



We Own Our Football Club

**Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd
Trust Board Meeting Minutes Part A**

Meeting held via Zoom

Date: 9 November 2020

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

Apologies: Pete Martin

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

Part B Summary

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

1. Received feedback from the three trust appointed directors from the last Club Board meeting.
2. Received information on the ACV application.
3. Received feedback from the appraisal of the Trust Chair.

Trust accounts. Review of the year.

Accounts presented by Stephen Bright and Simon Gould.

Neil Le Milliere asked about the period covered by the accounts. The review can include things outside the year as long as they're factually correct.

Some of the wording needs changing, regarding "others" and "volunteers" invited to working groups. Nick will reword and send to Simon.

Year end accounts 2019-2020 were approved unanimously. Proposed Richard Knight, seconded Elaine Davis.

Thanks given to Stephen Bright, Simon Gould and Steve Chudley. The accounts will go on the website and questions may be received at AGM.

Welcome to Celia Lowman

Celia Lowman, new membership secretary, was introduced and welcomed. She thanked everyone for their support in helping her to get started.

Questions about membership issues

Neil Le Milliere asked why, when membership went up, donations had gone down? **Action**
The matter was referred to OWG.

Approval of minutes from October Meeting

Approval of Part A minutes proposed by Doug Gillard, seconded by Richard Knight
Approved unanimously

Matters Arising

Elaine Davis had sent her apologies to Working Group but not recorded. It will be recorded in February's meeting.

Neil Le Milliere asked if Justin Quick had been spoken to about FECRACE's offer of bar help. Likely to get more of a response when bars are closer to opening.

Neil Le Milliere apologised for lack of progress in phoning members to try to get email addresses. He was very busy with elections. Hopes to make progress during lockdown. 135 left, all in UK.

Snoods. First and second batch sold out. Now selling next 100.

Yasmin Western. Interview with Jack Leslie people went well. The podcast is now available.

Update of Part A matters from Chair.

Grecian Centre Lease. Nick met Jamie Vittles. Jamie wasn't sure if grant provider had said they need a lease. He also thought they might have said for 7 years but he could be wrong. Nick understands they have applied for the grant. If they do get it, they'll then see if they can satisfy the grant provider's terms.

They already have the service level agreement. There is a slight concern that Trust will have to sign a lease with a couple of unnecessary clauses.

General meeting. Nick very pleased that the governance has been approved as it was something on which he stood as chair. The Trust is indebted to the work of Nigel Banks, a volunteer, who worked so hard to get the share register into a solid state. He has done amazing work tracing around 3,000 shares. He even saw the whole thing through by being on the desk to welcome people to the meeting. Thank-you Nigel.

Thanks also to volunteers who helped to put out the cardboard cut-outs which visitors to the meeting commented upon and which helped to make the meeting a success. It's because of things like this that Nick was reminded that Exeter City is no ordinary football club.

Thanks also to Pete Holding for all his work. We now have a legitimate shareholders' register.

Any Other Part A business

Club Articles of Association and Share register (Pete Holding).

The Club Articles of Association and Share register were both approved. The directors have to sign a statement of compliance within 15 days. When it is lodged at Companies House it becomes legal. The share register will change every couple of months. All share transfers have to be approved by the club board.

It's there! We are now compliant with Companies Law for the first time since about 1974. There is still some work to be done on the Objects. This can be done at the Club AGM.

The Trust's percentage of shares is 57.85%

Nick said that one of the key changes to the Articles of Association was that the previous Articles prohibited the payment of club board directors. This has now been corrected so that directors can be paid. That doesn't mean that directors will be paid.

Neil Le Milliere. Can we publish the Articles on our website? Yes. Once they've been approved by Companies House.

There followed a discussion about transparency and openness concerning articles on the website. If mistakes had been made, it was resolved to try to do things better in the future.

Support to ECFC museum.

Will Barrett spoke about the importance and purpose of the museum. He said that it's no good us just looking at their collections and memories, but that we should continue to use them to improve our environment; to create a sense of pride; engage in community participation in ways that represent and promote our ethos as a supporter owned football club. If the foundations for all this are in place, the proposed donation will go a long way to achieving many more positive things.

Will Barrett and Richard Knight are trustees of the museum and as such declared an interest and withdrew from the discussion.

Discussion

- the museum presents the Trust well
- they do excellent outreach work
- lots to be proud of
- good work around Remembrance

Elaine Davis established that this donation was to the museum and not the History group. There is an SLA between the museum and the club, not the Trust.

Proposal. The Trust should make a donation of £15,000 (with a clean break) to Exeter City Museum.

Passed unanimously. (subject to the SLA)

Steve Chudley asked if he could be notified once the SLA had been agreed.

Trust Room

Finance & Governance group at meeting of 13 October proposed conversion of old ticket office to Trust room. It had been agreed with Justin Quick. Spend would be up to £10,000. A Trust Office at SJP would also be useful.

Passed unanimously

Elaine Davis. We should look at our corporate sponsors first when choosing contractors. Agreed to give the Trust gazebo to club for Covid temperature taking. (Senior reds had given

£350 for this). Elaine Davis to proceed.

Trust AGM

Thanks to Will Barrett and Richard Knight for their help with the hustings.

There will be a zoom call from John Street to candidates with the results at 10.am on the morning of the AGM. 300 votes in so far. 135 paper ballots have gone out. Returned to John Street.

Thanks to Neil Le Milliere for some helpful advice on running Zoom AGMs.

At the AGM there will be no resolutions (because of Covid). Just approval of minutes and of accounts. Also reappointment of auditors.

Nick, Julian, Richard and Keith have been asked to speak.

People will need to pre-register to vote. We will have to check with Celia that they are members. They are allowed two months grace.

Email proxy forms to Phil

Will need 30 for a quorum.

Time of Oldham game kick off hasn't been confirmed yet. Timings of AGM could be affected.

Proposal. Move AGM start time from 11am to 10am.

Passed unanimously.

FSA League 1 & 2 Representatives

Neil Le Milliere

EFL meeting next Monday 16 Nov. Please let Neil know if there are any issues you wish raised.

We need to decide who we vote for in the League One and League Two representative to the National Council.

Agreed

1 James Young. Chair, Robins Trust (Cheltenham)

2 Peter Leatham. Chair, Official Accrington Stanley Supporters' Trust

Neil will do the vote.

Neil commented that the coalition against gambling ads was an interesting development.

Working Group Updates

History Group

Will Barrett

We've installed a new display at the rear of the away end.

Hosted a workshop in partnership with the FSA. Positive feedback. Thanks to Neil for his help and support.

Museum trust to meet next Wednesday

There are only 20 books left.

Finance and Governance Group

Aviva will be meeting our business interruption insurance claim subject to reasonable proof. Real living wage has gone up to £9.50 today. Steve Chudley will deal with this.

Ownership and Membership Group

Thanks to Elaine for compiling minutes

Junior Grecians T shirts on the way

Cycle for City is being extended

Rainbow laces campaign. Will be included in the podcast
Letters of thanks to volunteers. Not sure if these have gone out.
Elaine is considering restarting the Advent calendar and Director for the Day
Doug offered email address for advent

Community Working Group

Doug Gillard

Devon Supporters' Trust Meeting was productive; looking at forming a South West Supporters' Trust group. Bristol City will be invited to February meeting.
Protocols on joint press releases. Will be left to individual trusts. Doug will make decisions on these.

Quay words literary event. Any objections to giving 3 or 4 books to some of the people involved? No objections.

Communication and Engagement Group

Will Barrett

The group wishes to express its thanks and gratitude to Pete Martin for all his hard work and leadership. In particular for assembling such a great group and for making everyone feel part of it.

We have been working on the A.G.M, setting up the election platform, promoting the candidate manifestos and hustings

We've been increasing our output on social media, website and Trust newsletter.

The "We own our football club" podcast has now been launched. Thanks to Jon and Yasmin who have driven that.

The next step is to build on existing working relationships with the other working groups to achieve our collective aims.

We are in regular communication with Scott Palfrey, Sue McQueenie, Jack Watts to ensure we're all in the loop with regard to key comms.

Please remember, if you have any news or anything that needs flagging, please send them to our group.

Doug Gillard said he'd had a meeting with Will to explore how the Community and the Communications group could work together.

Any Other Business

Mark Cordell

After the death of a footballer in Northampton, Mark has been thinking about the medical facilities at the 4G pitch which is used by outside groups. Pete F. has also expressed concern. The defibrillators on site are ten minutes away in the buildings. Pete has asked if the Trust would consider making a donation towards a defibrillator. Pete would be expected to lead on this. CCT would definitely contribute £200. Mark would hope the club would see the benefits and also contribute £200. The cost is believed to be about £1000. Elaine has agreed to approach other Grecian groups. With our £200 and that of CCT, the amount should be achievable.

Agreed to donate £200 towards a defibrillator at the 4G pitch. **Action.** Mark to liaise with Pete Farley.

There was one objection, no abstentions.

There was a suggestion that the Women's team might need a portable defibrillator.

Neil Le Milliere. Question about room hire for Exeter City Community Initiatives and a 50% donation. This donation had come from a working group. The event didn't take place

because of Covid.

Richard Knight. Are we sending Christmas Cards this year? Nick thought this was a good idea and asked if this could be taken back to the OWG working group to finalise the details which could be sent by email.

After death of Harry Holman, Richard asked if the Trust should be doing something to help ex players? Chair's personal view is that this should be a matter for the Club. Players play for numerous different clubs which makes the issue more difficult. There's also a question of whether employees should be treated similarly. Nick will mention the matter to Julian Tagg.

Will Barrett. After the death of Bob Wilson, Will bought a goalkeeper shirt with Bob's name and number on it for his grandson at the funeral.

Steve Chudley checked that the final accounts go to Will for the website. Confirmed.

Nick Hawker wished Doug Gillard and Mark Cordell good luck in the forthcoming elections. Neil Le Milliere on behalf of the committee, extended the good wishes to include Nick.

Phil Burden provided dates for the next meetings. **All agreed.**

Proposed Trust Board Dates 2021

Wednesday 6th January

Monday 8th February

Monday 8th March

Wednesday 7th April

Monday 10th May

Wednesday 9th June

Wednesday 7th July

Wednesday 4th August

Wednesday 8th September

Monday 11th October

Monday 8th November

Wednesday 8th December

Date of next meeting: Monday 7 December at 18.00