

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 19 April 2023

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 19 April 2023 at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.

Present - Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mary Tollow (Treasurer and Membership).

1 Apologies - Mike Dobson (Traffic).

2 Declarations of Interest – All were reminded to confirm their declarations of interest should any matters of that nature arise during the course of FOOPA business.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 16 March 2023 were circulated to all via email and approved by the Chair. The draft minutes of the AGM on 21 March 2023 were also circulated for committee scrutiny. Those present agreed with those minutes pending final approval at the next AGM.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Draft Safeguarding Policy – On 23 March, Anna met with Sandie Davis at local charity Hive, which among other things, provides support to volunteer organisations in the city. A draft FOOPA safeguarding policy has been circulated to committee members. All agreed to its adoption, with Gail and Anna acting as the safeguarding contacts when reporting or referring any safeguarding issues to the authorities. Sandie considers this draft policy is more than adequate for FOOPA's working patterns and scope of events. Committee members were made aware that it is important to draw attention to this policy whenever there are staff/volunteer changes and ensure new people read and digest it. The policy is up on the website for members to read and study what regulations it draws from. The committee was reminded that FOOPA was required to have a safeguarding policy in place in order to qualify for PCC/Government funding / grants etc. The emphasis is on protecting children and vulnerable adults and ensuring all relationships are safe, i.e. be alert to any inappropriate relationships. But it is also about protecting all parties, so we all know where responsibilities lie.

Defibrillator at The Still and West – Eileen confirmed the obligations that FOOPA is undertaking. The committee agrees that FOOPA takes on joint guardianship of the defibrillator with the Old Portsmouth Women's Institute (the joint guardians will be Helen Swann (OPWI) and Eileen Measey (FOOPA)). The committee has agreed that FOOPA pays £100 annually towards its upkeep. Its batteries and pads need to be changed approximately every 5 years and 3 years respectively. This operation was recently undertaken by previous guardian Julia Hender (former leaseholders of Square Tower) at a cost of £330. Eileen will obtain a copy of this invoice for FOOPA's records and FOOPA will reimburse Julia Hender the agreed £100. Eileen will register guardianship via the defibrillator app. She will be given a code that enables her to check the defibrillator monthly. She emphasised that in the event of an emergency, one rings 999 to be given instructions how to use the defibrillator.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Long Curtain Moat – FOOPA was copied into email communication from Celia Clarke to PCC Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services Stephen Baily regarding debris and sand blocking the flushing exit to the moat. She also enquired about the installation of planned new on-site interpretation. Stephen has followed up both these matters with the PCC Seafront Services and Southsea Coastal Scheme teams. (Post-meeting note: work on the interpretation panels is expected to be done in May.)

6 Treasurer's Report – Mary has officially replaced Liz as Treasurer following her stepping down. The handover of accounts is in progress with Lloyds Bank. Mary reported that the March opening balance was £10,092.46 (Note: the recorded closing balance of £10,089.46 on 28 February 2023 (see previous minutes) should have included a £3 payment made in error by a member, who has since paid an additional £2 to complete their £5 annual subscription for 2023.) Liz has opened a linked savings account so that FOOPA funds can attract interest payments and has transferred £5000 to this account. The current account balance at 31 March stands at £4808.51.

7 Membership Report – Mary reported that 5 more members have renewed their membership subscriptions. There remains 15 still to pay. This brings the total to 167 members, comprising 240 people. It was agreed that when new members join, it would be welcoming to invite them to meet the committee and explore ways they might like to contribute to the committee's work or explore new possibilities.

8 Planning - Sharon will follow up with Graeme regarding Fontenoy House: whether a decision has been reached by PCC concerning re-submission of the original planning application (made by the previous owner). This was

initially refused by PCC, but that decision was overturned by the Planning Inspector. It is therefore anticipated that this re-submission will be approved. She will also enquire if there is any outcome/action regarding the alleged noise issue at the Fish Market.

9 Heritage & Conservation – Nothing new to report.

10 Social Programme – It was agreed that Gail will contact speaker Mike Underwood regarding a date in June to present his talk about the architecture of Old Portsmouth Cathedral. The venue will be the Bowls Club.

11 Environment

Nelson Statue planting - Eileen has invested in a range of salt-resistant edible plant seedlings for the raised bed at Nelson's Statue in Grand Parade, which has been designated FOOPA's responsibility. FOOPA volunteers were out planting the seedlings this morning along with Hannah Thompson, PCC Countryside Officer and the team from Parks, Gardens & Open Spaces. The outlay is £253.27, which Eileen has provided receipts for. The committee agreed reimbursement to Eileen. This sum includes £44.99 for a mobile water bowser. It has been agreed with Hotwalls Studios that this can be housed in their storeroom, which will facilitate access during business hours.

Pembroke Park Hedgerow demolition – Anna has written again to ward councilors with contact information for the estate management maintenance contractors with responsibility for Pembroke Park. It is understood that the hedge may have been removed in order to allow refurbishment of the iron railings, which are in a poor state.

Bees – Eileen has been in contact with one of the Garrison Church volunteers who is meeting ward councilors on Friday to discuss the potential for bee keeping in the Garrison Church gardens along with a community orchard.

Long Curtain Gates – There are 2 new gates with stepped access to the 2 beaches along Long Curtain. FOOPA has enquired about public access. This section was opened a month early, to coincide with February Half Term, and Southsea Coastal Scheme are still considering how to manage the beach access.

12 Website – Nothing new to report. Any items, please pass on to Gail to promote.

13 Traffic

St Jude's School Streets – Sharon had a reply to her FOOPA email regarding resident consultation prior to the PCC Traffic & Transportation decision meeting on 23 March 2023, though it hasn't addressed some neighbours' specific concerns. It is therefore hoped that those concerns will be ironed out on implementation. There has been no direct contact from PCC with resident consultees. She urges PCC to implement any scheme prior to the new September intake so that new parents are informed.

Car Club – This city-wide scheme is due to go live following the outcome of the same T&T meeting (above). It is not certain when it will go live, however the designated parking space will be on High Street, near the Cathedral.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – None in attendance. Local council elections are on 4 May.

15 Committee Admin

FOOPA AGM and Annual Review – There was a brief discussion about how the AGM went. It was agreed that time-permitting, there should be an item on the agenda assigned to tell members what the Committee has been doing over the past year, rather than leaving members to read about activities in the Annual Review. The committee has received very positive feedback to the Annual Review and there is demand for a few more copies. Gail will action its printing with Asher Design.

Tokens of Appreciation – It was agreed to give Liz a £50 book token and Graeme a £50 A Bar voucher in appreciation of their hard work and commitment in their respective roles.

16 AOB

Restorative Communities Meetings – Eileen went to the last meeting, which was also attended by some Spice Island residents concerned about late night noise nuisance and speeding by motor cyclists who gather near the BAR building. Residents have regularly reported this ASB to the Police via 101. BAR managers undertook to investigate their CCTV and monitor incidents so that they can liaise with the police. It seems that BAR is keen for its facility to be a resource for the community and ideas are being discussed for events on the apron area. Pompey in the Community has set up a gym in the BAR building and is offering an 8-week exercise programme for local residents. Details will be on the FOOPA website and circulated to members. Gail and Eileen will alternately attend future fortnightly meetings.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 17 May 2023, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.