# Bath City FC Supporters Society

**Committee Meeting**

**7pm on Thursday 1st June 2023**

**via Zoom**

**minutes**

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

**Apologies**: Oliver Holtaway.

1. **Approval of minutes of the Committee meeting held on 27th April 2023 and update on actions**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 27th April 2023 were confirmed (proposed: CF seconded: KL).

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

1. **Update from the Club Board including redevelopment**

PM reported that preferred developer is continuing to work on a detailed plan including costings and that this should be available shortly. It is likely to involve refurbishing the main stand and using some of the car park land to build accommodation for NHS staff. The plans will be circulated to Committee members when available. PM added that the Club Board may consider going straight to a development agreement with the developer (if the financials are agreed) rather than having an exclusivity agreement period first.

**ACTION:** PM to circulate developer plans to the Committee when available.

CF pointed out that the redevelopment will require the explicit agreement of the Supporters Society as the major shareholder as it would involve the disposal of assets. The degree of involvement of the membership in this decision will need to be considered.

PM also reported that the Club expects to receive planning permission for the 3g pitch imminently. Funding sources are being lined up for installation of the pitch in summer 2024.

The Club has used a number of initiatives to achieve an expected break-even position for 22/23, compared to a previous forecast of an £80k deficit. The Society’s £8k loan to the Club is in the process of being paid back as agreed. The Committee AGREED that this money should be held in reserve by the Society for the time being before considering new initiatives such as sponsoring the fixture cards. Because some 2023/24 monies have been used to improve the position in 2022/23 the player budget for the coming season will be reviewed. The coming year will be challenging financially but the increased number of local derby matches including with Torquay United and Yeovil Town should help.

On the football front the Club Board had received the news that the women’s team is to be promoted and had received an update on player contracts in the men’s team.

It had also been reported that the official Twerton Park ground capacity has been increased to 4070.

1. **Options for reform of the Club Board and Society Committee**

There had been a discussion at a previous Club Board meeting 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 working relationship. OH had then drafted a paper with a range of options for the future. These included reducing the size of the Society Committee, reducing the size and role of the Committee, a quasi-merger between the Society Committee and the Club Board, and a simplified version of the latter. It recommended that the way forward should be evaluated, taking potential risks and benefits into account, in the coming 12 months.

There was discussion about the different roles and cultures of the Society Committee and Club Board and the degree to which supporters can play a greater role. The options paper was felt to be very useful and while there were some reservations about restructuring it was felt that there is a useful discussion to be had in the coming months. It was agreed that there needs to be a clearer statement of what exactly the problems are before an appropriate way forward can be identified. It was AGREED to come back to this issue, particularly in view of the changed Committee membership following the AGM.

1. **Supporters Society AGM 22nd June 2023**

PB reported that five AGM motions had been received and the Committee was asked to assess them. He stressed that this was not about whether Committee agreed with the motions or not but rather whether the motion was appropriate business for the AGM.

It was AGREED that motions 1 and 2 (re gambling) should go forward to the AGM.

It was pointed out that as it stands motion 3 (re financial information) would conflict with data protection law and would be a breach of confidence between the Club and staff. It was AGREED that PM would contact the proposer and ask him to re-word the motion in broader terms.

Motion 4 (re team manager recruitment) led to discussion about the role of the Society viz a viz the Club in relation to staff recruitment and about the recruitment process. It was AGREED that the current wording is not appropriate and PM asked PB to suggest ideas for a form of words that was about the recruitment process rather than about the actual person specification.

Finally, it was AGREED that motion 5 (re the 3g pitch) was appropriate for consideration at the AGM although PM will suggest that the word ‘immediately’ be removed.

**ACTION:** PM to contact Steve Skinner and ask for rewording or withdrawal as appropriate.

PB reported that one nomination has been received for the SLO position and none as yet for Commercial Director. He will contact those who had volunteered to assess nominations to the Club Board, as previously agreed.

1. **Society finance update**

AL reported that the 2022 accounts had been completed and some final queries (eg regarding Committee membership) were to be addressed. He will circulate them for approval shortly.

He reported that the Society had approx £3k in the bank and that the repayment of its £8k loan to the Club will be added to that shortly. Bearing in mind the need to keep monies in reserve AL will contact the Foundation and the Women’s Team to enquire about what modest support they might find useful in the year ahead.

**ACTION:** AL to contact James Carlin and Jane Jones.

1. **Any other business**

KL gave his apologies for the AGM due to a prior commitment. As this was his last meeting he wished the Committee all the best, and PM thanked him and other leavers for their contributions.

CF reported that he had met the potential investor in the Club who had indicated that he was not in a position to pursue this interest for the time being.

1. **Dates of next meeting**

The first meeting of the new Committee will be at 7pm on Thursday 29th June 2023.