



**Bath City FC Supporters Society
Committee Meeting
1900 on Thursday 27th January 2022
Via Zoom**

Meeting Report

Present: Jon Blain, Paul Brotherton, Christopher Flanagan (Chair), Sally Harris, Oliver Holtaway, Ken Loach, Alistair Lord, Pete McCormack, Shane Morgan, Stuart Page, Mark Taylor, Marc Thomas, William Heath.

1. Apologies None.

2. Approval of minutes and outstanding actions

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25th November 2021 were confirmed (proposed: WH, seconded: AL). All actions were either completed or were on the agenda for this meeting.

The minutes of the Interim General Meeting held on 20th January 2022 were confirmed (proposed: OH, seconded: PM). There were no outstanding actions but the Committee discussed an email sent by Dave Bartholomew after the IGM which concerned the lack of youth players coming through into the first team. There is a significant gap between these two levels in the absence of a reserve or under 23s team. McT noted that a previous arrangement with the University of Bath aiming to fill this gap had not been found to be worth the cost. Another possibility might be to link up with other clubs in the area. McT volunteered to discuss this further with Dave and invite his input.

3. Arrangements for scenario research

CF suggested that 2022 is likely to be a very important year for the Club and that big and difficult decisions may need to be made. Loans to the Club are currently due to be paid off by May 2023 and plans to do this need to be in place. It is possible that the redevelopment may not generate sufficient funds and (as mentioned at the IGM) other alternatives such as selling the Club or moving from Twerton Park may need to be considered. We should not pursue a redevelopment of Twerton Park that does not achieve the club's sustainability objectives for want of exploring other options. [Item redacted]

OH suggested that the Committee should begin to educate itself about possible future scenarios and what they might imply in terms of process and timescales. Various members agreed that this is an important piece of work and it was AGREED that it should go ahead with all members of the Committee invited to take part. A special meeting (possibly in person) should be held to

talk through possible future scenarios. In this way the Society would not be on the back foot and would be more proactive than it had been previously. The work would be owned by the Society and be for the Society. OH suggested that we invite the FSA to provide advice and WH suggested that [name redacted], a local lawyer, may provide useful input.

ACTION: OH to arrange next steps on this.

4. Election policy update

PB noted that the existing Election Policy needs to be updated following a motion agreed at the 2021 AGM. This required the Society to specify particular roles in elections to the Club Board. Although many Committee members disagree with this, it needs to be in place prior to the 2022 Club Board elections in order to put the members' decision into effect. There is some scope for flexibility in interpreting the motion and it is also possible for members to put forward an alternative (or amended) motion to the 2022 AGM. The unresolved issue of how to specify the roles carried out by the six Society-elected Directors versus those of the three other Club Board Directors was also noted.

ACTION: PB to draft an amendment to the Election Policy for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

5. Club request for support on equalities work

OH reported that Joy Saunders was looking for volunteers to help build up the community team at the Club, including building up a more diverse fanbase, being more pro-active in preventing racism and homophobia at the ground, and increasing partnership links with local third sector organisations. He had raised this at the IGM and will include it in the next Society members newsletter. SH offered to help when she can and will talk to Joy.

6. FSA training

OH reported that the FSA is offering training for Committee members – this would be an evening event and would be free of charge. The Committee AGREED that this should be held before the AGM in June.

ACTION: OH to liaise with the FSA and arrange.

7. Club Board report

[CONFIDENTIAL, except:]

It was also noted that Bob Chester is to leave his role as Commercial Manager at the end of the season although he may continue with matchday hospitality activities. Members acknowledged his major contribution to the Club.

8. Redevelopment

[CONFIDENTIAL]

9. Membership strategy

OH reported that the recently agreed membership strategy would be taken forward over the next couple of months and that it would be shared with members. He will be approaching the Club for costings on some of the key components of the strategy.

10. Society Finance Update

This was deferred to the next meeting

11. Membership update

MkT reported that Society membership currently stands at 352, compared to 347 at the same time last year. With increased gates at Twerton Park and more younger people there is scope to increase the Society's membership numbers and the membership strategy will help with this. While the vast majority pay by card/Paypal/standing order there are a small number who pay by cash or cheque and Mark will liaise with AL about the mechanics of this.

12. 100 Club Review

MkT reported that this brings in about £435 per month gross. There is scope to attract more entrants and thus increase income for the Society. MkT is reviewing the operation of the 100 Club including working with AL re the payment process. It was agreed that it would be helpful to announce winners in the monthly newsletter as well as the online fans forum.

ACTION: OH to list 100 Club winners in members newsletters.

13. Any Other Business

WH queried whether there should be a valuation of the Club as a whole as well as one of Twerton Park. CF agreed that this should be done in the light of potential scenarios for the future. SP suggested that it would be useful to ask South Shields FC and AFC Wimbledon about their experience of this.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 24th February 2022.