

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 14 June 2023

Website: foopa.org.uk

Email: foopacontact@gmail.com

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2023 at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.

Present - Mike Dobson (Traffic), Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Mary Tollow (Treasurer and Membership), Anna Koor (Secretary), Eileen Measey (Environment), Mark Jeffery and Ian Holder (Ward Councillors).

1 Apologies - Cllr Chris Attwell, Gail Baird (Chair, Website).

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 18 May 2023 had been circulated via email with some clarifications from Anna. *Post-meeting note*: Minutes subsequently re-circulated and approved by Gail.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Defibrillator at The Still and West – Eileen is now officially its guardian, alongside Helen Swann from the Old Portsmouth W.I. The associated payment documentation has been filed by Mary.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Long Curtain Moat – This item was brought forward again from the previous minutes. Eileen has spoken to the team responsible, who are currently clearing the canals at Gunwharf Quays. The Moat is next on their list of works.

Re-opened Long Curtain frontage – FOOPA was told that work on the interpretation panels was expected to be done in May. Mary also enquired about No Cycling signs, which should be re-erected. **Cllrs Mark and Ian will enquire on progress/signage and report back.**

6 Treasurer's Report – FOOPA has overpaid by £5 for the Bowls Club hire for April's committee meeting. Martyn Reynolds at the Bowls Club has confirmed that the monthly meeting charge is £25 not £30 and he will confirm this with their treasurer. Mary will check what invoices from the Bowls Club have since been received. At 31 May 2023 there was £4458.24 in the current account and £5004.20 in the savings account, including monthly earned interest of £2.49. The current account includes income of £156 from the social event on 6 June 2023.

7 Social Programme – Very positive feedback was received following Mike Underwood's talk on 6 June 2023. Mary estimates there should be a small surplus. A quiz is planned for September and invites will go out later in August.

8 Membership Report – There was one member who renewed in May and a new member, making 171 households and 1 honorary member.

9 Traffic

Southern Water at Pembroke Road – Mike's focus has been on the lack of public communications and engagement by Southern Water (SW) following their emergency / planned works along Pembroke Road, which began in mid-May in response to a collapsed storm drain. **FOOPA asked ward councilors to support residents and use their agency to obtain helpful information, including maps and plans detailing their programme of work.** There has been little progress on this, despite the disruption, road closures and hence wide-ranging impacts on residents, school parents, businesses, parking, etc. Mike also pointed out the absence of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) covering some of the works periods. Works have now extended to Grand Parade where the

temporary surface pipe will be connected. Drilling here began without any prior warning or TRO. Plans were promised on 2 June, but none have been forthcoming with the exception of a local leaflet providing inadequate information. SW needs to answer questions about the repeated road closures over recent years and the nature of repairs at the pumping station – have these been temporary but ineffective repairs or permanent fixes that have failed?

St Jude's School Streets – Councilors were asked about the status of implementation and reminded that a final consultation with the school, residents and other stakeholders needs to happen soon so that the infrastructure is in place ready for the new school year.

Car Club – Anna asked when this would go live. **Cllr Mark** will ask the Gerald Vernon-Jackson, the new Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation.

High Street/Broad Street Crossings – Councilors expressed regret and frustration that these works have still not commenced. Officers seem to be of the opinion that the works would be best started after the busy summer holidays. The Committee asked **Councillors** to seek a progress update.

Shipwrights' Way – Mike still awaits confirmation of routing (in conjunction with the new Broad Street crossing).

10 Planning

Pembroke House conversion to Government (MOD) Offices – Sharon submitted comments on behalf of FOOPA and there are several objections covering an array of issues, including excessive parking and inadequate cycle storage. Cllr Ian to check if it is going to Planning Committee otherwise he will call it in. Sharon also commented that none of the boundary railings, gates, posts etc are listed or locally listed. Similar concerns have been raised about other aspects of Pembroke Park. *Post-meeting Note:* Cllr Ian confirmed the case will be called-in.

Tesco - Mary Rose/Gloucester Hotel site – Sharon has emailed Planning to highlight the importance of this site historically: there has been a pub there since 1700s yet it is not listed like many other pre-WW2 properties. She suggested an information board would be a valuable enhancement, with details of the architectural design by Cogswell and its origins as the Gloucester Hotel, then Mary Rose. **Cllr Mark to seek response.**

45 St Thomas's Street – Anna wrote to Planning to point out there is no public notice at the site. (*Post-meeting note:* a notice has since been erected.) The heritage statement suggests the proposal is not facing St Thomas's Street, however its side elevation is visible from St Thomas's St and Lombard Street. **Cllr Ian** to check this.

90 St Thomas's Street – Residents have alerted Planning that builders have put footings for a boundary wall, which was not included in the planning application. Enforcement has been alerted. Sharon pointed out the anomalies with the decision notice and drawing references. **Cllr Ian will check on progress.**

11 Heritage & Conservation

Restoration of Memorial – A member has asked if FOOPA would look at the restoration of a stone tablet, a memorial to two horses, because the inscription is disappearing. It is along the public path from Pembroke Road to Governors Green near the Royal Garrison Church -

http://www.memorialsinportsmouth.co.uk/old-portsmouth/comus_and_chief.htm Sharon suggested that, instead of disturbing the plaque and historical wall, a panel with transcript / explanation could be placed alongside the tablet. CIL funds could be put to this use and Councillors agreed that this may be appropriate as it is part of the city's walking infrastructure and tourist sites. **Cllrs Mark and Ian to take this forward.**

12 Environment

Wildflower Planting - Sadly wildflower seeds planted along the lower grassy banks at Long Curtain have not bloomed, however the upper slopes that were rotivated have been colonized by flowering species.

Nelson Statue Bed and Hotwalls Planting – Weekly weeding and watering sessions are up and running at 9am on Monday and Wednesday mornings. The Hotwalls planting around the trees are struggling and need plenty of TLC.

Fullers site, The Point – When Eileen contacted Fullers she was advised that they expected to be submitting a planning application in 6 months' time – she has followed up.

Pembroke Park hedgerow – Cllr Ian has elicited a response from the estates team. They claim the hedge had to be removed because it had outgrown its environment. It was found that the lower growth was diseased and dying off. The Committee is of the opinion that, had the hedge been maintained properly this could have been avoided, and it should not have been lobbed in nesting season.

Restorative Communities Meetings – Eileen attended their fortnightly meeting today. Several new residents have joined the forum and expressed concerns about the youngsters at the Camber in the strongest terms. On a positive note, Eileen emphasized that this is the first time all 3 major youth organisations have come together rather than working separately in isolation. Events are planned over the summer school holidays.

BAR fencing – BAR has fenced off its apron area at the Camber, apparently to repair/replace the Union Jack shutters, which requires the area to be fenced off temporarily for safety reasons.

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

14 Ward Councillor Reports – Cllr Mark reported that Portsmouth was selected Tree City of the World by the Tree Cities of the Year international programme, for the second year running. He is now Chair of the Health Overview Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) covering the catchment area of QA Hospital. Residents are welcome to contact him about general health issues (not personal medical problems) such as the lack of NHS Dentists, or closure of pharmacies. Email cllr.mark.jeffery@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

15 Committee Admin

Extra Copies of Annual Review – Mary and Eileen have 20 copies for safe-keeping and distribution.

Notice Board – The committee thanked Mary for creating further samples of new Noticeboard headings for consideration. Sharon applied for a QR code and Mary has prepared a suitable QR code sign for the Board.

16 AOB

Neighbourhood Forums – Bob asked if the Forums will be resurrected. **Cllr Mark to enquire.**

Beachbuoy spill notification Website – Southern Water has been urged by Solent Protection Society to extend its notifications on account of its continuing releases of untreated sewage from the 300 combined sewer outfalls. <https://solentprotection.org/2023/06/07/untreated-sewage-continues-to-spill-into-the-solent/>

Duke of Buckingham – There are internal modifications in progress at the pub by Florio's D'Italia, which has taken over the venue and has plans for a pizzeria, deli and ice-cream parlour. The hotel will remain in place.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 26 July 2023, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.