

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 18 October 2023

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 18 October 2023 at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.

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

1 Apologies - Mike Dobson (Traffic), Cllr Mark Jeffery, Cllr Ian Holder.

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 20 September 2023 were circulated to the Committee by email and agreed by the Chair with no amendments.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Southern Water fiasco – Cllr Judith Smythe, Chair of PCC's Transport Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel has responded and invited FOOPA to submit a report of the events since May this year, and ongoing. As to the ongoing near the Holiday Inn and Penny Street – again, there seems to be an information blackout from Southern Water and PCC.

Recycling Bins – Arising from the above item, Southern Water has made access to the recycling bins very awkward – not just for pedestrians and motorists, but also for bins to be emptied. Roger Wyatt (Resource Controller, Waste Management, PCC) informed Sharon this will be the case for the rest of the year. Sharon has asked him to re-locate the bins outside the enclosure. She will copy her correspondence to Cllr Chris.

Pembroke Park Hedge – Eileen will explore dialogue with the MOD team undertaking planting along the railings. The greenery has been in a very sorry state since MOD contractors demolished the hedgerow.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Re-opened Long Curtain frontage – No interpretation panels as yet, however they could be imminent.

Resurrecting Neighbourhood Forums – Anna has had confirmation from the Bursar at Portsmouth Grammar School that they are able to offer the David Russell Theatre (holds 325 people and has disabled access) for a Forum meeting at no cost. She is awaiting confirmation of potential dates in Jan/Feb 2024 to hold an AGM and elect a new committee.

Policy Bee Insurance – FOOPA's public liability insurance is due to be renewed. Mary will organise payment.

6 Treasurer's Report – At 30 September 2023 there was £4709.24 in the current account and £5019.35 in the savings account. Mary's overall reconciliation of the Quiz/Fish Supper has resulted in a 60 pence loss. All agreed this was well budgeted. Anna asked Mary if any charity payments were outstanding from last year's events' proceeds and who the agreed beneficiaries are. Mary and Anna to check.

7 Social Programme – The Quiz / Fish n Chip Supper at the Bowls Club on 27 September was very successful – positive feedback all round, including the high calibre of the food from Britannia Fish & Chips which supplied 40 portions. Some commented that the bar was not well-stocked. A scoreboard could be useful to keep tabs on Team scores next time. As the Bowls Club is not able to host Xmas Lunch this year, and having researched other options, the Committee agreed that we do not have time or capacity to pursue this unless other volunteer help comes forward.

8 Membership Report – There are still currently 174 households and 255 members.

9 Traffic

Proposed Road Improvements: High Street/Broad Street – Hand-delivered letters describing the proposed works have been delivered to all residents, except those with entryphone systems seem to have been missed out. Anna to circulate the letter to the committee by email for the website etc. Work starts on 16 October 2023 to widen the footway at Square Tower (scheduled completion 22 December 2023) as part of a planned programme along High Street and Broad Street to improve road safety. The planned zebra crossing on High

Street, and further footway widening/raised table at Feltham Row/Broad Street is due to start in the late Autumn following a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process of consultation with residents. When the TROs are issued, FOOPA will publicise and encourage residents and businesses to respond.

St Jude's School Streets – Mike, Sharon and Anna attended a parents/residents meeting at St Jude's school on 4 October to discuss the proposals put forward by PCC and Sustrans which will take effect from January 2024. Turnout was not as high as the initial meeting and there were no Councillors present, perhaps due to its short notice. The proposed solution involves signage to restrict access to motorists during school drop-off and pick-up times. Residents, school staff, carers, etc will be exempt from the restrictions and they will be issued with parking permits. Implementation will closely follow the proposed crossing and raised table at the junction of Peacock Lane and High Street.

10 Planning

Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club – Planning approval granted for three flats on the 2nd floor went into abeyance when the Club went into administration and the property was sold. FOOPA originally submitted a concern about parking. Sharon will email details to Cllr Chris, as Chair of Planning, to ascertain current status.

License Application 39 High Street – Contrary to rumours, an application has been submitted for a restaurant called Smoke & Mirrors. See PCC website: 23/03153/LAPREM 39 High Street PO1 2LU.

11 Heritage & Conservation - Cllr Lee Hunt (PCC Heritage Champion) was unable to attend. There was a brief discussion regarding progress with the Horse Memorial interpretation panel - update by Cllr Chris.

12 Environment – Eileen has written to PCC's Doug Gray and Hannah Roberts summarising the collective efforts over the year, reflecting on the varying degrees of success, and making suggestions for next year. The glorious wildflower display atop the moat banks, planted by PCC at the request of FOOPA, continues to bloom even now. Their presence attracted many positive compliments and FOOPA would like to thank the PCC team for this gift to residents and visitors. The plugs on the lower grass slopes planted by FOOPA, PCC and pupils from St Jude's have not worked. Like the wildflowers, the herb bed in front of Nelson's Statue suffered from drought and Eileen has asked if irrigation piping (like neighbouring beds) can be provided. FOOPA can now assess which herbs and plants best survive and Eileen would like to canvass members regarding looking after another bed, with PCC support. The circular beds around the trees at Hotwalls Studios have been challenging. When the tree stumps have been removed and new trees planted Eileen will consider these beds further. FOOPA continues to look for a Community Orchard site. The pedestrian crossing and footway widening at Square Tower and Feltham Row might provide sites for planters.

Camber Right of Way – Site notices should be erected next week to inform people of the Public Inquiry that starts on 21 November 2023 at 10am in Council Chambers, Portsmouth Guildhall.

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

14 Ward Councillor Reports – Cllr Chris reiterated aspects of the proposed crossings and consultation.

15 Committee Admin – None.

16 AOB

Hotwalls & Camber Dock Restorative Support Group – Eileen attended today's meeting, a representative from Wightlink Ferries was there. There was a review of the activities during the summer and how to grow them. The conclusion seemed to be that alternative activities organized by adults are never going to stop kids gathering and jumping off the Camber or Saluting Platform/Round Tower etc.

Police Independent Advisory Group – Anna attended the quarterly Portsmouth meeting with Hampshire and IOW Constabulary representatives. Crime figures for Portsmouth suggest there has been an 82% increase in shop-lifting, indicative of national trends. Anna had asked about Hampshire County Council's £350K funding of ANPR cameras to monitor speeding and whether this could be used in the city. Sgt Neil Johnson explained that they are being placed in locations around East Hampshire, mostly rural/semi-rural areas. The aim is to collect data in order to compile 'heat maps' of where the worst speeding is.

PCC Parking Strategy Survey and EV Survey – The consultation closes on 29 October 2023.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15 November 2023, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.