



Friends of Portswood Rec
Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 12 November 2025

LE in the Chair

GL Minutes

1. Apologies:

Louise Anderson attended from 8.30pm

2. For Approval:

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 14 May 2025 were approved; there were no matters arising.

Note: an interim Committee Meeting was cancelled.

The Minutes of the Public Meeting of 2 July 2025 were approved; there were no matters arising.

3. Membership

ML reported that there were 74 members. Where sufficient funds had been paid a partner had been included. ML suggested that membership rules might be reconsidered to allow for life or an extended membership as currently time is wasted chasing late payers. It was agreed not to make any changes at this time and to only send out one reminder in future. Those not paying would be removed from membership list but their email contact would remain in wider contacts with the hope that they would rejoin. This probably needs stating in the reminder letter.

4. FoPR Kids

TR reported on the success of the three Saturday morning kids activities during June, July and August. It is intended to continue with these in 2026 subject to recruiting sufficient organisers and helpers. Tara Ridley, a key member of the Sub Group, had had now moved away. Suggestions included making contact with local schools and church groups. TR, LE, GL would decide who would contact which group.

TR would like to hold the 2026 sessions on more Saturdays over the season to coincide with the gardening group dates. It was undecided how best these should be promoted but a banner advertising the event could be attached to the fence in the week preceding the event. BP was asked to provide an estimate.

5. Fundraising

BP was congratulated on the success of two grants:

UK Prosperity Fund £1935 that included money for:

- Certified Activity First Aid courses for 4 volunteers
- Year's meeting fees including the AGM and tea/coffee
- Insurance
- 12 litter pickers and hoops,
- 12 FoPR printed Hi-Vis vests
- Gazebo
- Garden games like Jenga, quoits, parachute, light balls etc.

West Solar Co-operative £2000 that included money for:

- removable slat compost bins with lids
- water bowser
- planter kit incorporating bee, butterfly, hedgehog houses, includes topsoil, reservoir clay and deadwood,
- RSPB cast stone birdbath and ground level saucer

Discussions had taken place prior to the Committee. GL had talked to Dawn Bannatyne and BP had talked to Cliff Brown. Both would not allow the installation of planters. A small bird bath had also been donated by two of the Friends. An alternative option considered corporate entrance signage but this was rejected. After considering the options it was decided to go ahead with an amended project to include :

- removable slat compost bins with lids (three compartments) and duverts
- water bowser
- planting

Potential grants

BP reported that she had explored a potential Veolia Grant towards the play park surface but it was unlikely to gain support. BP had also met with Lottery funders where up to £20K might be bid for. BP reported that Cliff Brown was considering grassing some of the play park surface and installing a small piece of pre school play equipment on a crumble base. BP will continue to liaise, it is unclear what the cost would be.

Blue Star Grant

All monies from the £500 2024 Blue Star Grant had been spent on a replacement hose reel and planting. We are most grateful to Blue Star for funding these developments.

6. Play Park Funding contribution

LA confirmed that £11000 had been transferred from the FoPR account to SCC on 28 August 2025 which is the FoPR's full contribution to the replacement of the play equipment funded by SCC. Following additional costs of £142 associated with the Play Park launch, £180 remains in the Play Park



fund to be used for further developments. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to and managed the project.

7. Committee

LE gave a vote of thanks to Pauline Prentki who recently stepped down from the role of Secretary. Pauline was thanked for her huge contribution to the work of the Friends.

LE reported that due to work pressures she would not be standing for election as Co-Chair at the AGM but may consider a different role within the Committee. GL would also consider relinquishing the role as his two year tenure was up but will consider his position nearer the time..

8. Any other business

Wilder Award.

DL reported on achieving Highly Commended in the Wilder Awards which she and GL received on behalf of FoPR at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Annual Conference in October 2025. The Award recognised the considerable achievements in developing the park as a place for nature. GL appeared on Solent TV News to talk about the Award. It is intended that the Award will be displayed in the Rec.

DL asked that the Committee agree a suitable budget for gardening in 2026

Fiesta FM

GL, Pam and Natalia from the Gardening Group will be talking on Fiesta FM's Hidden Treasures Show at 1200 on 27 Nov to promote the work of FoPR

9. Next Meeting

Public Meeting 3 Dec 2025 at 19.45 in the Scout Hut, Brickfield Rd