



We Own Our Football Club

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: 7 December 2020

Trustees present: Nick Hawker, Will Barrett, Jon Beer, Mark Cordell, Elaine Davis, Doug Gillard, Clive Harrison, Pete Holding, Richard Knight, Neil Le Milliere, Kayleigh Jade West, Yasmin Western.

Apologies: Alice Cooke

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

Trust Members Attending: Ed Gallois Paul Hunkin David Bullas Michael Higgins

Introduction:

New trustee Kayleigh Jade West was welcomed to the meeting.

Election of Trust Chair

Proposal. Nick Hawker to be elected as Trust Chair.

Proposer: Neil Le Milliere

Seconder: Doug Gillard

Nick Hawker was elected unanimously.

Nomination of Group Leads and Club Board Directors

The following trustees were nominated to lead the working groups.

- i. Group Lead – Ownership Working Group (OWG): Richard Knight
- ii. Group Lead – Community Working Group: Doug Gillard
- iii. Group Lead – Finance & Governance Working Group (FGG): Pete Holding
- iv. Group Lead – Communications Working Group (Comms): Will Barrett
- v. Group Lead – History Working Group (No longer exists. See minutes November 2020)

Nomination of Club Board Directors

- i. Club Board – Director of Supporter Engagement: Clive Harrison
- ii. Club Board – Director of Community Engagement: Elaine Davis

iii. Club Board – Director of Finance & Governance: Pete Holding

After the chair asked if any others were interested, all were elected unanimously.

Neil Le Milliere suggested, whilst in no way being critical of anyone, it was not always healthy to keep the same leaders in place. He pointed out that, where possible, for next year, we should encourage competition.

Part B Summary

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

Received feedback from the three Trust appointed directors from the last Club Board meeting.

Offered views to the Club Board on Matt Taylor's contract

Approved a grant for works to the Grecian Centre for CCT

Gave initial observations on Richard Pym's proposals for the future governance of the club

Approval of minutes from November Meeting

Approval of Part A minutes proposed by Doug Gillard, seconded by Elaine Davis

Approved. 10 for. 1 abstention.

Matters Arising

Letter of thanks to volunteers. **Action** Nick to speak to Justin

Christmas cards. Need to be sent to all corporate members. Junior Grecians have all had their cards, with a competition and voucher to collect their gift from club shop (snood)

Key words should read Quaywords

Update of Part A matters from Chair.

Most of focus this month has been on the return of fans to the stadium.

There will be a new ticketing system from February. It will enable "upsell". e.g. add a programme. Tickets will be scannable to use, for example, with mobile phone. We'll be sticking with Glitnir until then.

Neil said tickets "down the road" were allocated to first 1,800 to buy season tickets, with no rotation. Our fans lucky it was better organised here.

Asset of Community Value

We should have had a response by end of last week. We're still confident of a positive response.

Trust member Ed Gallois asked about criteria for ACT. Nick Hawker was definite that we met them. Oxford United had their application turned down, but eventually won their case easily.

Any Other Part A business

Trust Vice Chair

Nick feels there should be a Vice Chair

1. Important for succession planning.
2. Chair would have someone independent to speak to and confide in.
3. Cover when Chair is sick or unavailable.

Kayleigh felt it might look better at election time, if a deputy were to take over on the years when Chair is standing for election.

Phil suggested that someone may not to volunteer in public meeting. They could email instead.

Mark Cordell volunteered to stand as Vice Chair.

Proposed Neil Le Milliere. Seconded Yasmin Western.

Approved unanimously.

Mark Cordell appointed Vice Chair

Working Group Membership and Confidentiality

All members of the working groups should be approved by the Trust Board. Any objections to Steve Chudley being a member of the OWG? None.

Action Could leaders of working groups make a register of all your members, trustees, officers, volunteers. Can then be approved at next meeting.

Action Phil Burden is to send everybody a new confidentiality agreement to be signed.

Feedback from 2020 Election and AGM

Turnout up to 35% (up from 28%). 135 paper ballots, a good number (not quite 50%) returned.

Thanks to Richard for setting up Zoom and thanks to Will for electronic voting set up and comms.

A meeting with the Election Management group and John Street will be convened.

Comments from invited Trust members

“went well,” “great to increase turnout, probably can’t beat that,” “electronic voting excellent.” “zoom hustings good, but I’d have liked face to face which wasn’t possible.”

Some really good feedback about AGM, particularly from Club Board members who were pleased with the collaborative atmosphere.

Will is to look at number of views online and other data. At one stage there were 91 present.

Yasmin is to put together briefing sheet for future manifestos.

Working group updates

Finance and Governance

29 October general meeting. New articles of association approved. Several untraced shareholders' shares cancelled. All documents lodged at Companies house.

Healthy state financially (OW)

Money from EFL to all clubs is harsh on us because we've been prudent

Nick. Rescue package is

1. £250,000, each league 2 club
2. Chunk of money, related to average attendance
3. Sum of money, with conditions, to be applied for. This is for clubs who are struggling financially.

Need to look at number 3. This one is still a bone of contention.

Update on Trust Finances. Steve Chudley

Going electronic for election has saved £3,500

There has been a generous donation of £100 by Neil Le Milliere.

Due final chunk of money for book.

Bequest coming, not received yet

Ownership and membership

Next meeting Wednesday 6.00pm

Two items in the paper on the Trust's position on advertising. Default position is to oppose gambling sponsorship. We would not like to see gambling advertising on front of shirt.

After a BBC initiative on alcohol and children, 'Thatchers Gold Big Bank' signs are now "The Big Bank."

Commented on terms used e.g. partner, valued sponsor.

Steve is still looking into fall in donations last year.

Membership has gone up for second month running to 3,837

Two new corporate members coming up.

South West Disabled fans' forum has now defaulted to "Level Playing Field"

We've been compiling a list of ideas to promote membership. Any suggestions really welcome.

Community Working Group

Quaywords event on Wednesday.

Secret Santa with ECI. Over £2000 in donations (vouchers). Some money to CCT. Should help 200 families across the city. CCT putting the vouchers in their food parcels. **Action** Elaine to see Jamie about publicity. Three organisations working together Trust, ECI, CCT is very positive.

Communications Working Group

Have produced a list of recommendations for the elections

Working on a qualitative and database review of 2020 to discuss at next week's meeting.

A reminder that we're always looking for comments and suggestions from colleagues, members of the board and the membership.

Any Other Business

Neil. Please look at the email I'm sending round from Nectar.

Will. History group meeting for final time next week. All members will be trustees for the ECFC museum trust which will meet quarterly or a member of the new advisory group which will meet twice a year.

Paul. Why do we have Part A and B wrong way round? From Chair. Because it was uncomfortable asking people to leave at a certain point.

Possibility of twinning with a German club mentioned.

Volunteers are continuing to work even in these difficult circumstances. They put up and then took down again the cutouts in the stadium. Today and tomorrow there will be volunteers helping to get the season tickets printed and sent out.

Steve is just finishing off our annual FCA return.