

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd**Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A****Meeting held in the Trust Suite****Date: 18 July 2022**

Trustees present: Nick Hawker, Will Barrett, Julen Beer, Elaine Davis, Nick Edwards, Pete Ferlie, Doug Gillard, Clive Harrison, Richard Knight, Neil Le Milliere,

Apologies: Mark Cordell, Kayleigh Jade West

Officers present: Steve Chudley (Finance Officer), Phil Burden (Secretary), Pete Cordwell (Minutes Taker) Celia Lowman (Membership Secretary)

Apologies. None

Part B Summary

Under Part B of the Trust Board meeting, the Trust Board:

1. received an update on the development of the Clifford Hill Training Ground
2. heard how Trustees are aiming to identify the Club's charitable aims
3. received an update on the refurbishment of the Trust Suite, the Heritage Lounge and corporate boxes
4. received feedback from the Club Board meeting including some of the reasons why the manager was having difficulties signing players.
5. received feedback from Ashley Brown, Head of Supporter Engagement and Governance at FSA.

Approval of minutes from June Meeting

Approval of Part A minutes proposed by Julen Beer, seconded by Clive Harrison

The minutes were approved with three abstentions (not present at June meeting)

Matters Arising

Damage at Newport County. This has been paid for which has been publicised.

Kenneford Farms catering will return

Issue with Cross Country Trains is ongoing and still unresolved.

Membership numbers. 3,696 members; 713 Junior Grecians. So 2,843 voting. 359 lapsed members (not included in these figures)

St. James Community Trust. Still trying to make contact. RK to provide contact details.

It is confirmed that the term of office for Club Directors is one year. Before the AGM, they will make a presentation.

A joint Board meeting is due.

Legacies. The wording has been finished. It now needs running past the Trust Finance Group and reasons to leave a legacy provided.

Priority ticketing. The web page has been updated. One ticket per member.

Update of Part A matters from Chair.

New software (VeryConnect) is almost ready to be introduced. A decision as to whether CCT are to use it needs to be made. Cost is £6,000 with an annual contract of £6,000. Feedback from CCT needed (WB).

Decision to invest in new system approved unanimously. No abstentions

Club Media team has been challenged to find 1,500 new Trust members. It is so pleasing to see the Club behind a Trust membership drive. It has never happened before. Concern was expressed that the increased membership would send us over the VAT threshold. It is important to press on, though. More discussion at Trust Finance and Governance.

Chair attended FSA AGM. The report was available at the meeting. NH very surprised to note that 90% of funding came from Premier League.

NLM explained, in detail, how this has come about.

At this AGM, NH had attended working groups on 1. Women and how to keep them safe at matches and getting to grounds. 2. Diversity

The Trust Office will now be used as a Players' Family Room on matchdays. It was suggested baby changing facilities could be provided.

Any Other Part A business

i. Trust strategy.

NH gave a presentation on the future of the Trust. (see attached)

He talked about the CTA and The Articles of Governance.

He pointed out that parity on Club Board has now been achieved and described the wonderful but difficult journey to gain control of the Club as its owners. The Trust would always be in control because of its majority shareholding.

The Articles, he said, are often criticised. An alternative, he said, would be to take the CTA and the Governance manual out of the Articles and include in the Articles wording such as “Club Directors cannot sell the Club or move the stadium. There was a suggestion to add “or change the Club’s colours” Looking to the future, maybe we should be looking at a way to grow the Trust but with more gentle control.

The Trust Board probably now has more responsibility than the Club Board and this needs to be considered with an eye on the future. The Trust Board needs to consider where we go from here. The two Trust appointed directors have a very difficult and time-consuming job and one is due to stand down this year.

A discussion followed.

It was suggested the members might not agree with the creation of a new balance between Trust and Club directors.

There is now a concern that Trustees have a worrying amount of responsibility. Could this be eased by giving more space to Club Directors?

The Chair pointed out that Trustees had voted in December to remove the CTA and the Governance Manual from the Articles and that this would now happen.

It is important that the three new non executive directors are able to do their job.

The changes agreed in December will be put to members at the AGM.

Chair finished by saying that this is a very exciting time for the Trust and Trustees should carefully consider its future direction.

ii. EFL rule change.

“Clubs will now be required to include a Mandatory Article within their Articles of Association which states that the Directors of the Club may refuse to register the transfer of any share where:

- the EFL has not confirmed its consent to the acquisition of Control
- the EFL has not confirmed that that such Person is not liable to be disqualified
- if registering the transfer of any share would cause the Club to breach any other equivalent rule or regulation of another body such as the Premier League or the Football Association”

iii. Election and AGM dates

Notice of AGM & Details of Election 01/09/2022

Deadline for submitting a nomination form (Midnight) 01/10/2022

Deadline for sending out candidate info 07/10/2022

Deadline for Members Resolutions and/or Agenda Items 15/10/2022

AGM Agenda & Meeting Pack Despatched with Proxy Details 22/10/2022

Hustings 01/11/2022

Deadline for receipt of ballot papers 10/11/2022

Deadline for receiving proxy papers 11/11/2022

AGM (Home to Peterborough) 12/11/2022

Please Note. Proposing to hold the hustings via zoom on a Tuesday Evening to see if we can increase member interest and involvement.

Electronic signatures will be allowed this year.

The Big Screen will be used to promote the election and the AGM.

iv. The Big Step Campaign

The Big Step is a campaign to end all gambling advertising and sponsorship in football, led by people harmed by gambling.

This was discussed, in the knowledge that we are in Sky Bet League One and we accept money from the National Lottery.

JB agreed to investigate what the Big Step Campaign involves and to contact two of the clubs already signed up, Tranmere and Forest Green.

Time did not allow for Working Group Updates

Any Other Business

The Club budget was unanimously approved.

NH. Another budget will be needed around September to discuss the contracts of players which run out at the end of the season and to consider MT's spending in January.

ED will circulate an email update about 'Kit Out the Cliff'

Date of next meeting: 15 August 2022