

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 13 May 2026

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 13 May 2026, 7.30pm Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club.

Present - Eileen Measey (Environment), Mike Dobson (Traffic) – Meeting Chair, Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation) - Minutes, Bob Nield (Treasurer), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Cllr Chris Attwell (arrived late).

1 Apologies – Gail Baird (Chair, Website, Membership), Anna Koor (Secretary) – Anna had advised Mike of non-attendance earlier that evening, Ann Wakelin (Environment), Ward Councillors - Mark Jeffery, Ian Holder.

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 April meeting are subject to updates advised by Sharon to Anna.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes - See below. Due to Chair and Secretary being absent, many items are carried forwards from last minutes.

5 Correspondence and Communications - A local resident had written to Mark Collings (Seafront Operations Manager) and Councillors regarding the state of the eroded paving on the Saluting Platform fronting Battery Row. Anna has responded to her. Eileen advised that any time to do the works would be significant due to the potential number of interested parties.

6 Treasurer's Report — Earlier in the day, Bob and Anna met with Helen Green and the 2025 annual accounts (as published in the Review) were signed off. At end April 2026 there was £789.10 in the current and £8150.89 in the savings accounts. Income: £60 in subscriptions received including those who paid at the AGM, and £50 from Nesbits for advertising. Outgoings: total £345.47 – includes catch-up on room hire, AGM – including bar bill and bank charges.

7 Social Programme / AGM

From previous minutes - Gail to contact John 'JJ' Marshallsay re offer of a donation to his chosen charity. Anna has circulated the draft AGM minutes. Ideas for future events, including a sea shanty group with fish and chips, and a Portsmouth Museum visit as part of their series of soft openings leading up to their relaunch in October 2026. Gail will enquire. Bob's son-in-law has devised a quiz which could be part of an event. Follow-up with Gail/Anna.

8 Membership Report – Numbers to be provided by Gail/Anna. *Post-meeting note: Gail sent a reminder email to lapsed members, which prompted 12 members to pay their subscriptions up to 30 April 2026. There remains 155 households, comprising 234 members.*

9 Traffic

BAR and Business Parking Permits – Mike updated those present on the survey and thanked Eileen for her support. Some data had been provided by PCC however Mike suspects this was collected since the latest batch of business permits being issued. The survey suggests that there is adequate capacity in their car park and the spaces already allocated on the Camber however this needs to be revisited outside the Easter holiday period. It is curious that there doesn't seem to be a transport plan interlocked with the City's own transport objectives for the businesses which (perhaps) should have supported, or not, the need for the business parking permits.

Pembroke Road - Sharon's concerns regarding Pembroke Road have still not elicited a reply from Cllr Candlish. There is no longer space for St Jude's school drop off/pick-up so more school traffic is coming into and parking in Penny Street and (assume) St Nicholas Street as there is no effective management of the School Streets TRO. Due to all the business parking on Pembroke Road, which is also a key visitor route, it is now oppressive for pedestrians, and this is before Pembroke House is used as business premises and any occupancy of the former RNC/RAYC.

PCC Business Permit Parking policy - The argument for consistent parking practices across the city doesn't really hold as there seem to be many variants of the parking zone definitions.

Road crossings / refuges - Mike is waiting on the core (not summarised) traffic data relating to the raised table in High Street to assess its effectiveness. He also raised the issue that in the early evening the sun shines directly down Pembroke Road into drivers' eyes, hence the regular damage to the bollards at the end of Pembroke Close.

Hover Terminal - Sharon to follow up the safety issue outside the Terminal due to some drivers expecting to be able to turn eastwards along the seafront and taxi drivers arriving to pick-up hovercraft passengers not giving way across those driving along the seafront. Eileen commented that there are no transport options for those arriving by hovercraft to go along the seafront unless on foot.

Pavement bollards - New bollards to be planted along High Street (past John Pounds church), at the corner of Penny Street and Peacock Lane, and at Point. See orange markings.

10 Planning - Very quiet in terms of new applications. Cllr Chris is standing down from the Planning Committee. Imminent changes to planning will mean little opportunity for councillors and members of the public to question proposals. Other Committee appointments to be announced shortly.

11 Heritage & Conservation

Railings at Grand Parade - Eileen commented that PCC is unclear what the railings are made of and are looking at more durable alternatives that do not rust so quickly. The collapsed wall render and orange barriers will be removed shortly.

12 Environment – Eileen is chasing for an update on the Moat planting.

13 Website – Gail not present.

14 Ward Councillor Report – No change to St Thomas ward councillors.

15 Committee Admin – From previous minutes. It was agreed that Gail would generate a leaflet for new members to go out after the local elections for review/discussion.

16 AOB

Anti-Social Behaviour – There is a piece on Operation Nautical at the next Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 2 June 2026. Late night disturbances are a regular occurrence particularly at Spice Island near the slipway at Point. More resources are needed to police the area. There are no plans to introduce a 'noise camera' (suggested previously). It was commented that there is no simple/efficient way to report issues.

Pier Road Pumping Station – Further works expected here in 2027.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Change of date: Wednesday 10 June 2026, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.