

## THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 12 November 2025

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 12 Nov 2025, 7.30pm Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club

**Present** - Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Gail Baird (Chair, Website, Membership), Eileen Measey (Environment), Ward Councillor Chris Attwell, Anna Koor (Secretary). *Guest:* Robert Nield (FOOPA member) attended prior to the meeting. He has very kindly volunteered himself as Treasurer. Mike stayed for 30 minutes.

**1 Apologies** – Ann Wakelin (Treasurer), Ward Councillors Ian Holder, Mark Jeffery.

**2 Declarations of Interest** – All were reminded to confirm their declarations of interest should any matters of that nature arise during FOOPA business.

### 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the 15 October 2025 meeting had been circulated. They were agreed with an amendment. Also, there was a minor adjustment to September's minutes following Anna's absence.

**4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** - See below.

### 5 Correspondence and Communications

**New Treasurer** - It was agreed to co-opt Bob Nield on board as Treasurer.

**RAYC** - Gail sent out a member-wide email regarding the 2 current planning applications.

**University of Portsmouth research projects** - Gail has responded positively to a researcher who is studying experiences of coastal living in heritage areas. Funds pending, there will be a workshop with residents in Old Portsmouth. Project partners include the Sustainable Conservation Trust, which Gail works for. In addition, students at the School of Architecture have contacted Eileen regarding the FOOPA planting project with Portsmouth Natural History Museum, that drew inspiration from a historical plant album created by botanist Helen Tate in 1832.

**6 Treasurer's Report** — Ann was not present, but at end October there was £3736.49 in the current and £5130.62 in the savings accounts.

**7 Social Programme** – The talk by Mark Barton was very successful. There were 35 guests, including 9 non-members, four of whom subsequently joined FOOPA. Ticket sales totalled £210. There may be around £50 net profit to donate to charity, once the Bowls Club hire fee and bar bill have been paid.

**8 Membership Report** – There has been some movement due to a couple of members passing away, or moving out of Portsmouth. The 4 new members (above) have been processed.

### 9 Traffic

**Speeding** - Mike will respond to Ian Myhill, PCC Road Safety Manager, regarding his suggestion to form a Community Speedwatch team.

**Shipwrights Way** - The incorrect signage issue still needs resolving.

**Temporary tarmac paving at A Bar** - Despite pushes by Councillors, utility company SSE has still not replaced the original flagstone paving following works carried out earlier this year.

**Business Parking Permits** - PCC has issued 60 permits to businesses in BAR, at £630 each, despite the two ample BAR car parks. The impacts on residents street parking and increased traffic volumes have been stark. The transport assessment by BAR as part of their planning application in 2014 was pitched as a sustainable transport strategy. It was accompanied by a Workplace Travel Plan that anticipated 33% of staff journeys would be via sustainable modes, 7% via car sharing, and that secure storage for

up to 30 bicycles would encourage cycling to work. The same conditions should still apply and regular monitoring should be undertaken by the building manager to assess the transport modes adopted by employees. Council Leader Steve Pitt has become involved owing to residents' disquiet over this absurd situation. PCC's definition of a residents parking zone is one that prioritises those with residents parking permits. PCC Parking Policy seems to be working contrary to this. Cllr Chris understands this is not sustainable and that it flies in the face of policy, he assured that councillors and officers are focused on resolving this urgently. Other planning applications likely to have similar disproportionate impact on residents' parking and traffic are the Duke of Buckingham and the RAYC applications.

## 10 Planning

**Duke of Buckingham** - The scheme for 8 apartments was approved despite objection deputations by FOOPA, Cllr Chris Attwell and a neighbour. It was clear that housing obligations took priority.

**RAYC** - Two applications: 17 beauty booths to occupy the ground floor space and 4 apartments to take up the rear function space, have not been thought through in terms of the building's Listed status, domestic and business bins/waste capacity, and the parking requirements/traffic movements generated by these uses. Sharon has estimated an additional 120 traffic movements per day could result from this redevelopment. She has notified the St Jude's School Streets co-ordinator.

**14 Grand Parade** - Amendments have been made to the application, including a dropped kerb to accommodate a garage, and a turret rooftop feature.

**60A High Street** - FOOPA is submitting a letter of support in regards to replacement of the 1970s poorly designed and dilapidated rooftop extension.

## 11 Heritage & Conservation - see above.

**City Museum new exhibit** - Articles belonging to renowned badminton champion Kathleen Henderson, who lived on High Street (see blue plaque) now form a permanent display.

**1st Portsmouth Sea Scouts** - Cllr Chris alerted the committee to the grade II listed building on Bath Square which has secured £100K from the Wyllie Trust towards its £300K restoration. Clare Seek is overseeing the fund-raising campaign.

**The Lodge, 11 Pembroke Road** - It is listed and in a very poor state. Residents have contacted FOOPA about this. Sharon will alert the conservation officer Ben Cracknell and copy in Cllr Chris.

**12 Environment** - Eileen has been in touch with Parks & Gardens, who confirm they will be reseeded the grass bank with wildflowers next Spring.

**13 Website** - Nothing to report.

**14 Ward Councillor Reports** – Cllr Chris confirmed that the BAR parking situation is a priority and they are working to resolve it. *Portsmouth100* kicks-off at 4pm on 1 January, see [prideofportsmouth.co.uk](http://prideofportsmouth.co.uk)

**15 Committee Admin** – 2026 committee meeting dates were circulated. A monthly email newsletter to members will be trialled. Ideas were floated on *Portsmouth100* and the 2026 Annual Review.

## 16 AOB

**Portsmouth Cathedral Masterplan** - The Cathedral is holding consultation events on 23, 24 and 26 November to seek views from residents and stakeholders on its draft masterplan.

**Christmas Fairs** - Various Christmas shopping activities in Old Portsmouth coming up, starting tomorrow at the Cathedral. Check Hotwalls Studios activities at [hotwallstudios.co.uk](http://hotwallstudios.co.uk)

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