

Friends of Portswood Rec

Minutes of Public meeting held on 1st July 2026

at: Brickfield Road Scout Hut, Southampton

Present: Kat Barbour(KB), Garth Long (GL), Linnet Evans (LE), Bev Pearce (BP), Denise Long (DL), Gareth Cottrill (GC), Tony and Laila Ridley (TR and LR)

Apologies: Nigel Hodge, May Lindsay, Freida and Frank Stack, Jill Doubleday, Lori Foster, Barbara Kropholler, Bob Pritchard, Dawn Bannatyne, Barbara and Tim Claridge

1. Welcome and apologies

Minutes of the previous meeting (6 May) accepted

Matters arising – Cycle Racks have been installed without consultation to the Field in Trust. **Action KB** to find out who is the funder of the cycle racks at the Rec- Richard Kelly and his supervisor. **Action BP** draft a letter to the council about the Field in Trust and uses of this land

Out of date notices - check the links on useful information and redo these **GC action**

2. Finances

NatWest Bankline Authorisations – Bank is reviewing all signatories for the account.

Nigel has been added and can raise payments. Bev suggesting that another person should be added to the signatories as there are now only three. Committee to discuss having another signatory. Thanks to BP for her work on this. **Committee action**

Treasurers update – the bank balance is healthy

Grant spending

- UKSPF has been fully spent and accounted for to the funders
- West Solent Solar Fund – majority spent; fine detail not required by funders

Account spending against each of the funds **NH action**

The meeting expressed enormous thanks to these funding bodies for their support of activities at the Rec

Waitrose has a token scheme at the moment which we may be able to access – **GL action**

3. Management plan

1. The Committee's requested updates to the 2024-29 Management Plan have not as yet been acknowledged, agreed or published.

2. Garth has asked Richard Kelly for an update on this; request copied into Dawn Ballantyne. May warrant escalation to email Simon Buston in 2 weeks' time **GL action**

4. Gardening Developments

The bowser has been excellent and has made life much easier. Composting is going well. They have put in some native plants. They have installed sparrow terraces. They put up a low fence around the flowerbeds. Dave is making some bee poles in the flowerbeds.

The lack of rain is being a challenge.

Up to 10 people are part of the gardening group each time and this is showing in results from the team. Thanks to everyone for their work.

The pond idea has been brought up and would involve a lot of work – there may also be some concerns from parents about installing a pond.

5. Public survey

Linnet has been exploring this – no survey since 2022 and to get feedback on what they like and don't like and can help with fundraising. Who are the visitors

Headings – junior play equipment; pond; other facilities that people might like to see, e.g. matting in play area, etc.

Prior to the survey itself we can put out a request to a subsection of the membership for wishlist items **LE action**

6. Membership renewals

FOPR has c 90 members, this number including some people who had not renewed to date. **GL action**

7. FOPR Kids

Kids activities on the first Saturday of the month, they have had some new working volunteers to join them: Ruth Maginnis and Addy and Priya, George and Jenny Marshall – Tony will suggest they become Friends of Portswood Rec. The format of the sessions has stayed as originally set up. They have some large sized games and may get support from Puppet Back Up this weekend. GL will bring some water to the event. **GL action**

TR needs help with doing one of the kids' sessions, KB offered to help **KB action**

8. Engagement with the University

Engagement with the University, have met with G Giles and D Knight. In discussions with officers of the university to discuss stand alone projects such as tree trails.

It would be good to have a water fountain on the site again. **KB to discuss with VC and include chairs of FOPR at this meeting.**



Beth has drafted an article on volunteering at the Rec to go in the alumni newsletter.
Await receipt of this article

9. Co-chairs succession planning

Linnet and Garth are now Acting Co-Chairs, and will be stepping down from this role at the next AGM in March 2027. Ahead of this, serious thought needs to go into how to manage this situation and to find a new Chair and Deputy, or Co-Chairs for the group. Everyone to talk to friends and neighbours about taking on this role **All action**

10.AOB

Human faeces is being found in the children's play area – families to report this to the online reporting system at SCC. Gareth to put some information on the information sheet on this topic. **GC action**

Agreement that FoPR should re-open the conversation with Southern Water about reinstating the water fountain. **LE action**

Discussion of acknowledging volunteers who have given long service to the Rec

Litter picking could be incorporated into the activities of the gardening group.

Is there lighting at the Rec – there is some along the path that goes through the rec.

Discussion of lighting on the tennis courts – could solar panels be installed?

The meeting ended at 9.24 pm

Dates of next meetings

- Wednesday 9th September 7.45pm - committee
- Wednesday 25th November 7.45pm - public