



We Own Our Football Club

Exeter City AFC Supporters Society Ltd

Trust Board Meeting 9th September 2020 Minutes Part A

Meeting held at: Heritage Lounge, St James Park with some Trustees and Officers attending via Zoom

Date: 9 September 2020

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

Officers present: Steve Chudley (finance officer), Phil Burden (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 a report on a recent trust board appraisal of the Trust Chair.
3. Received feedback from the Finance and Governance Group (FGG) lead on progress on new Articles of Association and Share Register for the club.
4. Discussed a recommendation from the FGG in relation to the extant trust loan to the club.
5. Discussed progress on the joint trust/club statement on the feasibility work into a new stadium.

Approval of previous minutes

Approval of the Part A minutes for both the July and August meetings were proposed by Clive Harrison and seconded by Will Barrett. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Matters arising

It was noted that the trust review had been published on the trust website.

Update from the Chair

It was recorded that the Trust Membership Secretary, Clive Mathews had resigned his position and would leave on 10th October. The chair asked Will Barrett to place an advert on the trust website for the position.

Nick stated that he and the trust secretary had met with Peter Cordwell, a volunteer for the trust minute taker role who was a retired teacher and head of year at St Peters School. Nick and Phil agreed he was a good candidate and Nick proposed his appointment as trust minute taker. This was seconded by Elaine Davis and approved unanimously.

Trust Chair Job Description

Phil Burden said that as part of the trust chair appraisal process he had requested a copy of the trust chair job description and had been provided with an old version so he had updated

it, discussed it with the chair and it was included in the agenda pack. Unless there were any comments received it would be uploaded to the trust website.

Trust AGM Date and Trust Board Resolutions

Phil Burden said that the trustees will all have seen the notification that the 2020 Trust Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Saturday 21st November. He had been in discussion with Exeter Phoenix and they were happy to host the AGM and that they have a number limit of 105 at the moment. Given COVID 19 restrictions we will keep the situation under review and continue to make preparations for an in person meeting or an AGM on zoom. We may have to have ticket arrangements for the AGM.

Phil stated that the trust board would need to consider if it wished to propose any resolutions to the 2020 AGM.

Given that some members travelled some distance for the AGM and that the match against Oldham that day may be played with limited capacity Nick stated he had been in initial discussions with the club about pre-registration and arrangements to ensure match tickets would be available to those travelling.

Potential 2020 Trust Board Election

Phil Burden said that the trustees will all have seen the notification of trustees standing down this year and the arrangements for nomination of potential candidates for election. He thanked Mark Cordell for volunteering to stand down under the one third two thirds rule. He stated that the recent mail out had been successful in reducing the number of members without email addresses to around 150 and that Neil Le Milliere had volunteered to attempt to phone those remaining to further reduce that number. The closing date for nominations is 17th October and depending upon how many valid nominations are received by the returning officer will determine the need for an election.

Neil Le Milliere commented that some of the wording in the announcement on trustees standing down was confusing and in fact they had reached the end of their three year term. Also the fact there would be one vacancy should not have been mentioned. Phil agreed to correct the wording in the announcement. Neil also observed that the trust election policy was not on the website. Nick said he would forward it for uploading.

Trust Logo

Will Barrett had circulated some variations on the current trust logo for consideration. There followed some debate on these and when the banner logo should be used. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed first at the Communications Group.

Trust Recognition of Long Standing Players

A question had been raised about trust recognition of long standing players, Dean Moxey being a recent example and whether the trust should consider this. The discussion in the meeting was that it should be done on a case by case basis and that the Ownership and Membership Group should consider this and makes a proposal to the trust board.

Medical Equipment for Club

To enable fans to return to watch matches at SJP the club will need to purchase additional medical equipment such as temperature check devices and the chair asked the board to consider the trust paying for this equipment up to a value of £5k. A question was raised as to whether the EFL would pay for this but it was stated that these requirements are coming from the local safety advisory group. Nick proposed the trust just reduce the value of the trust loan for the training ground building to the value of equipment purchased. This was seconded by Neil Le Milliere and approved with one abstention.

Trust / Club Communications Strategy

Nick stated that he had asked Will Barrett and Sue MacQueenie to liaise on a better and more consistent approach to how both organisations's communicated the club being trust owned not trust run.

Trust Social Media Policy

The current trust social media policy had been included in the agenda. It was noted that the AGM and a potential election had the possibility to increase comment of social media from members and supporters about the club and the trust.

Clive Harrison in his role as lead for safeguarding gave an introduction to the topic. He said that trustees need to be aware to follow the trust social media policy. He said that in the context of safeguarding some individuals use social media as a way of airing their issues. If there were any concerns then the first point of contact was the trust secretary and himself.

Neil Le Milliere said he had engaged with individuals posting within certain Facebook groups by posting links to information published by the club and the trust which appeared to have had a positive effect.

There then followed a detailed discussion on social media, its use by the trust, its suitability for communicating with members and supporters and the rules of engagement for the trust. It was noted that

- Social media forums have varying levels of moderation.
- No one individual speaks for the trust.
- We often do not know the identity of individuals posting on social media.
- If responding via social media only post links to official information once and do not enter into debate.
- Questions and issues should be directed to the trust secretary as an initial action.
- The trust should respond consistently and once only.

The communications working group will continue to keep this under review.

Any Other Business

Neil Le Milliere stated the Fecrace staff was happy to support club efforts in the bar once supporters were allowed to return to SJP.

Working Group Reports

Reports from the working groups were included with the agenda. Any questions on the content were to be directed to the respective working group lead.