

## THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 16 July 2025

Website: [foopa.org.uk](http://foopa.org.uk)

Email: [foopacontact@gmail.com](mailto:foopacontact@gmail.com)

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 16 July 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 Councillors Chris Attwell and Mark Jeffery.

**1 Apologies** – Eileen Measey (Environment), 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**

Minutes of the 18 June 2025 meeting were circulated to the Committee and agreed by the Chair.

**4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** – Regarding the missing paving flagstones outside the A Bar, Councillor Mark spoke to Southern Gas Network yesterday and was assured that the work is in hand.

### **5 Correspondence and Communications**

**Old Portsmouth Living** - A new bi-monthly free magazine has been delivered around Old Portsmouth. Mike knows the editor as he lives close by. He recently moved to Old Portsmouth from Southsea. Mike agreed to drop him a copy of the FOOPA Annual Review and Anna will send an email by way of introduction to FOOPA. Anna will also email him the Neighbourhood Forum flyer when it is printed.

**6 Treasurer's Report** — At the end of June there was £3959.82 in the current and £5119.06 in the savings accounts. Gail and Anna have not managed to do a handover with Ann, but will be meeting shortly. Gail has applied to Lloyds Bank to remove Mary from the account. Anna suggested buying a £50 Hobbycraft gift card for Mary - all agreed.

**7 Social Programme** – The committee discussed possibilities for an October talk. Bob suggested Nigel Grundy. Gail suggested Celia Clarke, who has recently been researching environmentally sensitive buildings in Portsmouth. She has also done a study on how many buildings are under threat.

**8 Membership Report** – One or 2 new members have joined over the last 2 months.

### **9 Traffic**

**Road safety site visit** – Mike has not yet followed up with Ian Myhill, PCC Road Safety and Active Travel Manager. The data he had emailed Sharon was the speeding survey results rather than the raw data. Regarding the tone of Ian Myhill's email to Sharon, Cllr Attwell will raise this with his line manager Felicity Tidbury. In his view, it is not how officers should be communicating with residents.

**School Streets** – Communications need to be rolled out ahead of the forthcoming academic year. The bus stop in High Street is being replaced in mid-September, disruption will be considerable.

**Clean Air Zone** – In connection with the now-indefinite Clean Air Zone, the Cycle Forum has appealed for volunteers to sit on an Air Quality and Active Travel Board - Mike has volunteered his services.

**10 Planning** - The online planning portal has been out of action much of the time and many of the planning application consultation dates have been extended as a result.

**Duke of Buckingham 24/01085/FUL** – Up to 80 comments have been submitted, almost all objections, with exception of a petition of about 60 names signed under a drafted letter, which makes some contentious claims. The main thrust of residents' objections focus on: insufficient allocation for

rubbish; intolerable traffic conditions on Highbury Street; parking pressures; poor quality accommodation - new windows 1.4m high, above eye-level; a 1.2m hedge abutted up to the ground floor rear windows; increased deliveries on High Street obstructing the zebra crossing or double parking. Cllr Mark offered to read out Sharon's deputation.

**St Thomas's Street** - An application to build an extension after demolishing an existing conservatory.

**St John's College** - The development is up for sale. At the original consultation, residents were told it would all comprise rental housing, including a low-cost housing component. However, it is now all to be sold.

## **11 Heritage & Conservation**

**Brunel Bridge at Governors Walk** - It was briefly discussed whether this project has been resurrected.

**Shipwrights Way** - Chi Sharpe, Strategic Active Travel Lead at PCC, is overseeing the signage of the route within Portsmouth city boundaries as well as for the King Charles III England Coast Path.

**12 Environment** – Anna and Helen have attacked the weeds at the Nelson beds. There is new planting at the Tesco store on St George's Road, however it is sadly not being looked after.

**13 Website** – Standing order renewal forms have now been added to the joining page, added to the new membership forms.

**14 Ward Councillor Reports** – There are plans from central government to restrict Councillors from involvement with minor planning applications. Councillors view this as a regressive step as minor planning applications will be decided by unelected officials. Directional signage is in place for the Shipwrights Way. The Waterfront Restorative Approaches Partnership community day clashed with armed forces day so it was less well attended than expected. The road crossing at Gunwharf Gate is being progressed and expected to be installed within this financial year. Ward CIL money has been allocated for new signage around the Hotwalls.

**15 Committee Admin** – None.

## **16 AOB**

**Old Portsmouth & Gunwharf Quays Neighbourhood Forum** - The Forum and AGM will be held at 7.30pm in the Square Tower on 16 September 2025. Leaflets will be distributed by post and email.

**Point** - Bob has observed many more memorial/tributes have appeared and should be cleared. The many visitors at Point are becoming a (road) safety issue to themselves, residents and road users.

**SailGP** - Sharon asked how much was paid for hosting SailGP? The closure of the seafront so soon after it opened was unexpected, along with the absence of any notices on the fencing to explain why.

**Portsmouth/Duisburg twinning** - Cllr Chris hosted its 75th anniversary, which included a visit to Old Portsmouth.

**Community Engagement activities** - Cllr Chris suggested that Gail engages with Yvonne Clay at Gunwharf/Landsec - to explore availability of any grants.

**Local Government Reorganisation** - There was a lengthy discussion regarding the favoured set-up: Portsmouth/Havant/Gosport/Fareham. The issue is the redistribution of Hampshire and other councils' 'debt' (structural deficit) and what that may mean, such as possible closure of non-mandatory services. PCC's next budget is likely to be the last. Work is focusing on how to merge services, which may be detracting from day-to-day activity. Sharon was concerned about officer morale in these conditions and pointed out that even the implementation of GDPR differs across these councils. The mayoral elections will go ahead. It is important to ensure that Portsmouth remains a city, ultimately.

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