

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 16 March 2023

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2023 at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.

Present - Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Sharon Morris (Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Anna Koor (Secretary), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Mark Jeffery (Ward Councillor).

1 Apologies - Mary Tollow (Membership), Chris Attwell and Ian Holder (Ward Councillors).

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 15 February 2023 were circulated to all via email and approved by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Draft Safeguarding Policy – Anna has left a number of messages and emails with Sandie Davis at Hive. Although not urgent, this does need resolving.

Defibrillator at The Still and West – Gail is in discussions with the local WI who currently manage and maintain the unit. They need help and financial support to contribute to its costs of around £250 every 2 years. There needs to be a local contact point to act as a regular monitor. Eileen kindly volunteered. Gail is awaiting further information.

Camber Noise - Graeme will have a look at the Fish Market planning application to ascertain if there are noise concerns from chillers and freezers. If these could be located furthest from any neighbouring residents then it would minimise disturbance.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Miles Linington – Wrote to Mary to inform FOOPA that his mother Margaret Linington had sadly passed away on 1st February, very peacefully at the grand age of 101. He recalls both his parents enjoyed many years of membership of FOOPA and hopes the association also reaches its 100 birthday! FOOPA sends heartfelt condolences to Miles and his family.

Paul Tendall – Wrote to Gail from the US (where he lives) regarding a silver teapot he has acquired as a family heirloom and which originally came from Portsmouth. His ancestors are from the city and he hopes to visit in order to return the teapot to the city. Gail referred him to the City Museum and History Centre in order to research his family name Prendergast and their history in Portsmouth.

6 Treasurer's Report – The opening balance at 1 February was £10,110.16. Expenditure for the month was £128.70. This included £45 to the Bowls Club for outstanding Committee Meeting hire fees from September, November and December 2022 (£15 each). The closing balance on 28 February was £10,089.46. Liz suggested opening a Lloyds savings account linked to the FOOPA current account, for greater security. All agreed.

7 Membership Report – Mary is away but submitted her report. Up to 8 March 2023, 160 members have renewed their annual subscriptions. Mary has also welcomed one new member. There are 20 members that have yet to renew. The current membership total is 234.

8 Planning

Fish Market – see item 4 above.

9 Heritage & Conservation

Garrison Church – English Heritage has announced its re-opening following restoration work, from 1 April – opening hours will be Thurs – Sat from 11am to 4pm.

10 Social Programme – Gail reported that Mike Underwood, who recently gave a FOOPA talk about his work at Gunwharf Quays, has offered to give a further talk about the architecture and extension of St Thomas's Cathedral. Long-term FOOPA supporter David Nesbit, of Nesbit Antiques and Auctioneers, has also offered a talk by his antique expert at their showroom. It was agreed that April would be too short notice and too close to the AGM, therefore June would work better. Gail will enquire with the Bowls Club regarding hire dates.

11 Environment

Pembroke Park Hedgerow demolition – The committee expressed their dismay regarding the loss of biodiversity, privacy, security and storm protection along Pembroke Road, owing to the uprooting of mature hedgerow. Anna alerted the committee and ward councilors today and Cllr Chris has written to MoD, who owns the site.

Nelson Statue planting – Eileen has organised a FOOPA ‘Great Plant Out’ event to plant up one of the raised beds in front of the statue on 19 April from 10am onwards. She is in dialogue with PCC Countryside Officer Hannah Thompson regarding plant species.

Hotwalls Studios – Planting around the tree bases will take place on 22 March 2023, volunteers are welcome.

Water Bowser – Eileen proposed that FOOPA purchase a water bowser to support all the new planting. Hotwalls Studios have agreed to store it. It will cost in the region of £50. All agreed and Eileen will purchase and retain receipts.

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

13 Traffic

Gunwharf Gate Residents Association – Mike had a constructive meeting with the chair, discussing familiar issues such as traffic, congestion from Wightlink, parking pressures. They are working with PCC to seek the installation of an additional pelican crossing from their side gate in the proximity of Gunwharf Quays, however this is understood to be delayed as the Old Portsmouth crossings have taken priority.

Road Crossings – Cllr Mark confirmed that the work is currently in the design phase. Mike emphasized the need to be consulted when the design work is completed.

Clean Air Zone Signage – This still needs urgent review. Residents and Graeme have been complaining for months about the over-sized and, in some locations, unnecessary signage. Cllr Mark will enquire with Highways.

Air Quality Reports – The report for 2022 is not yet published. Even when it is, the figures in it will be those recorded in 2021. Mike is not happy about this time lag and suggested that quarterly versus annual reports would be far more useful and relevant.

T&T Committee Meeting 23 March 2023 – This decision meeting covers: car club tender, bus services, school streets and use of bus lanes by PHVs. Sharon was disappointed to learn that St Jude’s School Streets is on the meeting agenda because PCC / Sustrans undertook to deliver feedback and consult with residents first, following a workshop meeting at St Jude’s on 7 February. The proposals were outlined in the officer’s report – see below.

St Jude’s School Streets – Having read the officer’s report for the T&T Committee meeting (above) Sharon outlined their ‘final’ proposal to erect signs, issue permits for all vehicles and consider implementing bollards after a further 6 months. The map accompanying the proposals was missing road names and truncated to exclude the school and some adjacent roads, therefore probably not very helpful to the T&T Committee participants. The issue of time periods for street restrictions had not been discussed at the February residents’ meeting, yet this is a key discussion point because it is the afternoon pick-up which is the chief problem, not so much the morning drop-off. What is not mentioned in the report—yet a major advantage in respect of the scheme’s feasibility—is the availability of temporary free parking nearby on Pembroke Road. The permit system was not detailed fully. Sharon pointed out that many residents have off-road parking, therefore do not need permits. It was not clearly stated who would therefore be eligible for permits and why they are needed. There is also no mention of regulation or enforcement. Many drivers already contravene highways regulations and are not penalized, therefore it is doubtful whether signage alone will change this behaviour.

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 for 6 May.

15 Committee Admin

FOOPA AGM – There was a brief discussion to finalise roles and responsibilities. Anna had circulated the fire floorplan and evacuation drill.

16 AOB

Restorative Justice training – Eileen attended and is now trained but remains sceptical regarding effectiveness. She said there were some good ideas put forward for kids activities for the kids, such as a climbing wall, and involving the Forces to oversee it.

Dredging in the Camber – Residents will have observed that vessels have vacated the Camber dock to make way for dredging work over the next few weeks.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 19 April 2023, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.