# Bath City FC Supporters Society

**Committee Meeting**

**7pm on Thursday 27th April 2023**

**via Zoom**

**Meeting report**

**Present**: Jon Blain, Paul Brotherton, Christopher Flanagan, Ken Loach, Al Lord, Pete McCormack (Chair).

**Apologies**:, Oliver Holtaway, Marc Thomas.

1. **Approval of minutes of the Committee meeting held on 30th March 2023 and update on actions**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 30th January 2023 were confirmed (proposed: AL seconded: CF).

Follow up actions were all completed or were on the agenda.

1. **Update from the Club Board**

On finances action underway to raise income including the ten-year season ticket offer, the sale of advertising hoardings, the shirt sponsorship draw and stadium naming rights being sold to Bath Spa University for one season. Season ticket sales for 2023/24 were underway but were quite slow so far.

PM reported that Cheryl Bradley is standing down as SLO and confirmed that Peter Headington is leaving the Club Board after all. There will thus be two vacant Club Board positions for election in June. He also stressed the need for effective succession planning for when Nick Blofeld stands down as Chair of the Club Board in June 2024. There was some discussion on this and on the need to ensure that the Society Committee has a closer relationship with the six Society appointees to the Club Board in future. It was stressed that it was important that the Society itself takes the lead on finding a new Club Chair.

**ACTION:** All to consider possible Club Chair candidates in the coming months

There had been a discussion at the Club Board about recruitment to the Club Board and Society Committee and whether the structure should be changed to reduce the numbers of people needed and to ensure a closer relationship. PM reported that OH had drafted a paper with options on this and suggested that it be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** PB/OH to circulate the paper.

Finally, PM reported that the Club AGM had been held on 3rd April and the Society had voted by proxy. It was agreed that it is important to have an in-person presence at the next Club AGM.

1. **Redevelopment update**

PM reported that the preferred developer partner are still working up a proposal and that it should be ready (with financial figures) in about two weeks’ time. This will be circulated to the Committee when available. There will be an exclusivity period and there was some discussion about how long this should be. PM also reported that the Greenacre site is due to be sold by auction in July.

**ACTION:** PM to circulate the proposal to Committee members, in confidence.

The 3g planning application is with the Council and the decision will be made on 8th May. There were no meaningful objections. If agreed, there is a possibility of installation in the summer of 2023 but summer 2024 is more likely. Funding sources are being investigated. CF enquired about Premier League funding. AL had found information on this – it doesn’t specifically cover 3g pitches but could cover other work, eg floodlights.

**ACTION:** AL to pass the PL information to Paul Williams.

1. **Football strategy**

The Committee is conscious that an IGM motion was passed on this subject in February. There was brief discussion and it was agreed that the Committee doesn’t have capacity to deliver this work at present. It will be discussed again in due course.

1. **Society Annual General Meeting 22nd June 2023**

PB reported that OH has agreed to be Election Officer and Al Lord agreed to be Election Observer, and both had met with PB yesterday. PB will cover for OH when he is away for a week in early June. The notification of the AGM and invitation to stand for election and to suggest motions for debate has now gone out to all members.

There was discussion about the process for voting on motions. It was argued that it is important that voters hear the arguments for and against the motions at first hand and have the opportunity to ask questions etc. This includes people attending on Zoom. It was AGREED that voting on motions should take place on the night of the AGM rather than online afterwards. The possibility of people asking a Committee member to vote as a proxy on their behalf (if they can’t attend) should also be investigated.

**ACTION:** PB to inform OH and this decision should be built into the AGM/election process.

It was AGREED that if a particularly important issue that merits a full member vote comes up, the Committee reserves the right to take a debate and vote to the whole membership if needed.

PB asked the Committee to nominate people to form a panel to assess nominations to the Club Board to ensure that they meet the essential criteria for the role. In line with a previous decision, only those nominations that meet the criteria will go forward into the election itself.

PM and JB agreed to participate and CF volunteered to join if needed. The Supporter’s Club has also been invited to offer a member for the assessment panel for the SLO position.

PM reported that he had recently received emails from JB, OH and MT saying that they intend to stand down from the Committee this June. He thanked them for their contributions and will say more at the AGM. There are some potential candidates for election to the Society committee in the air and all are encouraged to contact suitable people.

1. **Proposed amendments to the Election Policy re 12-year Committee membership**

JB and KL introduced the following proposed amendment to the Election Policy.

Replace "5.10 The maximum period of membership on the Society Board is 12 years in total".

with:

"5.10 The maximum period of continuous membership of the Society Board is twelve years. After standing down for exceeding this period, a member may stand again for election after three years.

If a Society Board member is working on a project at the request of the Board when the twelve year period ends, he or she may remain a co-opted member until the completion of the project. There would then be a further period of two years before the member were eligible for re-election".

Proposed: KL, seconded: JB.

There was discussion about the need to ensure that committed people are able to contribute to the Society over a longer time but without limiting opportunities for new entrants to the Committee. It also makes sense for people to be able to continue attending the Committee if they were taking part on a specific project. There was discussion about the required gap between people leaving after their twelve years and being able to return to the Committee. It was agreed that three years is appropriate (partly because it staggers the election process and doesn’t put people in direct competition with those that may have replaced them).

There was a vote and the amendment was AGREED by six votes to nil.

**ACTION:** PB to amend and circulate the revised Election Policy.

1. **Society Finance update**

AL reported that the Society currently has just under £2k in its account (due to the loan to the Club). The loan repayment needs to be discussed in the coming weeks. The accounts have been drafted and should return from the accountants shortly. They will be available to the next Committee meeting and to the June AGM.

**ACTION:** AL to complete accounts for signature and present to the AGM.

PM highlighted the need for the Society to build up its finances, eg through increasing membership and through more participation in the 100 Club. AL will also request people to pay membership fees directly to the Society rather than through Stripe, which will reduce the fees payable. OH is soon to launch another social media campaign via the Club in line with the Society’s sponsorship arrangement.

KL raised the possibility of holding fund-raising events such as talks by football people and also offered a screening of his new film. These suggestions were welcomed and PM and CF offered to think about possible speakers.

1. **Any other business**

KL suggested that AGM materials should have greater emphasis on the responsibility of members to more actively engage with the Society (eg Committee) in order to make community ownership work in practice. It was suggested that this should be included in election materials leading up to the June AGM.

**ACTION:** OH to review election materials and amend wording where appropriate.

1. **Dates of forthcoming meetings**

The next Committee meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 1st June 2023.

It was also agreed that there should be a meeting of the new Committee (post-AGM) on Thursday 29th June. The main purpose will be to agree Committee positions.