

## THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 15 May 2024

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 15 May 2024 at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club

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

**1 Apologies** - Ward Councillors Mark Jeffery and 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**

Minutes of the 17 April 2024 meeting were circulated to the Committee and agreed by the Chair.

### **4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

**FOOPA membership drive leaflet** – Thanks to Eileen for her initial draft. The rest of the committee to give input. It will be trifold and colour if costs permit; 1200 copies are needed. Gail to obtain quotes.

### **5 Correspondence and Communications**

**Groundlings Tour** – The tour last Thursday was extremely well received and regarded as great value.

**6 Treasurer's Report** – As of 30 April 2024 there was £9421.00 in the account, £4364.19 of which was in the current account, the rest in savings. There is a profit of £6 from the Groundlings Tour due to one no-show and it was agreed to donate this to the Groundlings Theatre Trust. There are reimbursements to Eileen for £14.95 (AGM snacks) and £146.04 for plants. The committee thanked Prof Tony Pointon, who has completed an independent examination and approved the accounts.

**7 Social Programme** – There was a brief discussion regarding a Talk event. Prof Tony Pointon has offered to give a talk on Jonas Hanway, founder of the Maritime Society, on 30 or 31 July 2024. It was agreed that a ticket price of £4.50 would cover the venue hire. Anna to make booking and draft a member flyer. Other ideas for September include bingo with pizzas from Florios. Gail will enquire.

**8 Membership Report** – Mary has received applications from a few new members. There are currently 164 household members, making up 244 residents.

### **9 Traffic –**

**High Street Zebra Crossing and Raised Table** – Committee members welcomed its completion, first proposed to PCC by Mike 12 years ago. Cllr Chris is meeting with Road Safety Officer Chi Sharpe on Friday to run through some snagging. Mike will forward a list to him. He pointed out that the zigzags outside the Chinese restaurant need repainting. Similarly Sharon commented that the 'No Entry' road markings on Peacock Lane junction need repainting. Mike is confident that the post-installation traffic speed survey will demonstrate a significant lowering in speeds. It was pointed out that if PCC conduct a pedestrian count, it should span school start and end walking trips. Mike explained that pedestrian counts conducted prior to the crossing would be skewed by suppressed demand.

**St Judes' School Streets** - Mike met with one of its mobilisers Jenny Jones. She has received positive feedback from residents who now hear children's voices rather than idling or revving traffic.

**Noisy Vehicles** – Residents continue to be disrupted by motorists who have removed the baffles on their exhausts and deliberately rev their vehicles along Pembroke Road and Broad St. Cllr Chris is not sure the Council has any powers to tackle the problem directly and suggests it's a police matter.

## 10 Planning

**6 Oyster Mews** – Sharon has submitted a neutral comment.

**Warblington St** – An application for a single floor rear extension; it not visible from the street.

**Royal Naval & Royal Albert YC** – Nothing further to report.

**Pembroke House** – The applicants appealed PCC's refusal decision and the Planning Inspector's confirmation letter is on the PCC website. Everyone who responded to the application should have been contacted by PCC by 3 May 2024. FOOPA was a respondent, but has not received any communications. It throws into doubt whether any of the respondents' comments have been submitted by PCC to the Inspector. Sharon is emailing Cllr Chris about this.

**Draft Local Plan** – Sharon has not had a reply regarding her query about the Old Portsmouth Brownfield sites that are listed in the document. Cllr Chris did confirm that the latest iteration of this document goes before Full Council on 28 May and if approved, will go out to public consultation.

**Updated Statement of Community Engagement** – Sharon submitted her document but has had no response. She also requested that the OP&GWQ Neighbourhood Forum is added to the communications list.

**11 Heritage & Conservation** – Sharon sent a copy of the Annual Review to PCC's Conservation Officer.

## 12 Environment

**Botanical Information Board at Nelson Statue raised bed** – Cllr Chris will forward Eileen details for Adam Breacher at CIL. There is an application form to complete to apply for CIL funding

**Long Curtain Wildflower planting** – PCC's Doug Gray (Parks Operations Manager) has completed this.

**Community orchard** – The Cathedral responded to Eileen's proposal. They are too busy with plans for the 2026 centenary marking when Portsmouth was designated a city, to give this consideration.

**Seagrass project** – Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust is still battling with effluent at the moat and are not sure this project will take off this year.

**Planters on Fish Quay** – The Port Manager has given this the go-ahead and will be implemented soon.

**13 Website** – Keep news and updates coming to Gail for promoting.

**14 Ward Councillor Reports** – Cllr Chris related details from the local elections and new cabinet roles. There are no elections in 2025, but the following year every seat is up for re-election, partly due to boundary changes. Cllr Peter Candlish is responsible for Transport and Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson looks after Planning. Cllr Chris is now at Central Services. At 8.30-9am on 22 May, PCC is marking Walk to School Week at the new High Street crossing <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/walk-to-school-week/>

**15 Committee Admin** – None.

## 16 AOB

**D Day Celebrations, Southsea Common** – The Committee expressed disappointment that ticketing for the 5 June event has been so restricted and that there is no big screen broadcast on the Common.

**OP&GWQ Neighbourhood Forum** – Anna attended a Forum Committee meeting. She spoke with Janice Burkinshaw (former chair, Milton Forum) and Sandie Davis (Voluntary Sector Partner, Hive) about the Forum's mechanics and fund-raising. Closer affiliation between FOOPA and the Forum might benefit both organisations and residents. To be discussed at the next FOOPA committee meeting.

**17 Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 19 June 2024, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.