



Bath City FC Supporters Society
7.30pm on Tuesday 26th March 2019
Twerton Park, TR Hayes Lounge

Present: Michael Clayton, Emma Sparks, Steve Skinner, Marc Thomas, Paul Brotherton
Via Phone: Stuart Page
Non-Committee Present: Ken Loach (via phone) & Jon Bickley

1. Apologies

Pete McCormack

2. Approval of Mins from last meeting

Not all had time to read prior to meeting. Requested that ES initial mins circulated asap prior to report being created so members are able to review their actions and complete prior to next meeting

3. Signing off of the accounts

Discussion held over the use of the word Director as the job role for all committee members
ACTION POINT: SS to talk to Bloomfields to identify another word to be used instead and also in regards to the use of Ltd for the Society – we are not a limited company and so using that is incorrect
All present voted in favour of the accounts being signed off with these issues resolved

4. Working Groups

Sales & Marketing Update

1000BC are still aiming for 1,000 attendance at every match
Simon McTaggart has created the Traditions campaign having previously worked with Nike, Addidas, Man U and others
There will be a newsletter sign -up (dressed as a competition) being pushed at the next match
A creative using players holding up placards as to why supporters should come and watch on placards in a video is currently being created
He will be reviewing the redevelopment campaign as well in due course
For the next step of the traditions campaign we are moving on to 'because' – ie you should come and support because . . .
Working with Southgate on hopefully putting up creatives in the carpark and several other outdoor locations within the city
Martin Powell has been to around 15 schools now encouraging the pupils to come down and watch
Another flier push for the last two matches of the season is planned

Commercial Update

Shirt sponsor draw for next season is going well
Karen and David are looking at helping to support on match days.
Good feedback has been received on the youngsters who have been selling programmes and items from the shop

Operations Update

Pot holes have now been filled in on the Ransom Strip (paid for by GreenAcre)
Curo paid for the lamp post to be installed in the car park to add some light for their staff parking there
BT Fibre work being completed at present (unsure on the current status of the work)
Telecoms company that use the far pylon by the loos is deemed unsuitable and unsafe for it to be climbed
Freeview Road corner – an 8 foot fence has been added on top of what was there (Curo paid for it to go up) this should stop any antisocial behaviour.
Loos behind the family stand are now in working order – they have been out of order for a while but they are required to be functional or the ground approval.
Police are coming on Saturday both local and from Woking at no cost to the club
Bar will be open after the game, dependent on any potential incidents during the match. Not cleared with police as their automatic reaction would be to close it.
Flood lights – it is always the decision of the ref to play under floodlights or not (the failure at the last match is being resolved) the tower work however, may not be completed by the next home match

Football Update

Next meeting planned for school Easter holidays so that all can make a day time meeting
Paul W has done a report (which has already been circulated)
Lee Williams – club physio – leaving at the end of the season owing to his charitable work commitments
Player contract offers have been sent out – awaiting updates on these in due course
End of Season Presentation in planning stages but not yet set in stone
MOU has been signed with Bath City Youth with regards to use of club colours, use of the ground etc
Bath Uni – requests received from them to help with the physio role but more than support needed for the role

Finance Update

Only one match in February so we conceded a loss
More matches in March should make up for this though
Working on a loss of £80K for this season (from Paul Williams) but it is more likely to be £20-40k
Finance reports by the time of the Society meeting is 3-4 weeks out of date
Rents of locations brought in money to help build the revenue. Curo is already looking at using the car parking here again next season
Non-match day bar takings are down as mentioned in last meeting
Confirmed that receiving finance reports is working well and giving us the vision that we are wanting from the board

Community Update

No information is currently coming out to SS
Short term – support for Sally has been identified in Pete Nobes as a possibility to shadow her and will feedback to the committee
The club have been giving free hours and discounted rates for room hire to a number of local charities
The Foundation AGM was postponed (no date confirmed as yet)
KL suggested the community director role is perhaps a job share moving forward as Sally Harris has such a fantastic knowledge of the groups within Twerton and how to engage and bring the residents in to the ground
Ken was congratulated on his recent appointment as President of the Foundation he commented that he was, “very pleased to be a part of it.”

Redevelopment Update

26th March SM & MC went to meeting where plans were presented that were due to be part of the planning application

Bath End use has now been included into the plans to be submitted

Main focus of the meeting was that operationally the plans in question would work (Existing design and new proposal plans shown)

Not going to use the space all the way to the boundary walls as the Bath End

There are more steps to the viewing area at the Bath End – this design facilitates space for 830 standing owing to the use of barriers

Review needed as to whether the Bath End is the 'Away' end – disabled access would need to be incorporated if so?

Only current impact of the Bath End proposals on the current plans would be that there would need to be 4 turnstiles not the current two that are planned to cope with the amount of supporters entering through that gate

Cross section (b.b on the plans) through the goal shows that it is steeper and there is a potential in the application to put a roof on it

Same general footprint keeping the walkway behind the stand to the boundary wall

ACTION POINT: KL asked if there was an option to move the actual pitch 1-2m towards the Bristol end? MC to confirm if it was needed to be confirmed prior to planning

Question was asked over the Poplar stand (Bath End of it)

ACTION POINT: MC to check if that needs to be in the plans submitted now or in due course (check with FWP or Design Group)

What is happening with the slope of the pitch if progressing with 3G?

ACTION POINT: MC to find out what is happening with the 3G v slope

Bath End is all planned in as part of the current scheme and so the costing is not an added extra

Decisions are still being made in regards to the student accommodation – tweaks being made to existing plans etc

Current timetable to submit is around Easter time

Undecided as to whether the Bath End will be concrete or metal

Architect proposed not having wedge of earth underneath the stand so to provide more potential parking space in the fullness of time

We said, they reviewed the Bath End - certainly something that we can use to show members and potential new members what we do, how we can influence big decisions at the club

Question was raised over the forthcoming local elections and the impact that they might have on the planning application and when it goes in. Not thought to have a huge impact putting the application in a couple of weeks later than anticipated in regards to the potential change in local government

Questions were asked as to whether the Labour Party had been contacted in regards to the current plans.

ACTION POINT: MC to chase up and liaise with NB and Creatrix that whoever it now is has been contacted

3G pitch push is no longer being fronted by MC – but it is going well

5. Loan Deferral

£15k from the Society – we are unsure as to where £3k of this has come from

ACTION POINT: SS to refer back to 2015 and ask Colin Voult who was treasurer at the time to see if we can identify its origin

All present agreed in principal on deferring the loan

William Heath has asked for his monies to be repaid however as per the original collection date

6. Greater involvement on the Club Board and Society Committee / Dual concurrent membership

Still felt that there are improvements to be made, currently we rely on personal relationships but there needs to be something in place for when this is not the case moving forward

Issues over not having initial visibility over the redevelopment seen as a learning curve to build on for other aspects of the communications between both parties

Society and members views are potentially need to be taken more into account at a board level. Mechanisms to do this are in place however they are not being used effectively enough to get our messages across

It's all about strategic stuff, NOT operational – an example being that we could have had visibility and so input into the initial design brief to the architects

JB commented that it needs to be more than just MC who comes to all board meetings and a supported the idea of having a board director present at each monthly committee meeting

ACTION POINT: MC & JB to liaise with Nick Blofeld in regards to an additional committee member being present at all board meetings (as a non-voting attendee)

ACTION POINT: MC to circulate board meeting dates and allocate different committee members to join

ACTION POINT: PB revisit the constitution and ensure that the above is included somewhere
When we become a full CBS the Society will become redundant as there will be only one board required

Question was raised in regards to the shares and where we stand in regards to potentially re-buying more

ACTION POINT: SS/MC to liaise with Oliver (possibly) in case he can inform us

ACTION POINT: All to review the purpose of the Society in One Bath City document and once approved ES/MC put up on website

7 & 8. Membership Renewals & Membership Engagement and Communication

MC is talking separately to Matt in regards to how he is working and what he is doing

ACTION POINT: MC to invite matt to meeting to present to us what he has been and is doing and identify how we can support

9. AGM Preparation

ACTION POINT: MT appointed as Election Observer for AGM as nominating himself and being approved by committee

ACTION POINT: MT potentially identifying and recruiting an Election Officer

ACTION POINT: ES to clarify who is up for election this year as still not entirely clear

MT suggested to hold an event prior to the AGM for members to ask us what we do to try and encourage more engagement from members to go on to encourage more new faces to stand

ACTION POINT: MC to work on pre-AGM campaign

Review was held of paper produced by PB in regards to the stance of having members of the board also standing as members of the committee.

Confirmed that the Supporters Liaison Officer, which has a 2 year tenure and is up in June, is a role more for the non-society members to give the supporters a further voice.

Option 2 was preferred by all those present with the addition of the clause that there would need to be a minimum of 2 board members present on the committee

Identified that a conflict of interest register would need to be created for those voting members of the board.

If this does not happen naturally then there is the need to be co-opted to ensure that the presence on both is active.

10. A.O.B.

Supporters' Club Quiz Night on the 12th April 7.30pm – please can there be a presence from Society committee.

D.O.N.M: Thursday 25th April 2019 1930 at Twerton Park