

**RAPS AGM**  
**Friday 17th September 2021, 7 pm at The Port House, Port Solent**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: 42 (approx) Members  
Rt Hon. Pennt Mordaunt MP  
Cllr. George Madgwick

**1. Chair's Welcome**

The Chair, Chris Clark, welcomed the members, MP Penny Mordaunt and Cllr. George Madgwick. He explained the need to call the AGM now in order to reduce the risk of yet another postponement due to the pandemic in April 2022. He introduced Committee members Angela Britton (Treasurer) and Peter Lang.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Richard and Carole Haigh, Tony Hewitt, Simone Belsey, Cllr. Jo Hooper, Alison Rundle, V Simpson, J Birtwistle, Clyde Britton.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

The Chair asked that the Minutes of the 2019 AGM, which have been available on the RAPS website for more than two years, be approved

Proposed: Marian Davies

Seconded: Teresa Pask

Matters arising: the Chair thanked Olivia Firth and Penny Mordaunt MP for their assistance in bringing the long-running motorway noise barrier story to a close.

**4. Chair's Report**

[The full text of the Chair's Reports for 2020 and 2021 are available on the RAPS Website]

Summarising the two reports:

**2020.** The Chair paid tribute to his predecessor John Crooks's six years of calm authority; issues with the Zoho platform saw its replacement by a new website built on Wix; seven quiz nights had drawn more teams than for many years; a third wine and cheese evening had been a success but participation in a Port House open Christmas party had not; almost 40 tickets were sold for the Cowes Week fireworks cruise in 2020 which was postponed and postponed again in 2021; committee members attended the Portsmouth Tree Wardens D-Day memorial planting at Port Solent in November 2019; meaningful meetings were reinstated with PCC Planning; Cllr Ferrett who stood down in 2021 was thanked in his absence for years of helpful input.

**2021.** The Committee numbered 6 persons at the start of the year, reduced to 3 by Easter and now 4 again. There were no socials. The Committee registered RAPS with The Hive to offer support and invested in a pro Zoom account to host online quizzes or chat rooms but neither was called upon due to strong networks of mutual help operating in Port Solent. A Risk Register (Malcolm Cronshaw's legacy) was compiled and has been posted on the website. The list includes: PCC

planning (there had been an important meeting in Feb 2020 - see item 8 below); Port Way traffic levels and speeding (30 mph signs painted on road have helped); travellers encamped on the green field twice and RAPS channelled info about eviction orders, listened to complaints, encouraging better deterrence; noise, from fishermen's radios and motorway. The noise barrier was completed in July 2020, not everyone agreed it made a big difference; awaiting response from Highways to feedback submitted last summer; a 5G mast was erected on Port Way earlier this year and RAPS wrote to City Council to ask about benefits to us - we were not objecting.

Membership subs were suspended in 20/21, re-introduced April this year. A recruitment drive through the summer 2021 Newsletter resulted in many new members and there are now 82 in total. Members ARE getting good value for that £10 annual sub.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that the year to 31st March 2020 showed a small deficit of £45.71. This was after a surplus from the Quiz Nights of £228.17 but there only 60 paid-up members.

The major expense was the welcome drink for the wine tasting of £254.78.

Other major expenses in the year to March 2021 were the website change at £362.20 and the Zoom subscription of £143.88.

There were no subscriptions or quiz surplus so the loss for the year was £815.98.

At 31st March 2021 the bank balance was £10961.23.

The current balance is £11157.25 after subscriptions of £830 and a repayment of £467.50 for boat trip deposits. Solent Cruises currently holds £1097.50 as deposits.

The Chair asked the AGM to accept the Report.

Proposed: Catherine Foster

Seconded: Maggie Firth

## **6. Election of Auditors**

Pat Harvey was duly re-elected.

Proposed: Barbara Gayford

Seconded: Mr. Salt

## **7 Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The Chair announced that he and Angela were willing to stand again as Chair and Treasurer respectively. The Chair explained that technology had enabled the Committee to function without the need for the office of Secretary for many years. The Chair asked the AGM to validate the committee membership of Peter Lang (co-opted in summer 2020) and Tony Hewitt (returning committee member as of September 2021).

Proposed: Marian Davies

Seconded: Helen Ewers

[Note: Olivia Firth agreed, after the close of the AGM, to return as Membership Secretary. To be ratified at the next AGM]

## **8. Planning updates**

The Chair said there had been three planning stories to follow this year: the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) consultation in January 2021; Lennox Point, (formerly Tipner West) and the Country Park. He reported that the submission by RAPS to the IDP consultation would be appearing on the PCC website but that there was very little in it that concerned Port Solent. As Megan Carter's Lennox Point team were due to come to Port Solent in the near future this update would only include the Country Park. Angela Britton reported on the meeting of February 2020 as there had been no changes confirmed by PCC since. After a series of unsatisfactory meetings in 2018-2019, Megan Carter agreed to intervene and on 17/2/20 the RAPS Committee met with Megan Carter (Lennox Point Programme Manager), David Emmett (Head of Waste Disposal) and Ian Maguire (Assistant Director of Planning). The Minutes of that meeting state that Veolia, as tenant, is maintaining the surface of the site until 2024 (primarily the visual aspects) and holds the environmental permit from the Environmental Agency until 2030 to ensure the site's environmental systems are managed. After 2030 the permit will be passed back to the city or to a contractor depending on the chosen delivery arrangements at that time. PCC does not have clarity on delivery strategy or on timescales, such as when the closed landfill will become a publicly accessible country park although PCC has an intention to make its so. It is not the intention of PCC to wait until 2030 to open it but it is premature to talk in any detail about park facilities, opening hours, security, bus and cycle routes & the impact on Port Way traffic.

A number of questions were raised about traffic volumes and the expected lifespan of the amenity tip if still operating when the park opens. Nicholas Murphy, referring to an article in the Daily Mail, asked about resourcing for all the housing and development plans in the Portsmouth area. Penny Mordaunt responded that she would be working closely with the City Council on plans to unify walkway schemes in the north of Portsea Island, flood defences and HMOs that younger buyers were now demanding. She said that the recent appointment of a new housing minister [ i.e. Michael Gove] might bring about changes to existing plans.

John Wood said that the City Council had previously promised to open a Country Park in 2014 suggesting that statements made about plans were often in the realms of fantasy.

## **9. Social Events**

The Treasurer said that Solent Cruises still held some deposits paid in 2020 and that she would look into re-scheduling a Cowes Week cruise in 2022 or seeking a full refund. Members who have requested refunds have been paid.

The Chair said it was the Committee's intention to revive the quiz depending on availability of a quiz master (Malcolm Cronshaw has been seriously ill since January 2021) and the willingness of the Port House to continue hosting them.

Nicholas Murphy suggested switching the quiz nights to Fridays when the Port House stays open late. The Chair agreed to take this forward.

Kedi Mulcock suggested a group booking for the Chichester Festival Theatre. The Chair agree to take this forward but would be looking for others to help organise it.

## **13 Any Other business**

Mr Salt asked why it was still necessary for people to book visits to the Amenity Tip. Chair and Cllr. Madgwick agreed to look into this.

Mr Salt thanked the Committee for their work.

The meeting was closed at 7.55 pm.

