

## THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 18 June 2025

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 18 June 2025, 7.30pm Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club

**Present** - Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Ward Councillor Chris Attwell.

**1 Apologies** – Eileen Measey (Environment), Cllrs 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 7 May 2025 meeting were circulated to the Committee and agreed by the Chair.

**4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** – None.

**5 Correspondence and Communications** – None.

**6 Treasurer's Report** – At the end of May 2025 there was £4228.49 in the current account and £5115.65 in the savings account. The Independent Examiner for the 2024-25 accounts, Professor Tony Pointon, praised Mary's work and produced a glowing report of the accounts reconciliation. The committee thanked Prof Pointon for his help and support. It was agreed that Anna would buy a £50 gift card as a token of huge appreciation to Mary. Ann Wakelin is due to take over as interim treasurer until the next AGM when she can be voted in as Treasurer. It was agreed that Gail would retain control of the online banking until the next AGM. She has paid four bills from the Bowls Club, which will be deducted this month.

**7 Social Programme** – There was a brief discussion regarding the 28 May 2025 talk on the history of the Camber by Gower Lloyd. Ticket sales were successful with 47 sold and all agreed it was very well illustrated. Noise was an issue for some attendees at the back; it was decided we should not hold any events that coincide with Bowls Club matches.

**8 Membership Report** – No movements.

### **9 Traffic**

**Road safety site visit** – Sharon and Mike met Ian Myhill, PCC's Road Safety and Active Travel Manager on 8 May. They had been optimistic as to how constructive this meeting might be, however Mr Myhill seemed to be dismissive of many concerns, emphasizing that his responsibility is not only Old Portsmouth. Mike emphasized that many problems experienced in Old Portsmouth are city-wide issues and therefore not parochial. Sharon will forward Mr Myhill's response to Cllr Chris.

**Late night speeders** – With the onset of summer, offenders are out in greater numbers. The noise is also more disruptive as residents keep windows open at night in the heat.

**School Streets** – Mike wrote to Parking Office supervisors about the lack of patrolling on Friday afternoons. Cllr Chris asked for a copy of this correspondence.

**Pavement flagstones at ABar** – Following gas pipe repairs, the temporary tarmac surface should have been replaced with the original flagstones by now. Mike will follow up on missing cycle route signs.

**Clean Air Zone** – PCC recently announced that the restrictions will remain in place indefinitely. Mike believes this is inevitable because the Council opted for the minimum clean air zone in order to achieve compliance, which was unrealistic.

**Corporate CIL funds** – Cllr Chris was asked if funds could be used to install a traffic island at the junction of Pembroke Road and Victoria Avenue. He suggested FOOPA writes to Adam Breacher.

## **10 Planning**

**Capstan House** – An application has been submitted to change the windows on the ground floor.

**Pembroke House** – The traffic plan submitted as part of the planning application was very flimsy, yet accepted by PCC. In addition to the 13 off-street parking spaces, there is nothing to stop MOD from buying street parking permits. They should not be eligible. Residents concerns were raised by Cllr Holder with David Hodges, Head of Development Management at PCC. His response did not address this specific concern. Sharon will forward the response to Cllr Chris.

**Portsmouth Grammar School** – The sale of the junior school has been publicised.

**14/14A Grand Parade** – PCC has approved the application to split this property into two dwellings. There is a tiny rear courtyard, which may not benefit from any natural light. It was stipulated that a store for two bikes must be permanently erected.

**Duke of Buckingham 24/01085/FUL and 24/01086/FUL** – Amended plans have been resubmitted for eight apartments. It is not reduced in scale. A bike and bin store has been added and relocated.

**3 Pembroke Close** – The application is to add a side extension. Sharon is concerned that the iron gates should be protected and will submit comments accordingly.

## **11 Heritage & Conservation**

**St George's Road** – The old wall has been repointed and looks quite neat.

**BT Phone Box, Broad Street** - Jane Linford from Community Spotlight CIC contacted Councillors due to a problem that arose when the Community Heartbeat Trust tried to install a new Defibrillator and found the phonebox locked. It transpired that the phone box adoption process had not been fully completed. This is now in hand.

**12 Environment** – Eileen is away but updated the committee regarding positive news from Mark Collings, Seafront Operations Officer, who has met with the seagrass team from Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust and is facilitating a meeting with the Parks department. Helen Swann has been working hard on the weeds at the Nelson beds. Yellow poppy and blue geranium are doing well in the rear bed and Helen has planted some sedum with dark leaves and pink flowers, which seem to be thriving.

**13 Website** – Gail has updated the 'how to join' segment and inserted new online forms which can be submitted directly via the website.

**14 Ward Councillor Reports** – The road crossing at Gunwharf Gate is being progressed and Councillors hoped it will be installed within this financial year. Ward CIL money has been allocated for new signage around the Hotwalls. There is a major change to Planning Committee. Councillors are being removed from the committee for all 'minor' applications. There will be no opportunity to call these in.

**15 Committee Admin** – None.

## **16 AOB**

**Camber Dock Community Day** – Taking place this Saturday, organized by Waterfront Restorative Approaches Partnership.

**Monks Bar** - A new owner is in the process of renovating the property.

**Seafront additions** - The recently unveiled Theatre of the Sea poem by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage has been placed over the sewage outfall near the bandstand. A Marker which disappeared in the late 70s has been replaced by a new stone sculpture.

**17 Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 16 June 2025, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.