

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 16 April 2025

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 16 April 2025, 7.30pm Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club

Present - Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Eileen Measey (Environment), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Gail Baird (Chair, Website),

1 Apologies – Ward Councillors Chris Attwell, Mark Jeffery, Ian Holder.

Guest: Mark Collings, PCC Seafront Operations Officer, updated the committee on current challenges: a police dispersal order was raised for the seafront over the recent warm period; there are often large family gatherings at weekends that a small minority of the population find problematic; graffiti removal in Long Curtain Moat tunnel (Gail to enquire about covering with lime render) is in hand; signage at Hotwalls regarding dog beach restrictions is repeatedly vandalized - Mark is in dialogue with Historic England regarding a vandal-proof solution. Following FOOPA's comments regarding the dogs on beaches survey, the PCC research team confirmed they will refer to the comments as a line of thought and advice in future. Mark maintains that dog survey signage was mounted in key footfall areas, not just pro-dog places. He disclosed a template of the new dog restrictions signage to be erected along the seafront, which was warmly welcomed. Signs announcing changes to dogs on beaches rules are going up shortly. Four new Seafront Patrol Officers have been recruited to form the Seafront Welcoming Team. They are patrolling the promenade in buggies from May to September, working in pairs on shifts from 11am to 8pm. Particular attention is paid to 'hotspots' (Hotwalls, Canoe Lake, South Parade Pier). The staff have a security background and are casual positions. 'No Cycle' signage is being added along the promenade including the temporary diversion path behind the current flood defence works. There are signs up at the Blue Reef and Speakers Corner sections.

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 19 March 2025 meeting were circulated to the Committee, with a couple of minor amendments, and agreed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – Eileen to circulate the letter from Fullers regarding the site at Point. Sharon will forward Anna some minor amendments to the draft AGM minutes.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Treasurer and Membership posts - Mary submitted her resignation from both posts at the AGM. The Committee thanked her for the enormous time and commitment she's made and the meticulous order she has kept the accounts in.

Road safety site visit - Ian Myhill, PCC's Road Safety and Active Travel Manager, has offered to meet Sharon. Pedestrian hazards around the Southern Water site have been of particular concern, however the works are due to finish this week.

6 Treasurer's Report — At the end of March 2025 there was £4088.67 in the current account and £5112.15 in the savings account, making a total of £9200.82. Gail has paid in cheques via the mobile App, with no charges applied. The new monthly account fee of £4.67 has come into force. Gail to forward Asher Design printing invoice to Anna for printing and filing.

7 Social Programme – It was agreed to go ahead with the social event 28 May. The Bowls Club confirmed availability. A ticket price of £6 including a free drink was agreed, to break even with any net profit to be donated to a local charity. Member Fi Rosen has contacted Gail and offered help.

8 Membership Report – No movements to report. Annual subscriptions continue to come in.

9 Traffic

Ian Myhill, PCC Road Safety and Active Travel Manager – Mike has not received any traffic data from him yet, in relation to the impact assessment of High Street crossing.

Late night speeding drivers – Mike has observed rising numbers of offenders.

School Streets – No update.

Shipwrights Way – Traffic & Transportation Cabinet Member Councillor Peter Candlish offered to introduce Mike to the Council's project manager overseeing its completion. Mike needs to follow up.

Motorbike pavement parking – Evident on Penny Street and elsewhere.

10 Planning

Portsmouth Grammar School – An application has been submitted to extend their parking amenity for event use. It has been approved, on condition they don't use the area adjoining Woodville Drive.

14/14A Grand Parade – No date as yet for this application being called in.

60A High Street – Cllr Ian Holder has enquired with Planning as to the status of this Pre-App.

Duke of Buckingham 24/01085/FUL and 24/01086/FUL – No date for the planning committee hearing.

Student Wellness Hub – Proposed for the site at the back of the University library.

PCC call for new housing sites – Community groups including FOOPA have received a PCC request to nominate potential housing and greening opportunities in the area.

11 Heritage & Conservation – As above and below.

12 Environment

H&IOW Wildlife Trust – The Long Curtain moat water has been tested and planting is set to go forward. The first batch will be in planters rather than directly on the sea floor.

Telephone boxes – Anna and Sharon circulated a couple of examples of adaptive re-use of listed phone boxes. Anna will pursue contact and Sharon will circulate the contact details of the person who originally got in touch with FOOPA.

13 Website – Nothing to report.

14 Ward Councillor Reports – None present.

15 Committee Admin – There was a discussion regarding seeking a new Treasurer. Eileen has a couple of contacts she will pursue. Gail emphasised that the accounts are in very good shape. Anna confirmed that Tony Pointon has agreed to act as independent examiner.

16 AOB

BAR parking – Bob made the point that, now INEOS is out of the America's Cup, the issue of their exclusive parking at the Camber should be reviewed. Parking pressures are considerable.

Annual Review – Gail has emailed an e-copy to all members. There are spare hard copies for other members who did not attend the AGM. Anna will do some deliveries after Easter.

Nelson Statue – Sharon has observed that there's a floral memorial tribute placed under the statue.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 14 May 2025, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club. *Post-meeting note: Anna is away on 14 May and it was subsequently agreed to bring the meeting forward to 7 May.*