Gail, provided by Sharon Morris and Alistair Wilson respectively. Anna's re-election was proposed by Terry Henderson and seconded by Helen Swann. Mike announced that the role of Treasurer is vacant following the departure of Liz Winder and asked for volunteers. None were forthcoming. He explained that, in the absence of volunteers, current committee member Mary Tollow (not present) has agreed to step in as Treasurer (in addition to her Membership committee post). This was proposed by Margaret Wilson and seconded by Jane Jackson. All three candidates were endorsed by a unanimous show of hands.

Other Officers – Mike handed proceedings back to Gail, who asked existing officers Mike Dobson (Traffic), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation), and Eileen Measey (Environment) to step down. They would like to be re-elected. Mary Tollow is away but wishes to be re-elected as Membership Secretary. Gail asked if there are any contenders to these 5 posts but none forthcoming. She therefore asked for a proposer and seconder for all 5 posts: provided by Ken Bailey and Arlene Kennedy respectively. Gail then explained that Graeme Swinburne is stepping down as the Planning Rep and the Social Secretary post remains vacant. Gail asked for volunteers, but none were forthcoming. In the absence of a volunteer, Sharon Morris has agreed to cover the Planning post. This was endorsed by proposer David Baynes and seconder Graeme Swinburne.

6. **Any Other Business** – None.

7. **Date of next meeting:** To be confirmed by the Chair.