

## THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 15 February 2023

Website: [foopa.org.uk](http://foopa.org.uk)

Email: [foopacontact@gmail.com](mailto:foopacontact@gmail.com)

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2023 at BAR Technologies, The Camber.

**Present** - Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Chris Attwell (Ward Councillor), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mary Tollow (Membership).

**1 Apologies** - Ian Holder (Ward Councillor), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Mark Jeffery (Ward Councillor).

**2 Declarations of Interest** – All 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 18 January 2023 were circulated to all via email and approved by the Chair.

### 4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

**Draft Safeguarding Policy** – Anna has yet to hear from Sandie Davis at Hive and continues to chase.

**Public Liability Insurance** – Gail checked with the FOOPA insurance PolicyBee regarding membership numbers and any maximum restrictions. There is no upper limit.

**Gunwharf Gate Residents Association** - Mike has been in contact with the Chair and a provisional meeting has been arranged in March to discuss community matters of mutual interest.

### 5 Correspondence and Communications

**Portsmouth Society** – Following an email to Gail, Graeme will get in touch with Terry Halloran to establish whether closer links with FOOPA would be helpful to both organisations.

**Camber Noise** – An enquiry was received via the FOOPA website about noise from 'Fish', the newly taken-over fish market. The possible explanation is refurbishment works in progress.

**Defibrillator at Still n West** – Its current custodians are Steve and Julie Hender at the Square Tower. It is understood they will be giving up their events operation and have asked if FOOPA would like to take responsibility for it. All agreed this would be worthwhile in principle. Gail will make further enquiries regarding what the responsibilities are, costs, and training.

**6 Treasurer's Report** – Janis Loose completed her examination of the FOOPA accounts and was able to balance them. The committee is very grateful for her meticulous analysis and thanked her for her continued support of successive treasurers. She is retiring and will not be able to take on the duty of Independent Examiner next year. *Post-meeting note:* Liz submitted her reconciliation for January 2023. The closing balance at 31 January 2023 is £10110.16, which includes substantial deposits of annual subscriptions due in January 2023.

**7 Membership Report** – The January annual subscriptions are trickling in and so far, 140 households have paid for 2023. This includes those who paid in December and others who paid twice in 2022 and the second of those payments was taken to be for 2023. Mary is preparing a reminder to go to the 45 members who have yet to pay, emphasising that payment must be made by end March 2023 to avoid their membership being terminated. There remains a few odd subscriptions of £3 and £4 – the committee agreed to raise this at the AGM to try and identify who these people are and what to do with their payments.

### 8 Planning

**7 Oyster Mews** – An appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspector on the grounds of PCC being in breach of its statutory planning deadlines. This again highlights the dire straits that the Planning Department is in.

**4 Highbury Street** – An appeal has been made by the appellants and Graeme has re-submitted FOOPA's objection.

### 9 Heritage & Conservation

**Local Listings Document** – There appears to be a vacuum regarding any response from PCC on this.

**10 Social Programme** – Final arrangements for the AGM on 21 March are in progress. The committee discussed Health & Safety and other technicalities including the need for a microphone – it was agreed that Gail will purchase this. Mike Underwood has offered to give a second talk following his very successful speaker event on the history of Gunwharf Quays. It was suggested this could take place in May at the Bowls Club. The next 'social' is the AGM on 21 March 2023 with a talk on the local Seagrass project.

## 11 Environment

**Grand Parade / Nelson Statue** – FOOPA has been allocated one flowerbed and Eileen is meeting Hannah Thompson, PCC's Countryside Officer, on Tuesday to discuss planting suitable herbs and edible plants. She has bought some samphire seeds. A suitable water source is still being discussed. Work is about to commence to upgrade the railings, raised beds and decking.

**Hotwalls** – There is agreement to remove the gratings from around the trees in order to promote the wild flower growth. Hannah Thompson is leading on this, in conjunction with the Hotwalls Manager.

**Long Curtain Grassed Embankment** – Eileen is keeping an eye on the 15 flower plugs that were planted with St Jude's pupils. The top section of the grass bank will be seeded with wildflowers in May.

**Fullers site** – Eileen's pursuit of those responsible for the boarded-up empty site at The Point has yielded a response. However their reply made it clear that the site is too dangerous for any temporary use. Fullers intend to submit a planning application in the next 6-12 months.

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

## 13 Traffic

**Shipwrights Way** – Mike received an apology from PCC officer Chi Sharpe regarding FOOPA's treatment at the recent Traffic & Transportation Committee (see previous minutes). The excuse was that the papers were prepared by a junior officer who had not been properly briefed. Mike still intends writing to the Leader for assurance that all community organisations are not treated this way.

**Speeding** – Mike's Freedom of Information request to gain answers regarding the metrics PCC use for speed and the corresponding police criteria, was not satisfactorily explained. He received a summary sheet without any detail. This will only be resolved by a meeting with PCC's Felicity Tidbury (Assistant Dir, Transport) and Michelle Love (Road Safety Manager). Cllr Chris was asked to facilitate this.

**Wightlink** – Mike attended a second meeting along with representatives from Gunwharf Quays Residents Association. There was some progress on reducing light and noise pollution and the dialogue was valuable.

**St Jude's School Streets** – Sharon attended the public engagement meeting organized by Sustrans held at St Jude's school on 7 February and attended by approx. 50 residents, parents, PCC officers and councillors. A large chunk of time was spent revisiting the problems of traffic associated with pupil drop off and pick up. Three options were discussed: Do Nothing; Install Signage; Install Bollards/Monitoring Equipment. Sustrans will analyse the responses and feedback their considerations within a month. In Sharon's opinion, signage is unlikely to deter persistent offenders who park across entrances, garages and on pavements. Motorists can drive around bollards (temporary or permanent) if they only obstruct half the road so this may not stop them either. There is also the challenge of defining 'permitted vehicles' as there are too many variables and exceptions (taxis, deliveries, carers...), including residents who have off-street parking and therefore do not have parking permits. The new Portsmouth Grammar School head David Wicks attended, which sparked appeals from a number of residents concerning the age-old problem of lorry deliveries using the rear entrance. He is considering Museum Road for delivery access, and for school run traffic.

**Road Crossings** – Cllr Chris wanted work to commence before the end of financial year. Chris will enquire about public communications and proposed designs.

**Buses** – Contrary to local rumour, the No25 bus is not being suspended.

**14 Ward Councillor Reports** – There has been a very positive response to the re-opening of the seafront section adjoining the Moat. Committee members emphasized the need for more rubbish bins, preferably for recycling purposes. Applications are now open for Coronation parties in May.

## 15 Committee Admin

**FOOPA AGM** – There was a brief discussion regarding logistics, roles and responsibilities.

**Draft FOOPA Health & Safety Policy** – Following its drafting and circulation by Sharon it was agreed that this can now be formally adopted. Any new members joining the committee following the AGM will need to be inducted.

## 16 AOB

**Annual Review** – the deadline for articles is in one week's time.

**Restorative training** – Eileen is attending the next meeting next week. A free training session is being offered in a month's time for community representatives and stakeholders.

**17 Date of Next Meeting** – Tuesday 14 March 2023, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.