

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 29 July 2026

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 29 July 2026, 7.30pm Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club.

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

1 Apologies — 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 meeting on 10 June 2026 were circulated to the committee and agreed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes - There was a brief discussion regarding Feltham Row and its prohibited use by cyclists, scooter riders, etc. Road safety officer Chi Sharpe is on long-term sick leave.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Stakeholder meeting 15 June 2026 - Initiated by the Square Tower leaseholder and Hotwalls Artists Manager, Gail attended and commented that the meeting was primarily aimed at Old Portsmouth's businesses affected by anti-social behaviour. There were only 10-12 people there. It was led by Council Leader Steve Pitt with a presentation from NRCA / UKPAC promoting an App that businesses can subscribe to, enabling them to share intelligence and report offences to the police.

6 Treasurer's Report — At end of June there was £8883.91 funds in total - £8157.70 in the savings account (including £3.24 in interest), and £726.21 in the current account, which included 2 more membership payments and £90 income from July's social event. There were costs of £94.22 which mainly comprised Bowls Club hire fees.

7 Social Programme

The James Doherty talk was very successful. Forty nine tickets were sold at £6 each totalling £294. There were 7 no shows. Taking account of costs - bar bill £114 (38 drinks at £3 each), Bowls Club hire fee £75, there is a potential surplus of £105. The speaker would like any proceeds donated to a charity that supports young people and/or families. Costs should include banking deposit fees for the cheques. Next social event will be Alan Smith on 28 October. Other ideas: Libraries in Portsmouth - 50th anniversary, sea shanties, quiz night.

8 Membership Report – There are 154 households comprising 295 members. Four new members joined, a few via the Portsmouth Society and the FOOPA website. Owing to issues with Outlook and Spam, Gail will use her own email address for future events. It was agreed to remove lapsed members who have not paid since 2024, having checked official guidance.

9 Traffic

BAR / Subsea Craft Parking - Mike insists this is not a closed matter. See below.

Pavement parking - Reports have been made to PCC regarding a regular offender on Peacock Lane.

Transport Liaison Group - Chaired by Councillor Peter Candlish and attended by wide ranging stakeholders, Mike raised concerns about seafront closures for events. Long Distance Paths should be kept open. The Council does not advertise closures in advance or signpost any diversions.

Pavement bollards - A new bollard has been installed at the junction of Peacock Lane and Penny St.

Peacock Lane - Due to be closed from today for a week to replace a sewer lining.

Seafront harmonisation - Despite approval at Council committee in February, in practice the Pembroke Road parking restrictions alignment with the rest of the seafront hasn't been implemented.

PGS website - Sharon noted it states free parking until 9.30am on Museum Road and Pembroke Road.

New Southsea beachfront - Sharon commented on the volume of signs warning the public of the shallow kerb, relative to the scarce signage about dogs on beaches. The stretch along Southsea Castle is signposted as a shared cycle route - which must be an error.

10 Planning

Cathedral House - A retrospective application has been submitted owing to new double glazed windows that were installed without permission.

Oyster Mews - The application in respect of the boat workshop has been withdrawn. The conservation officer has written a lengthy report. See PCC online portal.

RAYC - The application for conversion of the rear ballroom area into apartments has been refused. One of the reasons cited in the refusal is window amenity in the proposed dwellings.

30 Penny Street - An application for a single storey rear extension has been submitted.

11 Heritage & Conservation

RAYC - Masonry fell off the frontage on 29 June which caused Pembroke Road to be closed and scaffolding erected. The footway remains closed and pedestrian safety has not been considered.

12 Environment

PCC public survey - Consultation is in progress titled 'How do you use outdoor spaces in Portsmouth'.

Long Curtain Moat - Seagrass nursery baskets have been installed as a growth experiment. The Committee congratulated Eileen for getting this project in motion.

Green bus shelters - Garden mats are being placed on bus shelters.

Garrison Church and City of Culture - Eileen would like to meet with one of the volunteers about turning that field into a wildflower meadow while it's not in use by PGS. Bob Stewart will arrange.

13 Website – Gail has posted all the latest updates and news.

14 Ward Councillor Report

Saluting Platform pitted paving - Cllr Attwell will chase PCC's Mark Collings and Colas.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – Portsmouth is lodging an application for judicial review. The Committee agreed that Eileen would draft a letter to our MP stating FOOPA's opposition.

School Streets - Action Day is planned for 2nd week of September.

Parking and Business Permits - Cllr Chris hinted that the justification for making Old Portsmouth a special case may be on the horizon but he cannot be more specific.

Bus X3 - A new service is running from Cambridge Junction to Fareham every half hour.

Governor's Green - The arrangement with PGS for its use is coming to an end.

Portsmouth100 Lion Trail - It has been hugely impactful. Ten out of 45 lions are in St Thomas's Ward.

Zebra Crossing Gunwharf Gate - Earmarked for end of this year.

15 Committee Admin - None.

16 AOB

OPGQ Neighbourhood Forum and AGM - on 15 September at the Square Tower from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Portsmouth & Hampshire Art Society - Exhibition at the Cathedral for one week, from 22 August.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 16th September 2026, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club. Speaker Alan Smith will come and check the facilities for his talk on Wednesday 28 October.