THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 14 October 2026

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting on 14 Oct 2026, 7.30pm Pembroke Gardens Bowling Club.

Present - Anna Koor (Secretary), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Ward Councillor Chris Attwell.

1 Apologies — Bob Nield (Treasurer), Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Gail Baird (Chair, Website, Membership), Eileen Measey (Environment), Ward Councillors 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 FOOPA business.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the 16 September 2026 meeting were circulated to the committee and had been agreed by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Spice Quay footpath - Lobbying continues for the closure of this path from Broad Street through to the Camber in an effort to deter anti-social behaviour. It remains unclear how straightforward this process would be. Residents have mixed feelings about the principle of closing a public path.

5 Correspondence and Communications

Trafalgar Memorial proposal - A representative will come to the November committee meeting.

6 Treasurer's Report — Bob is away and will update the committee with the September and October figures at the November committee meeting.

7 Social Programme

Ticket sales for the Alan Smith talk have been slow. A reminder will go out and the invitation will be extended to Portsmouth Society and Portsmouth Sailing Club members. Proceeds will go to Rowans, as requested by the speaker. Anna was asked to recirculate to the committee.

8 Membership Report – No further changes, there remains 154 households comprising 295 members.

9 Traffic

BAR / Subsea Craft Business Parking Permits - Mike is maintaining contact with Angela Page from the Forum committee and asserts that PCC has made significant errors issuing 60 permits to Subsea Craft, including contravening PCC's Local Transport Policy (LTP4). Cllr Chris attended a meeting with the council leader and a separate arrangement for business permits in KA zone was discussed. More recently, Portsmouth Grammar School requested 50 business parking permits following closure of the Junior School and loss of off-street parking. According to Cllr Chris it was refused by PCC.

Royal Albert & Royal Naval Yacht Club - Works now in progress to repair the frontage remain a hazard to pedestrians. Associated vans have been parking on the pavement, despite being issued Penalty Charge Notices seen by Sharon. The latter does not appear to deter them.

St Jude's School Streets scheme - Cllr Chris said that the enforcement exercise planned for September did not work out. It is now unlikely to happen until January.

10 Planning

Portsmouth Local Plan - At the Inspector's meetings in the Guildhall on 5 / 6 October several online public deputations were made according to Sharon, these are on the website. Repeated concerns were raised about the number of HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation) in the city. Although Old Portsmouth has very few, Airbnbs are increasing, which generate similar problems and more vehicles.
Camber Point (Fullers site) - The empty site is now up for sale.
Fontenoy House - News of planning approval did not appear on the relevant Weekly Planning List as the date that applied to Fontenoy House was an earlier retrospective date. This seems to be a defect in PCC's system and Sharon awaits a reply from Planning on this issue. It is difficult to believe how this was approved when the relatively modest proposal opposite at 60A High Street was refused.
Pembroke House - There are signs that works to convert the dwelling into MOD / Vivo offices could be starting soon. Extra security has been fixed to the vehicle gates.
Museum Records Office site - Sharon has had no reply from officers or councillors to her concerns about the consultation process and why FOOPA was not informed despite providing input on proposals in 2020.

11 Heritage & Conservation
We Built This City - The Portsmouth centennial book was unveiled at a book launch event last week.
St Thomas Cathedral - The 100 year anniversary of the diocese is being launched this week.
City of Culture - The decision is imminent according to Cllr Chris.

12 Environment
Southern Water Gully Cleaning - Penny Street residents were told to move their cars to enable these works, however it never happened and there's no evidence that it was re-scheduled.
Dog Owners - Council stickers have appeared on lampposts reminding owners to clean up after their dogs. The problem has certainly worsened, garage areas seem to be popular targets.

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

14 Ward Councillor Report
Planning - Planning committees will halt shortly, bar very large developments. Applications will remain subject to public consultation, however written public representations will be heard behind closed doors, absent of any councillors. Mike suggested that PCC should publicise this widely and explain to the public (and residents groups) how to engage with planning applications in future.
Pavement bollards - A recent incident on Nobbs Lane involving a motorist recklessly mounting the pavement narrowly avoiding building damage, demonstrates how valuable pavement bollards are.
City Museum - The Portsmouth 100 exhibition opens next week.
Records Office development - Feedback from consultation with neighbouring residents in Pembroke Park was positive about the design and use of space as sheltered accommodation. The council report will be made public next Monday, coming to cabinet a week later.
Local Government Reorganisation - The Government has officially paused it following judicial review by 5 local authorities including Portsmouth.

15 Committee Admin - None.

16 AOB
Network Rail - Signalling is being upgraded around Havant so bus replacement services will affect trains from 24 October to 1 November (half-term).
Victorious - Local businesses have voiced concerns about loss of trade when Victorious closes the common and seafront over the August bank holiday. Cllr Chris is not convinced this claim is pervasive.

17 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 11 November 2026, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.