# Bath City FC Supporters Society

**Committee Meeting**

**7pm on Thursday 28th April 2022**

**Via Zoom**

**Meeting Report**

**Present:** Jon Blain, Paul Brotherton**,** Christopher Flanagan (Chair), Oliver Holtaway, Pete McCormack, Shane Morgan, Stuart Page, Marc Thomas.

**1. Apologies:** Sally Harris, William Heath, Ken Loach, Alistair Lord, Mark Taylor

# 2. Approval of minutes and actions

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 31st March 2022 were confirmed with the amendment that Sally was present at the meeting (proposed: JB, seconded: SM).

Follow up actions:

* CF has informed Peter Headington about the need for a Society members vote on long term stadium naming rights
* CF liaised with Nick Blofeld about the joint meeting, which was then held on 7th April (see below)
* The meeting with Richard Irving of the FSA had been held on 4th April (see below)
* PB had circulated information about the Election Officer and Election Observer roles, the outcome being that PB will be Election Officer and SH Election Observer.
* PB had finalised role descriptions for the Community Director and Marketing Director (see below)
* McT, JB and MkT are to liaise on action to increase the Society’s membership.

# 3. Email decisions since the last meeting (for the record)

PB had circulated role descriptions for the Community Director and Marketing Director. These were agreed by the Committee by email (3 votes to nil).

OH had circulated the following proposals:

1. For the 2022 AGM election period, the Society Committee resolves to waive the requirement for candidates for Club Board directorships to be paid up Society members when the election period starts. Such candidates must be Society members at the time that they are nominated, and must be proposed and seconded by people who are Society members at the start of the election period.

2. To give permanent effect to the above, the Society resolves to amend the Election Policy to delete the phrase "and for election as a Society representative on the Club Board" from clause 5.1, and add the sentence "Any person wishing to be a candidate for election as a Society representative on the Club Board must be member of the Society at the time their nomination is submitted" to the end of clause 5.1.

These proposals were agreed by the Committee by email (8 votes to nil).

# 4. Report from the Club Board meeting

[CONFIDENTIAL]

# 5. Redevelopment

[CONFIDENTIAL]

**6. Draft notes of the joint meeting with the Club Board held on 7th April.**

PB had circulated notes that were drawn up by Karen Wilkinson. The meeting had been very positive and key topics discussed had been the redevelopment, proposals to improve football performance in 22/23 and progress on strategy particularly regarding the establishment of a women’s team. A brief outline of topics discussed had been included in the Society member’s update.

**ACTION:** OH to share key issues with Richard Irving of the FSA in confidence.

# 7. Society involvement in football recruitment

One issue discussed in the joint meeting is having greater due diligence in player recruitment, with more people involved in the process and a second phase of player interviews. McT raised the question of whether the Society should have some involvement in this. The overall view was that the Society shouldn’t be involved but that the Football Working Group (on which the Society is represented by McT) should be reactivated and discuss the best way forward.

**ACTION:** McT to discuss at the Football Working Group.

[Further discussion redacted as sensitive]

# 8. Scenario research

OH had circulated the results of the Society member survey. These had also been sent to the Club Board (with respondents’ comments) and posted on the Society website (without the comments). It was noticeable that there was not a clear preference between sale of the Club and sale of Twerton Park/relocation (should it come to such a decision being required). The meeting with Richard Irving had been very useful and OH will circulate the key points. It was agreed that OH should share with Richard the main points re the redevelopment discussed at the joint meeting. The scenario research work has been completed for the time being. McT asked whether it would be useful to have another meeting with [a local lawyer – name redacted for privacy]. It was agreed that this may be useful in due course when the redevelopment situation is clearer.

**ACTION:** OH to circulate key points of the FSA meeting and to update Richard Irving on the redevelopment issues discussed at the joint meeting.

**9. Society AGM and election process**

PB and SH had circulated information to all members on 21st April. This included an initial notice of the AGM, invitations for nominations for Community Director, Marketing Director and Society Committee elections and an invitation to submit AGM motions. No responses had been received so far. The AGM agenda and format will be decided at the May Committee meeting.

There was discussion about how to advertise the Club Board positions more widely and particularly how to attract a more diverse range of candidates to both the Club Board and the Society Committee. While the Club has had some success in attracting younger and female supporters to matches this is not being reflected in Society membership as yet. OH offered to contact 3SG to see if they can help advertise to a wider audience and McT offered to speak to Karen Wilkinson to discuss what might help to attract more female Society members to stand for the Committee. McT also suggested making a video to promote the Society via social media. Expanding and diversifying the membership could also be a topic for discussion at the AGM.

**ACTION:** All to submit ideas for the membership strategy leads to take forward.

**10. Finance update**

AL had sent apologies but emailed to say that the Society’s funds are currently in the region of £15k. He’s working on the 2021 accounts and aims to bring a draft to the May Committee meeting.

CF confirmed that the Society is still making a £8k loan to the Club as previously agreed.

# 11. Membership update

Deferred to the next meeting.

1. **Any other business**

PB asked about the follow up to an alleged racist incident at the Club and CF reported that the investigation has been concluded. There is also a wider review of culture at the Club which has not yet been finalised.

OH reported that he’s been in touch with Peter Headington and Jon Bickley about Club sponsorship opportunities. He’s reviewing the options and will come back to the Committee in due course.

McT reported that he’s been in discussion with Jon Bickley, Peter Headington and Paul Williams from the Club and a football coaching company about the possibility of starting a Bath City Academy team. This would help with the transition between youth and first team football.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 26th May 2022. The format was discussed and it was agreed that this will be via Zoom.