

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 12 March 2024

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 12 March 2024 at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club

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

1 Apologies - 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 21 February 2024 were circulated to the Committee by email and agreed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Local Plan – Sharon has enquired about the three Brownfield sites in Old Portsmouth that have been listed in the draft plan. She also asked why the empty site at Point is not mentioned.

Camber Right of Way – There is no decision as yet following the Public Inquiry that closed on 10 January 2024. In connection with this, Portsmouth Sailing Club is concerned about the new BA Technologies fencing as it interferes with the Club's use of their boat crane.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Restorative Communities Initiative – One of the residents who regularly attends these meetings has informed the Portsmouth Mediation Service they no longer want to attend because the meetings are not fruitful. Eileen and Gail concur there is disillusionment among residents. PCC's representative Lisa Wills (Community Safety and Partnership Strategy Manager) is retiring.

Hampshire Alert – The latest circular from Hampshire Police Constabulary announced the launch of Let's Talk, a community survey to help the police understand the needs of local communities. Gail will add to the website. See link: www.hampshirealert.co.uk/letstalk

Nelson Plaque – With it being the 220th anniversary, a resident has pointed out that the memorial plaque set into the wall of George Court, High Street is in a poor state and perhaps FOOPA would consider repairing it. However, it is on MOD property and thus their responsibility.

6 Treasurer's Report – As of 29 February 2024 there was £4616.94 in the current account and £5046.02 in the savings account; a total of £9662.96. A security deposit of £50 has been paid to Cathedral House for the AGM booking. Anna has asked Liz if she is able to act as independent examiner and will meet with her to discuss.

7 Social Programme – The AGM Notice, letter, and draft minutes from the previous AGM have been sent to members and are on the noticeboard. There was a discussion regarding the AGM running order and content of opening remarks and achievements. Gail will introduce the committee and Eileen will update members on planting. Anna and Eileen to organise drinks and crisps/nuts.

8 Membership Report – So far, 156 members have paid the annual subscription and there are 18 people from last year who haven't paid. Mary will draft an AGM reminder to email to members along with a web link to the Annual Review on the FOOPA website, once Gail has uploaded it.

9 Traffic

High Street Zebra Crossing and Raised Table / Broad Street Raised Table – The traffic speeding radar survey is complete. The equipment, erected on lamp column 10 for the last 2 weeks, measured traffic speeds in both directions. PCC has not confirmed if the data sets will be aligned with those collected from the radar surveys done in 2018. However most importantly, PCC will conduct a further speeding survey after the crossing is installed in order to assess its effectiveness at curbing speeding. Colas has confirmed that while work is in progress there will be traffic lights on High Street, which could cause congestion at peak times. Letters will be circulated to residents shortly and Chi Sharpe, PCC Road Safety Officer, will email a copy to Mike and Anna for the FOOPA website and noticeboard.

St Jude’s School Streets – So far there is a degree of compliance and improvement, but some parents continue to use the restricted roads by dodging the restriction times and park on double yellow lines or on Farthing Lane. It is not certain how many exemption permits have been issued.

10 Planning

Pembroke House 23/00244/FUL – The appeal against PCC’s planning application refusal has been officially lodged with the Inspectorate (PINS), however the PINS response indicates it will be 18 months to 2 years before it gets heard.

Updated Statement of Community Engagement – Sharon has been weighing up how to respond to the revised draft document. There are elements of it that remain indeterminate, such as how and when planning applications are validated and ensuring this is managed in a consistent manner. There are also clauses that misquote GDPR – which is no longer applicable outside the EU. These policies should be properly updated. The way Portsmouth deals with public comments to planning applications in terms of revealing personal information (names, addresses, emails) is very different from other councils in the Hampshire area, why is this?

11 Heritage & Conservation – Sharon asked whether Portsmouth will be promoting the forthcoming Sky documentary detailing the lives of Mary and George Villiers, considering his prominent history in the city as the Duke of Buckingham and the monument to him in the Cathedral.

12 Environment – Eileen has discussed new plans with PCC’s Doug Gray (Parks Operations Manager) and Hannah Thompson (Countryside Officer). She was hoping that PCC would dig over the new Nelson bed that FOOPA is taking on, however they cannot. Eileen will need help to prepare the bed and will seek volunteers at the AGM next week. Wildflowers will be planted up on the grassy slopes above Garrison Church in May. She is meeting with Violet Nicholls from the Herbarium at the Natural History Museum on Friday to look at historical plants that might thrive in the new Nelson bed. Eileen asked if CIL money could pay for signage at the beds to illustrate what is being cultivated, perhaps including hand drawings. Cllr Chris suggested Eileen submits a formal request. The Committee thanks Rebecca Crow at Jack House Gallery who has donated some seeds to FOOPA for planting.

13 Website – Gail will check that the AGM and link to the new FOOPA Annual Review are easily visible on the website. Any other items, please pass on to her to promote.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – Cllr Chris confirmed that the start date for work on the High Street crossing is 25 March 2024 and is expected to take 6 weeks.

15 Committee Admin – None.

16 AOB – Mike has an informal link with Gunwharf Quays Residents Association (on issues such as Wightlink). He understands that there have been major changes in their board membership.

17 Date of Next Meeting – The FOOPA AGM is on Tuesday 19 March 2024, 7.30pm, Cathedral House. Committee Meeting: Wednesday 17 April 2024, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.

